



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate C – Public Health and Risk Assessment
C7 Risk assessment

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS
1ST PLENARY MEETING

Held on 7-8 September 2004
in Brussels
MINUTES

7 September 2004 Joint session

Mr Robert Madelin welcomed members to the first joint meeting of the Scientific Committees and congratulated them on their appointment to the Committees. He stressed the importance of scientific advice in the policy making of the Commission. Excellence, transparency and independency were highlighted as key points in the work of the Committees. Mr Madelin drew particular attention to the importance of the clarity of their opinions and the role of the Committees in establishing confidence with stakeholders.

The full presentation is available at

[The importance of scientific advice in the Community decision making process](#)

The Chair explained that, in accordance with Article 10 of Commission Decision 2004/210/EC setting up the Scientific Committees, the Committees are required to adopt common rules of procedure in consultation with the Commission. The draft rules were prepared taking into account the rules of the former scientific committees, the rules of the European Food Safety Authority and the need to improve clarity and transparency. The draft rules were presented to members for discussion.

The main innovation in relation to the co-ordination of the three new Scientific Committees is the introduction of an “inter-committee group”, involving the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the three Scientific Committees, which will be chaired by the Commission. The objective of this group is to ensure harmonised approaches in the risk assessment and ordinary tasks of the Committees, particularly in areas such as common questions, diverging scientific opinions, coherence and consistency, methodological approaches, and cooperation with other Community bodies.

Concerning transparency, additional information will now be published on the web site of DG Health and Consumer Protection, in particular regarding members’ declarations of interests and commitment, as well as the requests received by each of the scientific committees.

The rules have also included a chapter on diverging opinions, in line with Commission Decision 2004/210/EC and the Food Safety Authority’s Regulation. Minority opinions, although already included in the previous rules of procedure, will now have to be attributed together with supporting argumentation, to members or associated members concerned.

Finally attention has been paid to relations with stakeholders. A section has been added to cover both needs, e.g. request for additional information from the Scientific Committee or a request for hearings from stakeholders.

The draft rules of procedures were unanimously adopted with very minor editorial changes. Additional administrative information was provided to the members of the Committees.

7 September 2004 SCENIHR separate session

1. Welcome, apologies and introduction by Commission representative

The Commission representative welcomed all members to the new Committee. Apologies were received from Prof Jung.

Members and Secretariat introduced themselves. Election procedures were explained and nominations of candidates for Chairs and Vice Chairs were proposed.

A short CV of each of the nominees was distributed to all members to provide them with candidates' backgrounds before voting.

8 September 2004 SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES JOINT SESSION

Welcoming address to the Members by Commissioner David Byrne

Commissioner David Byrne addressed the members of the Committees urging them to work together to provide the Commission with unambiguous scientific advice that would enable the risk managers to take the adequate and required actions in order to guarantee consumer protection. He stressed the importance of independent scientific advice not only within the EU but in the international arena.

The full speech is available at:

[Inaugural joint meeting of the members of the non-food scientific committees](#)

8 September 2004 SCENIHR SEPARATE SESSION

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Commission representative chaired this part of the meeting. Prof Jung was welcomed and apologies were received from Prof Ahlbom.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was approved.

3. ELECTION PROCESS

The Commission representative also chaired this part of the meeting which started by electing the Chair.

Prof Bridges was elected Chair of the SCENIHR.

For the election of Vice Chairs, voting secrecy was waived and the two candidates, Dr. De Jong and Prof Hartemann were elected unanimously.

Prof. Bridges subsequently chaired the meeting and welcomed the participants to the first meeting of the new Committee.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations of interests were made.

5. ORGANISATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Members were reminded to fill in and send the annual declarations of interests, of commitment and confidentiality.

It was agreed to circulate some templates to harmonise the members' CVs that will be published on the Public Health website.

The complete CVs of the members of the reserve list as well as those of the elected members will be made available to the members of the three Committees on a restricted basis, through the CIRCA website. This will help to identify suitable candidates for associated members or external experts. Other documents will also be available via CIRCA. Members will be provided with the necessary rights and passwords.

6. ADOPTION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The draft work programme for SCENIHR was discussed. It was noted that this was only a preliminary framework outlining broad fields of potential interest since no formal request had been received yet. Nevertheless, the Chair reviewed the issues mentioned and encouraged the members to express their interest in participating in the working groups once they had been established. Members expressed interest in participating in the following fields: updating previous scientific opinions on vCJD risks, nanotechnologies (risk assessment methodologies), electromagnetic fields (EMF) broad overview of exposure, harmonisation of approaches to genotoxicity risk assessment, including quantitative methods and estimation of excess cancer and approaches to exposure to chemical cocktails risk assessment and indoor air quality (the importance of co-operating with SCHER in this area was underlined).

The Committee expressed interest in broadening the scope of these potential questions. The Chair requested the members to forward to the secretariat five areas/questions with a brief explanation for each. Deadline for the transmission of this information: 17 September.

7. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The dates for plenary meetings until the end 2004 were agreed: 27 October and 16 December. The dates for plenary meetings 2005 were adopted: 17 February and 12 May. It was agreed to establish the dates for the rest of 2005 in the next plenary session of the Committee which was confirmed as 27 October 2004.

Potential dates for working groups meetings were not discussed.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

Annex I: List of Participants.

Annex I

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS

1ST PLENARY MEETING

Held on 7-8 September 2004 in Brussels

List of Participants

MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:

Prof. A. AHLBOM, Prof. J. BRIDGES, Dr. W.H. DE JONG, Dr. D. GRECO, Prof. J. HASLOVÁ, Prof. P. HARTEMANN, Dr. T. JUNG, Prof. M.O. MATTSON, Dr. J.M. PAGÈS, Prof. K. RYDZYNSKI, PD. Dr. D. STAHL, Dr. M. THOMSEN, Prof. D. WILLIAMS

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG Health & Consumer Protection):

Ms. P. AGUAR, Ms M. BRANDIMARTE

SANCO C7: Mr. P. WAGSTAFFE (Chair for joint sessions) , Ms M. MARINI, Mr. P. MARTIN, Ms T. PEETSO, Mr. A. VAN ELST, Ms B. GIANFREDA-REITER, Ms. G. FONTANESI, Ms M. PHILIPPÉ, Ms B. PRENDERGAST, Ms C. HUMPHREY,

Other Commission staff: - Mr P. DASKALEROS