



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

11TH PLENARY MEETING

*Held on 24 November 2010
in Brussels*

Minutes

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman, Prof. J. Bridges, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

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

No new declaration was made from SCENIHR members.

The group discussed the DoIs of external experts for the SCENIHR working groups of Artificial Light (one expert) and New Challenges for risk assessment (three experts).

Taking into account the nature of the declarations made by the experts, the Committee decided that it did not constitute a conflict of interest. Therefore, the external experts could participate in the discussions of the respective working groups.

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 10th plenary meeting were adopted without modifications. The minutes are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/emerging/docs/scenihr_mi_038.pdf

5. CHAIR'S/MEMBERS' REPORT

On 15 November, M. Thomsen presented the recent work of SCENIHR on the addictiveness and attractiveness of tobacco products at the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (COP4), Uruguay¹. Dr Thomsen reported that the SCENIHR work was very well received.

¹ <http://www.cop4fctc.com/en/>

W. de Jong, K. Dawson participated at a recent workshop on nanomedicines organised by EMA in London and reported back to the committee on the scientific developments of the use of nanotechnology in the pharmaceutical sector.

6. ONGOING WORK

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

Members discussed the latest working version of the opinion, making comments for the WG to take into consideration at the following WG meeting.

6.2. Artificial Light (for discussion)

The Chair of the relevant WG reported on the work for this mandate. The deadline for this work is March 2011, with a scheduled public consultation (date to be announced by the Commission) and a public hearing (10 February 2011).

A new expert on ophthalmology has joined the WG providing valuable expertise to the group.

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

7.1. New Challenges for Risk Assessment (SCENIHR, SCHER, SCCS)

The Chair of the WG reported on the progress made for this work. There is a WG meeting scheduled for the 26th November.

7.2. Improvements in Risk Assessment Approaches (SCHER, SCCS, SCENIHR)

The SCENIHR member participating in this WG updated members on the current and future work.

7.3. Toxicity and Assessment of Mixtures of Chemicals (SCHER, SCCS, SCENIHR)

The SCENIHR members participating in this WG updated members on the current and future work.

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

The opinion was circulated to the SCENIHR members participating in this WG and will be discussed for adoption at the following SCCS plenary (14 December). The Secretariat informed SCENIHR members that if they have any editorial comments, they could send them to the SCCS Secretariat before 14 December. An updated draft will be sent to SCENIHR members of the WG as soon as possible by the SCCS secretariat.

7.5. Other

The standards of lead in drinking water (SCHER)

The SCENIHR member participating in this WG reported that the opinion was concluded and proposed for adoption at the next SCHER plenary meeting in November.

Exposure assessment (SCHER)

The SCENIHR member participating in this WG updated SCENIHR members on the current and future work.

Expression of uncertainties (SCHER)

The SCENIHR member participating in this WG updated SCENIHR members on the current and future work.

Nanomaterials in Cosmetics (SCCS)

The SCENIHR members participating in this WG updated SCENIHR members on the status of this work.

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

A SCENIHR member has been involved in this work under a personal capacities status (not officially representing SCENIHR). The participating member updated SCENIHR members on the status of this work.

TTC (EFSA)

A SCENIHR member has been involved in this work under a personal capacities status (not officially representing SCENIHR). The participating member updated SCENIHR members on the status of this work.

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

None.

9. NEW REQUESTS

The European Commission informed members on possible future mandates to SCENIHR. More information will be published at the relevant SCENIHR's webpage² in due time.

10. EMERGING ISSUES

SCENIHR members discussed and revised the list of emerging issues using the new format. The group found the new format useful and will continue identifying priority topics for discussion with the relevant EC services.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1) The Chair updated members on the forthcoming inter-committee coordination group (ICCG) meeting. Main items to be discussed are:

(i) SCENIHR's position paper on Evaluation of the scientific literature and weight of evidence;

(ii) Ensuring the independence of the WG experts; and

(iii) The Journal of the EC Scientific Committees and its Editorial Board.

2) The Chairs of the SCENIHR WGs on the "*Addictiveness and Attractiveness of Tobacco Additives*" and on the "*Scientific basis for the definition of the term nanomaterial*" briefly updated members on the status of the respective opinions.

In particular, the SCENIHR opinion on opinions on the "*Addictiveness and Attractiveness of Tobacco Additives*" has been published following a public consultation and can be accessed via the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/emerging/docs/scenih_r_o_031.pdf

² http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/emerging/requests/index_en.htm

More information on the outcome of the public consultation can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consultations/public_consultations/scenihr_cons_12_en.htm

The opinion on "*Scientific basis for the definition of the term "nanomaterial"*" was discussed at the meeting and will be adopted via written procedure by SCENIHR members in December.

Annex I: List of Participants.

Annex I

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

11TH 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, Prof. K. SCHULZE-OSTHOFF, Dr. J. SCHÜZ, Dr. M. THOMSEN, Dr. T. VERMEIRE

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Mr. L. BONTOUX, Ms. N. FOUVEZ, Ms. A. KANELLOPOULOU, Mr. P. MARTIN.