



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Public Health and Risk Assessment
Risk assessment

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS (SCENIHR)

8TH PLENARY MEETING

*Held on 10 May 2010
in Brussels*

Minutes

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman, Prof. J. Bridges, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Prof. K. Schulze-Osthoff, Prof. D. Stahl and Dr. T. Vermeire.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was adopted as written, with a few changes in the order of points under discussion. Additional items were discussed under item 11 of the agenda.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

The Chair of the SCENIHR Working Group (WG) on Artificial Light informed the Committee that some of the invited external experts had declared an interest in view of their affiliations.

Taking into account these declarations, the Committee decided that one of the experts could not become a full member of the WG due to funding of research activities received from industry related to the scope of the mandate. However, due to specific knowledge on the subject matter the expert should be invited to one WG-meeting on an ad-hoc basis to provide information on specific issues and to provide comments on the draft opinion.

Taking into account the nature of the declarations made by the other experts, the Committee decided that it did not constitute a conflict of interest and that the external experts could participate in the discussions on this matter.

The Secretariat reminded members to update their Annual Declarations of Interest.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The draft minutes of the 7th plenary meeting were adopted with one minor modification. The minutes are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/emerging/docs/scenihr_mi_035.pdf

5. CHAIR'S/MEMBERS' REPORT

None

6. ONGOING WORK

6.1. Tobacco Additives (for discussion)

The Chairperson of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work and presented the latest version of the draft opinion. Members provided feedback on the draft that would be forwarded to the WG for consideration and discussion at the next WG-meeting. It is foreseen to approve the opinion for public consultation at the next plenary session.

6.2. Methodology / Weight of Evidence Approach (for discussion)

The Chairperson informed the Committee about the revisions carried out on the draft document. Members further discussed and revised the document. It was decided to schedule an additional meeting of the WG to further develop the document before discussion at the next plenary session. An additional member would be invited to participate in that meeting.

6.3. Artificial Light (for discussion)

The Chairperson of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work and the last WG-meeting that was held as a web conference due to the volcanic ash cloud. Additional external experts had been identified and would be invited to support the WG. Furthermore, an additional member of SCENIHR would join the WG.

A call for information had been launched (deadline: 3 June) to obtain specific information on the spectral power distribution of current technology light sources. Further information was available at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consultations/calls/scenihr_call_info_09_en.htm

6.4. Nanodefinitions (for discussion)

The Chairperson of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work. The draft opinion is expected to be discussed and proposed for approval at the next plenary meeting.

7. JOINT OPINIONS / PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS IN ACTIVITIES OF OTHER SCIENTIFIC BODIES

7.1. Improvements in risk assessment approaches (SCHER, SCCS, SCENIHR)

A member participating in the cross-committee WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work and an upcoming WG-meeting.

7.2. Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) Approach for Safety Assessment of Chemical Substances (SCCS, SCHER, SCENIHR)

A member informed the Committee about an upcoming WG-meeting to discuss the comments of the non-food Scientific Committees on the opinion that had been revised after the public consultation and the subsequent hearing. Upon completion the joint opinion would be circulated to the Scientific Committees for a final check before being scheduled for final adoption at the subsequent plenary sessions of the three Committees.

7.3. Other

Nanomaterials in Cosmetics

A member participating in the WG organized by the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) informed the Committee about the ongoing work and

the communication with industry on the data and information needed for the assessment.

Triclosan

A member participating in the WG organized by the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) informed the Committee about the ongoing work. The opinion was approved by the SCCS for public consultation (deadline: 26 May 2010). More information was available at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consultations/public_consultations/sccs_cons_01_en.htm

Depleted uranium

A member participating in the WG organized by the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) informed the Committee about the ongoing work. A public consultation on the pre-consultation opinion closed on 12 April 2010 and resulted in six comments. These were considered in a recent meeting by the WG. It was foreseen to adopt the opinion at the upcoming plenary session of SCHER.

The final opinion would be available at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/environmental_risks/docs/scher_o_123.pdf

Mercury in light bulbs

A member participating in the WG organized by the SCHER informed the Committee about the ongoing work on the opinion which is expected to be adopted at the next plenary session of SCHER.

The final opinion would be accessible via the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/environmental_risks/opinions/index_en.htm

Guidance on Risk Assessment - applications of nanoscience and nanotechnologies to food, feed, and pesticides (EFSA)

A member participating in the WG at the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) reported about the work that has started recently and the first meeting of the WG.

8. FEEDBACK BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON FOLLOW-UP TO OPINIONS

The Secretariat informed members that the report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the reprocessing of medical devices, which is based on the related SCENIHR opinion, is in the process of being drafted.

9. NEW REQUESTS

The Secretariat informed the Committee that several requests involving the SCENIHR were currently under discussion within Commission services.

10. EMERGING ISSUES

It was decided to postpone the discussion on this issue to a future meeting as additional revisions of the documents were needed.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Scientific evidence base in opinions

The Secretariat reminded members that all references, or lists of references used in opinions should be sent to the Secretariat.

Computational toxicology

The Secretariat informed about a meeting on computational toxicology that would be organized as a follow-up to the 5th Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of EU Risk Assessment bodies. The technical meeting would be held in September 2010 and would include representatives of various EU-bodies and scientists involved in risk assessment. Several members expressed an interest in participating in the meeting.

Harmonization of risk assessment terminology

The Secretariat informed about a meeting of the EU-partners involved in the Working Group on the harmonization of risk assessment terminology, held on 28 April in Brussels. A decision was taken regarding the case studies aimed at developing a common framework for assessment of uncertainties and a prototype for this framework was presented and discussed.

The whole WG which includes experts from the US, Canada, the non-food Scientific Committees and EU agencies (EFSA, ECDC, EEA) would meet at a workshop in Ottawa, Canada on 2-4 June 2010.

2nd International Conference on Risk Assessment

The Secretariat informed about the ongoing activities in preparation for this meeting that is scheduled for 25-28 January 2011. In addition to the WG on risk assessment terminology/uncertainty (see above), the work on exposure assessment is ongoing.

Annex I: List of Participants.

Annex I

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS (SCENIHR)

8TH PLENARY MEETING

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:

Prof. A. AUVINEN, Prof. J. BRIDGES (Chair), Prof. K. DAWSON, Dr. W. DE JONG (Vice chair), Prof. P. HARTEMANN (Vice chair), Prof. P. HOET, Dr. T. JUNG, Prof. M.-O. MATTSSON, Dr. H. NORPPA, Dr. J.-M. PAGÈS, Prof. A. PROYKOVA, Prof. E. RODRÍGUEZ-FARRÉ, Dr. J. SCHÜZ, Dr. M. THOMSEN

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Mr. L. BONTOUX, Ms. K. BROMEN, Ms. A. KANELLOPOULOU, Mr. P. MARTIN, Ms. O. ZIANE

Other Commission staff:

Mr. A. BOENKE (DG ENTR), Ms. T. PEETSO (DG SANCO)