



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS
9TH PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 25 January 2006
in Brussels*

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The chairman, Prof. J. Bridges, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Prof. D. Williams and Dr. J-M. Pagès.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

It was decided that under item 6, the opinion on Nanotechnologies would be discussed first. The upcoming request for a scientific advice on di-2-ethylhexylphthalate (DEHP) and its alternatives in medical devices was added to item 6. The Chair's report was delayed for discussion after item 8 (Emerging Issues).

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

The Chair of the SCENIHR informed the Committee that one of the invited external experts in the Working Group (WG) on smokeless tobacco products (STP), Prof. J. Britton, had declared an interest in view of his affiliations.

Taking into account the nature of the declaration, the Committee decided that Prof. J. Britton had no conflict of interest.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The draft minutes of the 8th plenary meeting were adopted with minor modifications. The minutes are available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_mi_008.pdf

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair informed the Committee about the first Meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Committees (SC) on 7-8 December 2005 which offered an excellent opportunity to facilitate discussion between the SCs on common issues and on possibilities for a strengthened co-operation.

5.1. Inter-Committee Coordination Group on 24th January 2005

The Chair reported on the discussions with the representatives of DG Environment and DG Enterprise on the implications of REACH for the work in the Non-Food SCs. The Chair also presented the draft of a policy statement on alternative methods (drafted by the chairs of the SCs) that aims to clarify the SCs' position on the use of alternative methods to animal testing. A revised version would be sent to the members and discussed in the next Plenary meeting.

6. ONGOING REQUESTS

6.1. Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) (public consultation)

The online public consultation on the opinion on vCJD was launched in December and was open until 10 February 2006. It had been advertised in relevant experts' networks. The results would be discussed in the next SCENIHR Plenary meeting. The procedure was similar to the one used in the consultation on Nanotechnology.

6.2. Nanotechnologies (public consultation)

The Secretariat presented the outcome of the public consultation. The opinion was in general well received by stakeholders, but some aspects might require modification. The Committee decided that in the absence of the Chair of the WG, the Vice-Chair of the WG, the Chair of the Committee, and the Secretariat would prepare a synthesis report. The report would summarise the contributions received and would have an annex with detailed stakeholder comments and the responses of the SCENIHR. The draft report would be circulated in the WG and, subsequently, in the SCENIHR.

The Secretariat reported on the ongoing international activities and meetings on Nanotechnologies.

6.3. Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) (for discussion)

The Chair of the WG informed the Committee about the current situation. The opinion would be finalised during the first half of 2006.

6.4. Smokeless Tobacco Products (for discussion)

The SCENIHR had received the request to provide an [Opinion on "Health Effects of Smokeless Tobacco Products"](#). The Chair of the WG informed the Committee about the 1st Working Group meeting. The general outline and, in addition, the share of tasks had been discussed but additional external experts are still needed. The SCENIHR members were asked to identify suitable individuals. A draft call for information had been prepared.

6.5. DEHP (for discussion)

The upcoming request for scientific advice on DEHP and its alternatives in medical devices was presented. The first Working Group meeting would take place in January.

7. NEW REQUESTS

The Secretariat would continue to investigate the interest of the Commission services on the biocide resistance.

DG Enterprise was focussing in its Work Programme on Medical Devices, among other issues, on mercury, in particular on dental amalgam.

8. EMERGING ISSUES

None.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretariat would invite Prof. J. Giesecke, Head of Unit “Scientific Advice” at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) to the next SCENIHR Plenary meeting to give a presentation on “Future Collaboration on Emerging Issues”.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:

Prof. J. BRIDGES (Chair), Dr. A. AHLBOM, Dr. P. HARTEMANN (Vice chair), Prof. J. HAJŠLOVA, Dr. W.H. DE JONG (Vice Chair), Dr. T JUNG, Prof. M-O. MATTSSON, PD.Dr. D. STAHL, Prof. K. RYDZYNSKI, Dr. M. THOMSEN

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SCENIHR SECRETARIAT (DG SANCO)

K. BROMEN

P. MARTIN

M. PUOLAMAA

OTHER COMMISSION STAFF:

Mr. A. BOENKE (ENTR)

Mr. P. DASKALEROS (SANCO)

Ms A. JASSEM (SANCO)