



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS
2ND PLENARY MEETING

Held on 27 October 2004
in Brussels
MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Prof Ahlbom, Dr. Greco, Prof Hajslova, Prof Mattsson and Dr Pages.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was approved.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations of interests were made.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

Minutes of the previous plenary meeting were approved with minor editorial changes.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

5.1. Presentation of the items discussed at the Inter-committee Consultation Group on 13th October 2004.

The chairman presented briefly the items discussed with special mention of the priorities on harmonisation within the Scientific Committees and with other risk assessment bodies.

The members were informed that two members of the Scientific Committees were invited as external experts to the EFSA working group on GENTOX, which is working towards producing a document on a harmonised approach for risk assessment of Genotoxic and Carcinogenic Substances.

6. EMERGING ISSUES

6.1. Review of topics suggested by the SCENIHR members

A document on potential topics suggested by the members was distributed. While all contributions were highly appreciated it was noted that further analysis of the items at future plenary meetings was needed since some of them might not be within the scope of SCENIHR.

It was proposed to arrange a presentation on structure, objectives and topics of the different Units of Directorate C in order to allow the members a better knowledge and understanding of the activities of the Units.

7. NEW REQUESTS

7.1. WNV opinion update

The request for an updated opinion was presented. The members and chair of the working group were designated and it was agreed that it would start working immediately in order to try to meet the needs of the Unit originating the request.

7.2. vCJD opinion update

The request for an updated opinion was presented. The members and chair of the working group were designated and it was agreed that the first meeting of the working group shall take place on 30th November.

7.3. Other potential requests: presentation on Nanotechnology by Philippe Martin

Philippe Martin presented the draft for a future request on current methodologies for assessing risks associated to nanotechnologies. Due to its relevance and wide scope, the request will be drafted in consultation with several DGs. The members and chair of the working group were designated and it was agreed that a preliminary meeting of the working group shall take place on 29th November to consider all potential aspects.

8. HARMONISATION

The Scientific Committees have a strong interest in progressing on the harmonisation of terminology used in scientific opinions and also in general approaches to risk assessment when broad areas are to be covered. Discussions on this topic were deferred to future plenary meetings.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

The remaining Declarations of Interest and CV to be published on the website were received.

Some Members pointed out that their CIRCA access had not been received. It was agreed that the Secretariat would contact all members to ensure that they had received the authorisations and passwords.

10. ADOPTION OF DATES FOR PLENARY SESSIONS FOR 2005

The dates for plenary meetings from May until the end of 2005 were discussed. Due to the absence of several of the members, two tentative dates for each of the meetings were proposed, in an attempt to minimise the risks of not reaching a quorum.

Members are requested to indicate their preferences. Final dates to be confirmed at the next plenary meeting on 16th December.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

Annex I: List of Participants.

Annex I

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List of Participants

MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:

Prof. J. BRIDGES, Dr. W.H. DE JONG, Prof. P. HARTEMANN, Dr. T. JUNG, Prof. K. RYDZYNSKI, PD. Dr. D. STAHL, Dr. M. THOMSEN, Prof. D. WILLIAMS

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG Health & Consumer Protection):

Ms. P AGUAR, Ms S DE LIMELETTE

SANCO C7: Mr. P WAGSTAFFE , Ms M MARINI, Mr. P. MARTIN, Ms T. PEETSO, Mr. A. VAN ELST, Ms. G. FONTANESI, Ms M PHILIPPÉ,