



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

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS
3RD PLENARY MEETING

Held on 16 December 2004
in Brussels
MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr. Greco and Prof Williams.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was approved. Two new points were included, regarding a presentation by DG Research on the NEST initiative and another on the SINAPSE database and tools.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations of interests were made. The chair stressed the importance of producing a complete declaration of interest in all cases to avoid misinterpretations on the independence of the members of the Committee.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Members were reminded to fulfil some formalities concerning administrative procedures. Information on a public call for tenders (2004/S 213-182481) was distributed.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

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

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

6.1. Inter-committee Coordination Group on 15th December 2004.

The members were informed that approval of the document produced by the EFSA working group on GENTOX (on a harmonised approach for risk assessment of Genotoxic and Carcinogenic Substances) had been postponed.

The chairman presented briefly the other items discussed with special mention of potential conflicts between the Scientific Committees works and parallel private risk assessment initiatives in the same circumstances. While contacts and cooperation with stakeholders is desirable, the importance of public perception of independence, excellence and transparency was stressed.

7. EMERGING ISSUES

7.1. Review of topics suggested by the SCENIHR members

To facilitate the review of the proposed topics and facilitate the prioritisation of topics it was agreed that a template should be drafted to include relevant information on the topic. The chairman together with the secretary will propose a preliminary form at the next meeting.

It was also considered important to agree on a broad classification and it was suggested that a member of the committee should be responsible for the file, updating it, gathering the necessary information and periodically reporting to the Committee.

8. NEW REQUESTS

8.1. WNV opinion update: status

A meeting will be scheduled for mid January to review the draft already available and to discuss parts of the opinion that have not yet been addressed.

8.2. vCJD opinion update: status

The Working Group met on 30th of November. The basic structure of the report was agreed and several names of external experts suggested. Members were informed about documents available on Circa.

8.3. Nanotechnology risk assessment opinion: status

The Working Group met on 29th November and discussed the scope and structure of the report. Considerations were given to the required background of external experts.

8.4. Possible opinion on the EFSA GENTOX Draft report

A request for an opinion on this report will be drafted. SCHER will be the leading committee with the assistance of members of the other two committees.

9. ADOPTION OF DATES FOR PLENARY SESSIONS FOR 2005

The dates for plenary meetings for 2005 confirmed as follows

- 17th February
- 12th May
- 13th July
- 28th September (with 29th for a potential two day meeting)
- 24th November

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

Annex I: List of Participants.

Annex I

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List of Participants

MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:

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

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Ms. P AGUAR, Ms S BRANDIMARTE

SANCO C7: Mr. P WAGSTAFFE, Mr. P. MARTIN