



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
4TH PLENARY MEETING

Held on 17 February 2005

in Brussels

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Prof. Bridges, chair of the Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

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. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

It was suggested that members logged onto the SINAPSE net to verify its value as a communication tool. Feedback to the secretariat would enable it to consider regular use of this application.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The draft minutes of the 3rd SCENIHR plenary meeting were adopted with minor editorial changes and are available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_mi_003.pdf

6. ONGOING REQUESTS

6.1. WNV (for adoption)

The opinion on “Safety of human blood and organs with regard to West Nile Virus” was adopted following discussion. The Secretariat will introduce the agreed amendments and circulate the modified draft for its final approval by the members.

6.2. Review of progress on current questions

6.2.1. Nanotechnology

The Working Group met on 13th January and decided on the broad scope and structure of the report. The main headings were decided upon and the members agreed to forward the names of appropriate external experts to the secretariat. The next meeting would be on 16th March.

6.2.2. vCJD

The Working Group met on 20th January with the majority of invited external experts. The basic structure of the report was agreed and tasks were distributed. The next meeting would be on 10th March.

7. CHAIR'S REPORT

7.1. Update on the ICG of 16 February 2005 on matters of interest to the SCENIHR

The chairman briefly presented the items discussed, in particular mentioning an interesting discussion with unit B3 (Product and Service Safety) of the Health and Consumer Protection DG on potential areas of interest (non-food allergens, chemical cocktails assessment, Threshold of Toxicological Concern and excess cancer risk) for mutual collaboration.

Members of the Committee were also informed of the forthcoming question to SCHER on indoor air quality and were invited to reflect on their potential involvement in an ad-hoc working group.

8. INFORMATION ON THE MEDICAL DEVICES LEGISLATION REVIEW PROCESS

Members were informed of the ongoing proposal for a review of the directives governing medical devices. The Secretariat would attend meetings between DG Enterprise and Member States and would update members on the review.

9. EMERGING ISSUES

9.1. Review of topics suggested by the SCENIHR members and working procedures

The importance of emerging issues as a regular item on the agenda of all three committees was highlighted. The draft template to review and prioritise proposed topics was presented. Members were encouraged to start using it to identify gaps and needs not addressed in this first version.

It was proposed that a particular member would be nominated as responsible for the file, updating it regularly. Short presentations on the state of the art could frequently be a part of the plenary meeting agenda.


Members expressed their interest in including among the topics non-food allergies and sensitization processes.

10. NEW REQUESTS

10.1. Opinion on the GENTOX Draft report

The members were informed of the agreed procedure to comment on the draft document produced by the EFSA working group on GENTOX (on a harmonised approach for risk assessment of Genotoxic and Carcinogenic Substances) when it becomes available on their website. A formal opinion would be produced after the EFSA document had been finalised. Two members of the SCENIHR would be part of the working group led by SCHER.

10.2. Others: EMF

Members were informed that the Commission was invited to report on the implementation of the 1999 Council Recommendation on EMF. The SCENIHR would be asked to review the [Opinion on Possible effects of Electromagnetic Fields \(EMF\), Radio Frequency Fields \(RF\), and Microwave Radiation on human health. Opinion expressed at the 27th CSTEE plenary meeting, Brussels, 30 October 2001](#)  (56 KB) in the light of subsequent new findings since its adoption. The request might include a provision for regular updates to evaluate new scientific evidence.

11. CHANGES IN THE ADOPTED DATES FOR PLENARY SESSIONS FOR 2005

It was agreed to move the plenary scheduled on 12th May to 28th April 2005.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members were informed that the Eurogenethy2 database (supported by DG RESEARCH) is available now on-line (www.eurogenethy.org)

Annex I: List of Participants.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:

Prof. A. AHLBOM, Prof. J. BRIDGES (Chair), Dr. W.H. DE JONG (Vicechair),
Dr. D. GRECO, 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, Prof. D. WILLIAMS.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Ms. P. AGUAR, Ms C. DEKINDT

Other Commission staff: Mr. P WAGSTAFFE (DG SANCO C7), Mr. P. MARTIN
(DG SANCO C7)