



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS**  
**11<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 11-12 May 2006  
in Brussels*

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chairman, Prof. J. Bridges, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Prof. J. Hajslová, Prof. A. Ahlbom (present only on 12 May) and PD D. Stahl (present only on 12 May).

**2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**

It was decided to discuss the ongoing requests on Day 2 of the meeting (in the order 6.4, 6.3, 6.2, 6.1, 6.6, 6.5) and to have the discussion related to item 8 (emerging issues) as the focus of Day 1.

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

Prof. K. Rydzynski declared an interest in relation to item 6.2. (Smokeless Tobacco Products) on the agenda.

Taking into account the nature of the declaration, the Committee decided that it did not constitute a conflict and that he could participate in the discussions on those matters.

The Chair of the SCENIHR Working Group (WG) on Smokeless Tobacco Products (STP) informed the Committee that some of the invited external experts had declared an interest in view of their affiliations.

Taking into account the nature of the declarations, the Committee decided that they did not constitute a conflict and the experts could participate in the discussions on those matters.

Following a general discussion on the challenge to identify independent expertise for some working groups and on the way that interests are declared, members stressed the importance to have balanced viewpoints and expertise represented in the working groups and to obtain detailed declaration of interests (DoI) from Working Group members. In this respect, members suggested revision of the DoI

template and the need to request more specifically what interests should be declared and for which time-frame.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING**

The draft minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting were adopted without modifications. The minutes are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr\\_mi\\_010.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_mi_010.pdf)

#### **5. CHAIR'S/MEMBERS' REPORT**

##### **5.1. Inter-Committee Coordination Group on 5 April 2006**

The Chair informed the Committee about a presentation given by ECETOC on its activities, particularly in risk assessment. Potential cooperation and exchange of information and knowledge with the Scientific Committees were discussed. Members of the Scientific Committees are invited to participate in workshops organised by ECETOC. Related information can be found on the ECETOC website (<http://www.ecetoc.org/>).

The draft position paper of the Scientific Committees on alternative methods was discussed and modified in accordance with the proposals made by the committees. The possibility of a joint publication with other institutions is being investigated.

Furthermore, the Chair had submitted three discussion papers to the ICG for future discussion (Operation of Working Groups, Recruitment of Experts, Associate Membership).

##### **5.2. Other**

The Chair reported on the Consultative Forum on Environment and Health, organized by DG Environment where he had presented the role of the SCENIHR and the related draft discussion paper on emerging issues. This draft would be further discussed in item 8 of the agenda.

#### **6. ONGOING REQUESTS**

##### **6.1. Nanotechnologies (for discussion)**

The Chair reports about the first WG meeting on the new question on the appropriateness of Technical Guidance Documents (TGDs) for nanomaterials. An extended WG meeting is foreseen for 15-16 June. Members asked the Secretariat to provide the paper-version of the TGDs for the next working group meeting.

##### **6.2. Smokeless Tobacco Products (for discussion)**

The Chair of the WG informed the Committee of the ongoing work and enlargement of the WG. The outline of the opinion and the distribution of tasks have been revised. Deadline for the call for information is 12 May 2006. In line with the discussion on the Declaration of Interest, it is decided that members of the WG on smokeless tobacco products shall be reminded by the Secretariat to provide detailed information on their interests and to resubmit their declarations if necessary.

Declarations will be made available to SCENIHR-members and WG-members through the CIRCA-website.

### **6.3. DEHP (for discussion)**

Due to a change in the professional position of PD Dr. D. Stahl (see item 9) she resigned from the position as Chair of the WG. A new Chairperson is being appointed. The deadline for the Call for Information on DEHP alternatives is 11 May 2006. The results will be discussed in the next working group meeting on 19 May where also additional external experts from industry, competent authorities and from one university hospital are invited to present how they are dealing with DEHP alternatives.

### **6.4. BSE in Cosmetics (for discussion)**

A Chairperson was appointed for the working group. This work will include for the first time an associated member from EFSA. Most of the experts that have contributed to the report that serves as a working document for the opinion have agreed to serve as external experts in this group.

### **6.5. vCJD (public consultation)**

The Chair reported on the additional working group meeting on 28 April where the opinion was modified and the synthesis report was finalized based on the contributions from the public consultation.

The revised opinion was being discussed and a modified version adopted by the SCENIHR with a reference to the public consultation and to the synthesis report. The updated 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.

### **6.6. EMF (for discussion and adoption)**

The Chair of the WG informed the Committee on the progress of the work. While the overall opinion is finalized by the WG, some parts of the scientific background still need to be revised. Therefore, only the chapter on the committee opinion is being discussed and approved by the SCENIHR but the adoption of the entire document is being postponed to the next plenary meeting. The Chair of the WG will finalize the opinion in collaboration with other SCENIHR members and the Secretariat. Referring to the mandate of the WG, members suggest an update of the work not necessarily on an annual basis but in the light of new relevant scientific data.

## **7. NEW REQUESTS**

The Secretariat is in contact with Commission services regarding a potential new request on biocide resistance. Dr. J.-M. Pagès will provide scientific background for this topic.

## **8. EMERGING ISSUES**

a) Discussion paper “SCENIHR New and Emerging non-food Health Risks”

The draft version of this discussion paper is being discussed and revised. In line with the Committee's role to alert the Commission to emerging health threats the purpose of this paper is to collect emerging health topics that members consider important and relevant for future risk assessment in a structured form. This working document, developed in cooperation with the Secretariat, could be used for the preparation of future mandates and should furthermore facilitate the exchange of information with other risk assessment bodies. Authors are assigned who are responsible to provide background information on topics already identified. Furthermore, members are asked to continuously update the list. To facilitate the management of the list, the Secretariat will provide a template in which new topics shall be collected. An updated version of the paper will be circulated to members after the meeting and members will be asked for updates that will be discussed in the next plenary meeting.

b) Discussion paper "Emerging Issues and the Role of the SCENIHR"

The paper is also being discussed. Suggestions for revisions are being collected and will be implemented by the Chairman. Future revisions shall be done in close collaboration with the Secretariat.

Members propose to have an extended SCENIHR meeting where the discussion papers are presented to Commission services involved in risk management and possibly also to Chairs from other Scientific Committees.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

In response to a request from the Committee, the Secretariat will look into the possibility of informing members regularly about ongoing activities at the ECDC and in particular in the Unit for Scientific Advice.

Members would like to draw the attention of the ICCG to their wish to obtain access to the site of the SCHER in CIRCA.

The Secretariat encourages members to identify publication strategies for the opinions and other measures to increase the visibility of the work performed. This will be discussed again at the next meeting. Suggestions shall be sent to the Secretariat before then.

PD Dr. D. Stahl will change her position and will become Head of the University Clinic for Blood Group Serology and Transfusion Medicine in Salzburg, Austria.

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:**

Prof. A. AHLBOM (Day 2), Prof. J. BRIDGES (Chair), Dr. W. DE JONG (Vice Chair), Prof. P. HARTEMANN (Vice Chair), Dr. T. JUNG, Prof. M.-O. MATTSSON, Dr. J.-M. PAGÈS, Prof. K. RYDZYNSKI, PD Dr. D. STAHL (Day 2), Dr. M. THOMSEN, Prof. D. WILLIAMS

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION:**

**SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):**

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

**Other Commission staff (present on Day 2):**

Mr. A. BOENKE (DG ENTR), Mr. E. FERNANDEZ-ZINCKE (DG SANCO), Mr. S. FÜHRING (DG ENTR), Ms. E. SOTO (DG SANCO)