



Luxembourg, 09/10/2021

**Scientific Committees on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER)
19th Plenary meeting**

7-8 October 2021, Luxembourg (AUDIO)

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies, approval of the agenda and declaration of interests

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies have been received.

The agenda was adopted without changes.

The Chair invited participants to declare any interest regarding matters on the agenda. None of the participants declared any interest conflicting with the matters on the agenda.

2. Points for discussion/decision

2.1. New draft mandates for adoption

No new mandates have been submitted to the SCHEER for adoption.

2.2. Opinions for adoption

SCHEER Opinion on FORENV cycle 3 – Zero Pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment

The Chair of the working group presented the FORENV 3 Opinion. The SCHEER was asked to evaluate the following five issues identified by the project; the remaining ones are to be evaluated by the European Environmental Agency:

Issue 1. Urban settlement patterns and demographic change: implications for pollution

Issue 2. Regenerative urban design and infrastructure in Europe: benefits and trade-offs for pollution?

Issue 5. Will new ways of pollution information provision influence behaviours towards low pollution lifestyles that go beyond current trends to low/zero waste?

Issue 6. Cellular agriculture for low pollution food: will new, less polluting, methods of producing protein, fats and tissues emerge to replace traditional agriculture?

Issue 9. Will new innovations in synthetic biology emerge that accelerate pollution reduction and mitigation?

The SCHEER has adopted the FORENV Opinion with few changes.

2.3. Opinions for discussion

SCHEER Memorandum on emerging issues

The Chair updated the SCHEER on the latest state of the Memorandum: there have been 10 issues suggested and there is a template for description of the issues. The deadline for the contributions from the SCHEER members is mid-November 2021.

SCHEER WG on environmental quality standards for water framework directive and groundwater directive

The Chair of the working groups informed the SCHEER on the work ongoing in the working groups on the water framework directive and on the groundwater directive. There are three opinions for final approval by the SCHEER: imidacloprid, silver and nicolsulfuron (EQSs).

The SCHEER approved all three opinions with slight changes.

SCHEER WG on titanium dioxide in toys

The Chair of the working group, presented the current state of the draft Opinion. The request from DG GROW has asked the SCHEER to: 1/ review the available data on the use of titanium dioxide leading to inhalation exposure in particular in toys and toy materials and 2/ evaluate whether the uses of titanium dioxide in toys and toy materials can be considered to be safe in light of the exposure identified, and in light of the classification of titanium dioxide as carcinogenic category 2.

The SCHEER WG consists of seven members of the SCHEER, four members of the SCCS and two external experts (on modelling and inhalation toxicity).

The next meetings are planned for 10 November and 8 December.

SCHEER WG on cobalt in toys

The Chair of the working group presented the state of play of the draft Opinion. The request is similar to the request on titanium dioxide. The next WG meeting is planned for 14 October.

3. Information from Commission and members of the SCHEER

The Secretariat have informed the SCHEER about the following points:

- Selection of a new SCHEER member and external experts for the WGs
- Follow up of the meetings with SCCS, GROW, SANTE and ENV
- Publication of the SCHEER Opinion on the safety of breast implants in relation to anaplastic large cell lymphoma in ScienceDirect - Elsevier
- External meetings attended by the SCHEER members
- Letter from the Italian Ministry of Health as regards the SCHEER Opinion on the safety of breast implants in relation to anaplastic large cell lymphoma

4. Ongoing work

SCHEER WG on EMF

The Chair of the WG updated the SCHEER on the state of play of the working group. The working group has been looking for expertise in animal studies and cell biology. There is no such an expert in the SCHEER reserve list, therefore the secretariat has published a call for experts: https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/call_experts/call_experts_emf2021_en

SCHEER WG on rapid risk assessment

The working group on rapid risk assessment continues to be on hold. The secretariat will inform the members of the RRA WG as well as the experts in the pool of experts.

A.O.B.

Dates of the next SCHEER plenary meetings have been set up as follows:

- 9-10 February 2022
- 15-16 June 2022
- 12-13 October 2022