



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS
13TH PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 28 September 2006
in Brussels*

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman, Prof. J. Bridges, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, in particular Mr. B. Delogu, newly appointed Head of Unit of C7. Apologies were received from Prof. A. Ahlbom, Prof. D. Stahl and Prof. J. Hajslová.

B. Delogu informed the Committee that the renewal of the SC may be delayed due to new developments in REACH and the establishment of the European Chemicals Agency in Helsinki. He also informed members about the second Meeting of Chairs of the Scientific Committees on 24-25 October 2006 and the endeavours to increase the visibility of the Scientific Committees (Action Plan). This last topic would be discussed under point 5.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

It was decided to discuss the ongoing requests in a slightly revised order (6.2, 6.1, 6.3, 6.4).

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

The Secretariat reminded members of the commitment to confidentiality of all SCENIHR members, associated members and external experts. This commitment should be reinforced in WG-meetings.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The draft minutes of the 12th plenary meeting were adopted subject to minor modifications. The minutes are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_mi_012.pdf

5. CHAIR'S/MEMBERS' REPORT

5.1. Inter-Committee Coordination Group (ICG) meeting on 25 September 2006

The Chairman informed members about a draft Action Plan that C7 has proposed to raise the profile of the Scientific Committees (SCs). This plan specifies the activities to enhance visibility of the work of the SCs, to improve communication and collaboration with other scientific bodies, policy makers and other stakeholders, and to support the recognition of experts' contributions. Members welcomed the plan and in particular the foreseen publication of opinions either in journals or in a specific series (e.g. monograph) and discussed strategies to identify suitable journals. They also discussed various possibilities to enhance the visibility of the work of the SCs and retrieval of opinions.

In the ICG-meeting it was decided to publish the position statement of the three non-food SCs on Animal-Testing, currently available on the website of the ICG¹, in a scientific journal.

5.2. Other

The Chair and the Secretariat informed members of the conference on Nanotechnologies – Safety for Success organised under the auspices of the Finnish presidency and of the activities of other bodies. The development of a roadmap on risk assessment is foreseen. Nanotechnology would also be addressed in a special session during the Meeting of Chairs of SCs on 24-25 October.

The Chair and Vice-Chairs have been invited to participate in a workshop on Exposure assessment organized by Commission services.

6. ONGOING REQUESTS

6.1. EMF (public consultation)

The Secretariat informed members about the start of the public consultation which would run until 3 November. First comments have been received and would be made available to the group via CIRCA. An additional WG meeting is foreseen to discuss the contributions and potential revision of the preliminary opinion. Additional means to publicise the public consultation and the opinion itself are being discussed.

6.2. Nanotechnologies (for discussion)

The Chair of the WG reported on a two-day WG meeting which focussed on the Technical Guidance Documents (TGDs), in particular the human health chapter.

6.3. Smokeless Tobacco Products (for discussion)

The Chair of the WG informed the Committee of the ongoing work. Clarification of questions regarding the mandate were provided in the last working group meeting. Contributions for most chapters have been received but additional contributions,

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/coordination/docs/coord_stat_001.pdf

substantial revision and editing is still to be done. A slight delay for delivery of the opinion is expected given the level of complexity and discussion within the WG.

6.4. DEHP (for discussion)

The Chair of the WG reported on the last WG meeting where clarification on certain tasks was provided and data submitted following the Call for Information was discussed. Information provided on the safety of alternatives to DEHP is scarce, in particular for new products. Additional WG meetings were foreseen in October and November. Finalization of the opinion is expected for early 2007. Particular consideration must be given to confidential information provided by industry.

7. NEW REQUESTS

The SCENIHR Secretariat continues to discuss potential mandates on biocides as well as safety of dental amalgam and potential alternatives. Background on the mandate on dental amalgam was presented by DG ENTR.

8. EMERGING ISSUES

Additional contributions to the discussion paper on new and emerging health risks have been received. Members are asked to continuously update the paper. The chairman proposes to include the paper in the discussions of the upcoming Meeting of Chairs. Any additional contribution should therefore be sent to the Secretariat before 13 October.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting will take place on 28 November 2006.

The following meeting dates are foreseen for 2007: 24 January, 29 March, 10 May, 21 June, 27 September, 29 November. All meetings are foreseen as one day events but in exceptional cases a subsequent second day may be scheduled. Members are asked to consider this in their planning.

<p>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS 13TH PLENARY MEETING</p>

*Held on 28 September 2006
in Brussels*

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:

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, Dr. M. THOMSEN, Prof. D. WILLIAMS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):

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

Other Commission staff:

Mr. A. BOENKE (DG ENTR)

Ms. I. DEMADE (DG ENTR)