



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
10TH PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 10 March 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 PD Dr. D. Stahl.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

It was decided to discuss nanotechnology (current opinion and new request) first in item 7.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Dr. T. Jung declared an interest in relation to item 7.2. (Nanotechnologies) on the agenda.

Taking into account the nature of the declaration, the Committee decided that he could participate in the discussions on those matters.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The draft minutes of the 9th plenary meeting were adopted without modifications. The minutes are available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_mi_009.pdf

5. CHAIR'S/MEMBERS' REPORT

The draft statement of the Chairs of the three non-food Scientific Committees on alternative methods was discussed. Members suggested minor changes to the draft which would be finalized in the next meeting of the Inter-Committee Coordination Group (ICG) on 5 April 2006.

6. PRESENTATION BY PROFESSOR JOHAN GIESECKE (ECDC) – “FUTURE COLLABORATION ON EMERGING ISSUES”

Prof. J. Giesecke presented the structure and activities of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Possibilities of collaboration between the SCENIHR and ECDC were discussed. A regular exchange of information and discussion on emerging issues was suggested to facilitate coordination and potential future cooperation between different bodies dealing with emerging issues.

7. ONGOING REQUESTS

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

The contributions from the public consultation were discussed. An additional Working Group (WG) meeting is foreseen for the modification of the opinion and for finalizing the synthesis report. Both documents will be discussed in the next SCENIHR plenary meeting on 11-12 May 2006.

7.2. Nanotechnologies (public consultation)

The modified opinion was adopted by the SCENIHR with a reference to the public consultation and to the synthesis report. The modified opinion will replace the current opinion on the SCENIHR website. The synthesis report reflecting the outcome of the public consultation was adopted and will also be available on the SCENIHR website.

7.3. EMF (for discussion)

The Chairman of the WG informed the Committee about the progress of the work. The finalization of the opinion is foreseen before the next SCENIHR plenary meeting on 11-12 May 2006 in which the opinion is scheduled for adoption. A public consultation and subsequent WG meeting is planned.

7.4. Smokeless Tobacco Products (for discussion)

The Chairman of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work and the changes in the terms of reference, the subsequent extension of the deadline for finalization of the opinion and the need to identify additional expertise for the WG. A call for information will be finalized and launched shortly.

7.5. DEHP (for discussion)

The Vice-Chair informed the Committee about the final request from DG Enterprise and the ongoing work. Additional experts have been invited to the WG, and a few more will be needed after the Call for Information, which will be finalized and launched soon.

8. NEW REQUESTS

BSE in cosmetics

DG Enterprise presented a new request for scientific advice on a report on “BSE in cosmetics” which relates to an earlier scientific report drafted by scientists for the Commission. It was therefore decided that the members of the earlier WG should be asked for participation. Depending on the availability of the experts of the previous group, additional SCENIHR members with suitable expertise would join the group. The possibility of associate membership will be investigated for this mandate.

Nanomaterials

DG Environment presented the mandate on the appropriateness of Technical Guidance Documents (TGDs) for nanomaterials. The SCENIHR selected the Chairperson for the WG and decided to ask for participation of SCHER members in this WG.

9. EMERGING ISSUES

A previously compiled discussion list on emerging issues, revised by the Chairman was discussed. Members of the group were asked to check the list and identify topics that belong to their expertise and interest and to provide background information and relevant documents on these topics before the next SCENIHR plenary meeting where the issue will be discussed again. The Chairman reminded members that the Work Programme of 2007 will be discussed at the ICG-meeting before the summer. Furthermore, the Secretariat provided the special Eurobarometer report on “Risk Issues” (published 2/2006) for information to members.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a request from the Committee, the Secretariat will look into the possibility of giving members access to the SCHER site in CIRCA.

Members drew attention to the continued delay in reimbursement of travel costs.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:

Prof. A. AHLBOM, Prof. J. BRIDGES (Chair), Dr. W. DE JONG (Vice-Chair), Prof. J. HAJŠLOVÁ, Prof. P. HARTEMANN (Vice-Chair), Dr. T. JUNG, Prof. M.-O. MATTSSON, Dr. J.-M. PAGÈS, Prof. K. RYDZYNSKI, Dr. M. THOMSEN

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Ms. K. BROMEN, Ms. N. FOUVEZ, Mr. P. MARTIN, Ms. T. PEETSO, Ms. M. PUOLAMAA

Other Commission staff:

Mr. A. BOENKE (DG ENTR), Mr. P. DASKALEROS (DG SANCO), Mr. E. FERNANDEZ-ZINCKE (DG SANCO), Mr. S. FÜHRING (DG ENTR), Mr. P. VAN DER ZANDT (DG ENV)

OTHER INSTITUTIONS:

Prof. J. GIESECKE (ECDC)