



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS
5TH PLENARY MEETING

Held on 28 April 2005
in Brussels
MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

Apologies were received from Prof. Ahlbom, Prof. Ryzynski, PD Dr Stahl and Prof. Williams.

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

The draft minutes of the 4th SCENIHR plenary meeting were adopted and are available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_mi_004.pdf

It was agreed to include a reference, in the list of emerging risks, to non-food allergies and sensitisation problems mentioned by several of the members.

5. RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE

Participants were informed of the resignation of one of the SCENIHR members. They suggested the most relevant fields of expertise to be considered when selecting potential candidates.

6. ONGOING REQUESTS: REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON CURRENT QUESTIONS

It was suggested that information regarding the working groups' progress (agenda, notes) would be made available to all Committee members via *circa* if technically possible while respecting the need for restricted circulation of some documents.

6.1.1. Nanotechnology

The Working Group met on 22nd April. The headings were further developed with the cooperation of the invited external experts. Names of two additional external experts were forwarded to the secretariat as potential co-authors of specific chapters. The next meeting was scheduled for 26th May with a deadline for contributions on 15th May.

Members of the SCENIHR were encouraged to submit relevant documents they were aware of on this subject, especially in the area of eco-toxicology.

6.1.2. vCJD

The next meeting was scheduled for 29th April (day after the plenary). The SCENIHR was informed that most of the chapters were already drafted.

6.1.3. Opinion on the GENTOX Draft report

The members were informed in due time of the publication of the GENTOX draft on the EFSA website and were invited to submit their comments to the working group which would produce a paper with comments on the draft. This working group met on 21st April.

A draft had been produced and circulated to the members of the working group. After being finalised it would be approved by the Chairs of the three Committees and sent to EFSA. Members who still wanted to send comments on the EFSA draft were welcome to forward them to the secretariat of the working group not later than 13th May.

7. CHAIR'S REPORT

7.1. Inter-committee Coordination Group on 27th April 2005

- The SCCP expected a large number of requests on hair dyes by July 2005.
- The SCCP lacked adequate exposure data which were not always provided by Industry. **Members were requested to send through the secretariat all available information** (databases, handbooks, websites...) to help the SCCP gather the best available data. In co-operation with SANCO B3 and the Joint Research Centre a workshop may be considered (industry, JRC, industry toxicologists, consumers' representation...) to ensure that the Committees are provided with dossiers with complete data.
- The SCHER is the lead Committee for two new requests:
 - Indoor air request
 - Animal testing replacement for endocrine disruptor studies

Members for the respective joint Working Groups have been appointed. Two members of SCENIHR will participate in them.

- Sensitisation (not only to cosmetics but also to homecare products) was seen as a recurrent event in the EU population affecting a great number of individuals. This concern, shared by all Committees' Chairs and Vice-Chairs, might result in a question handled by the three SCs. The situation across the EU would be mapped and potential room for improvement, where data are not comprehensive or available, would be identified. SANCO B3 will lead in drafting the question.

One of the members of SCENIHR volunteered to be included in the ad-hoc Working Group when the question is formally addressed to the SCs.

8. EMERGING ISSUES

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

The importance of having an agreed template to deal with emerging issues was again highlighted. Documents by two members were circulated and it was agreed to develop a template that could combine (in descending order) some of the proposed criteria for categorisation. A template would be developed by the Chair with the Secretariat's help.

SANCO C7 presented an example of a document developed to perform preliminary evaluations of emerging risks. The importance of being able to respond rapidly was underlined. Members reacted positively to the document but it was agreed to add a deadline when consulting the members of the SCENIHR on "emergency situations". Members were informed that usually there would be an immediate response needed (in 24/48 h) but all information provided would be kept in a "long term" file in case there was a need to expand the preliminary assessment.

The "hygienic hypothesis" was discussed amongst the members with reference to a possible increased prevalence of different diseases. One of the members would draft a paper for discussion with a view to possible future actions by other SANCO C Units.

9. NEW REQUESTS

9.1. EMF

In the Council Recommendation on EMF (1999/519/EC), the Commission was invited to report on its implementation. In this context, the SCENIHR would receive a request to update the [Opinion on "Possible effects of Electromagnetic Fields \(EMF\), Radio Frequency Fields \(RF\), and Microwave Radiation on human health of the Scientific Committee for Toxicity, Ecotoxicity and the Environment \(SCTEE\) of 30 October 2001"](#) in the light of newly available information and to report on the implications of this information for risk assessment.

Three of the Members of the Committee agreed to be members of the working group. A preliminary consultation was needed to decide on tentative schedules for meetings and identification of external experts.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members were encouraged to sign up to SINAPSE (a network for scientists managed through DG RTD) as an additional tool for researchers and scientific community in general.

Members were requested to send to the Secretariat details on any non-food risk assessment body existing in their countries, primarily (but not exclusively) those linked to regulatory bodies or governmental organisations.

1 The current open call for proposals on nanotechnologies was brought to the attention of
2 the members. More information is available at
3 http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=182

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8 **Annex I:** List of Participants.

1 Annex I

2 **SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS**

3 **5TH PLENARY MEETING**

4 *Held on 28 April 2005*

5 *in Brussels*

6 **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

7 **MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:**

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9 Prof. J. BRIDGES (Chair), Dr. W.H. DE JONG (Vicechair), Prof. J. HASLOVÁ, Prof. P.
10 HARTEMANN (Vicechair), Dr. T. JUNG, Prof. M.O. MATTSON, Dr. J.M. PAGÈS, Dr. M.
11 THOMSEN.

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13 **APOLOGISED:**

14 Prof. A. AHLBOM, Prof. K. RYDZYNSKI, PD. Dr. D. STAHL, Prof. D. WILLIAMS

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16 **EUROPEAN COMMISSION:**

17 ***SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):***

18 Ms. P. AGUAR, Ms C. DEKINDT

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20 ***Other Commission staff:*** Mr J MUYLDERMANS (*DG SANCO C7*)