



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
17TH PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 29 March 2007
in Brussels*

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman, Prof. J. Bridges, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Prof. A. Ahlbom.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

It was decided to discuss the ongoing requests in a slightly revised order and to discuss item 6.1 first. A brief discussion on the last meeting of the Inter-Committee Coordination Group (ICCG) was added as Point 5.2 of the agenda.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

The Chair of the SCENIHR Working Group (WG) on Smokeless Tobacco Products (STP) informed the Committee that one of the external experts had declared a new interest in view of his affiliation.

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

There was no news on the rectification requested by one expert in the WG on STP concerning his affiliations as presented in some journals.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The draft minutes of the 16th plenary meeting were adopted without modifications. The minutes are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_mi_016.pdf

5. CHAIR'S/MEMBERS' REPORT

5.1. Risk Assessment Days 2007

The Chairman informed members on the discussion with Members of the European Parliament during the dinner at the Risk Assessment Days. The proposal to extend

the terms of office of the Scientific Committees (SCs) until the end of 2008 by amending Commission Decision 2004/210/EC (see minutes of the previous two meetings for details) and potential relevant expertise for SCENIHR in view of its potential enlargement were discussed. Members were asked to consider the expertise profiles needed to complement the SCENIHR and add them to a list of expertises to be circulated by the Secretariat.

Members furthermore reflected on the discussion session with stakeholders and possible ways of future communication with stakeholders and the European Parliament. Members expressed that they considered this event very useful and thanked the Chairman for his contributions to the discussions.

5.2. Inter-Committee Coordination Group on 31 January 2007

The Chair informed members about the discussion on the use of confidential data in scientific opinions, principles for public consultations, the revised layout of scientific opinions and follow-up activities from the 2nd Meeting of Chairs of EU Risk Assessment bodies.

5.3. Other

Suggestions for topics for a potential new event on the Scientific Committees in 2008 should be sent to the Secretariat.

6. ONGOING REQUESTS

6.1. Nanotechnologies (for approval for public consultation)

The Chair of the WG presented the draft opinion on "the appropriateness of the risk assessment methodology in accordance with the Technical Guidance Documents for new and existing substances for assessing the risks of nanomaterials" to the Committee. The draft opinion was modified according to the discussion in the plenary and was approved for [public consultation](#) which would start after final editing of the draft.

Members also followed up the discussion in the preceding SCENIHR plenary meeting on a new request on definitions on nanomaterials. It was agreed that the task should involve members of the different non-food Scientific Committees and could become a common position paper of the Inter-Committee Coordination Group rather than an opinion of one Committee. It was agreed to circulate a draft by e-mail and to agree on the procedure and, potentially, on a position in the next meeting of the ICCG.

6.2. Smokeless Tobacco Products (for discussion)

The Chair of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work. Members discussed possible solutions in view of resignation of another member of the WG. A potential replacement was identified and would be contacted by the Secretariat. In view of the deadline for delivery of the opinion it was decided to organize the next WG-meeting with SCENIHR members and the new expert to discuss the remaining tasks. It was furthermore emphasized that members contributing to the ongoing work should also participate as much as possible in WG meetings.

6.3. DEHP (for discussion)

The Chair of the WG reported on the ongoing work on di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP). Further discussion on the draft opinion was needed but approval of the opinion was foreseen for the next SCENIHR Plenary meeting in May. Members discussed the appropriateness of a public consultation on this opinion. However, further discussion and a decision on this issue were postponed to the next meetings of the WG and the SCENIHR.

6.4. Dental Amalgam (for discussion)

The SCENIHR had received the final request to provide an opinion on "[The safety of dental amalgam and alternative dental restoration materials for patients and users](#)". 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. The need for additional expertise and a call for information would be considered at a later point in time.

6.5. Biocides (for discussion)

Discussion on this issue was postponed to the next meeting.

7. NEW REQUESTS

The SCENIHR Secretariat is discussing potential new mandates on noise and nanotechnologies (Key materials, Road Map for Risk Assessment).

8. EMERGING ISSUES

The Chairman reminded participants to update the working document on emerging issues previously discussed. The Secretariat would send a reminder and the latest version to participants for updates by **13 April 2007**. This item would be discussed in the next meeting. In particular, one member had drafted a working paper on global climate change which was circulated to members and would also be introduced in the working document. Members were asked to submit comments by **13 April 2007**.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretariat reminded members to submit their annual declarations of interest. Members proposed to have wireless internet access in meeting rooms. The next plenary meeting on **10 May** will be held as a one-day meeting.

Annex I

<p>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS 17TH PLENARY MEETING</p>

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:

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

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Ms. K. BROMEN, Ms. N. FOUVEZ, Ms. M. PUOLAMAA

Other Commission staff:

Mr. A. BOENKE (DG ENTR), Ms. I. DEMADE (DG ENTR), Ms. M.J. FERNANDES (DG RTD), Mr. P. VAN DER ZANDT (DG ENV)