



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
18TH PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 10 May 2007
in Brussels*

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman, Prof. J. Bridges, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Prof. P. Hartemann, Prof. J. Hajslová, Prof. M.-O. Mattsson, and Prof. D. Stahl.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was adopted as written, with a few changes in the order of points under discussion.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest concerning items on the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The draft minutes of the 17th plenary meeting were adopted with minor modifications. The minutes are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenih/ docs/scenih_r mi_017.pdf

5. CHAIR'S/MEMBERS' REPORT

5.1. Inter Committee Coordination Group (ICCG) on 7 May 2007

The Chair informed members about a presentation by ECVAM, the discussion on the extension of the terms of office of the Scientific Committees (SCs) until the end of 2008 by amending Commission Decision 2004/210/EC and suitable training programmes for risk assessors. Members were asked to make suggestions on training needs and scope to the Secretariat. The chair also informed about the discussion on the Declaration of Interests as practiced in other institutions, the Action Plan on visibility of the committees, new calls in FP7, ongoing and future work of SCs, collaboration with other Community bodies and follow-up activities from the 2nd Meeting of Chairs of EU Risk Assessment bodies and the Risk Assessment Days. Furthermore, members were informed about the EU-Event on

Nanotechnologies on 25-26 October 2007 and a possible international RA Conference in June 2008.

Finally, the use of confidential data in scientific opinions and a related working document of SCENIHR were discussed. Members suggested that confidential data should only be taken into account if a summary on the data submitted can be presented in the opinion and that future calls for information should be worded accordingly. Provisions for the access to documents are being described. A representative from DG ENTR provided information on use of confidential data within the framework of the Directive on Medical Devices. The Secretariat would also raise this issue for internal discussion and clarification.

5.2. Other

none

6. ONGOING REQUESTS

6.1. Smokeless Tobacco Products (for discussion)

The Chair of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work. A replacement for the resigning member had been found and the remaining tasks had been discussed and attributed in the last WG-meeting. The conflict between the need to take relevant actual data into account and avoiding a substantial delay in the delivery of the opinion was addressed. Also, non-delivery of contributions and resignations of experts were mentioned as issues of concern.

6.2. DEHP (for approval for public consultation)

Members discussed the draft opinion on di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP) which the working group had proposed to SCENIHR for approval for public consultation. However, the SCENIHR considered that certain aspects would need revision. Therefore, it was decided to review the document, discuss a revised version of the opinion in an additional working group meeting and subsequently in the next Plenary meeting. Agreement from companies to present a summary on the results based on confidential data in the opinion would be sought by the Secretariat.

6.3. Dental Amalgam (for discussion)

The Chair of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work and the last WG-meeting. A call for information had been launched (deadline: 4 June 2007).

6.4. Nanotechnologies – Definitions (for discussion)

Following a discussion in the last ICCG-meeting, it was agreed to prepare the document on [“scientific aspects of the existing and proposed definitions relating to products of nanoscience and nanotechnologies”](#) as a SCENIHR opinion. A chairperson for the WG, which would involve members of the different non-food Scientific Committees was appointed.

6.5. Biocides (for discussion)

The mandate was still under discussion in Commission services. Therefore, further discussion on this issue was postponed to the next meeting.

7. NEW REQUESTS

7.1. Noise

The Secretariat had received a draft request on the [potential health risks of exposure to noise from personal music players and mobile phones including a music playing function](#). Representatives of DG ENTR and DG SANCO provided information on the background of the request. The health effects of exposure to noise have been known for a long time, in particular noise-induced hearing damage. Recently the attention of the Commission services has been drawn to the need to reassure itself that sufficient preventive measures are in place to prevent hearing damage among children and adolescents from the noise of personal music players and radio communication devices including such a facility. While a regulatory framework governing the safety of this equipment is in place¹, the Commission considers it necessary to request the SCENIHR to assess whether the health of citizens is appropriately protected by the current requirements of the Community directives and European standards.

The SCENIHR made the necessary arrangements to allow a working group to start its work as soon as the request was finalized. A Chairperson was appointed for this group. The Secretariat encouraged the members of the SCENIHR to suggest potential external experts for the forthcoming work.

7.2. Nanotechnologies – Keymaterials

The Secretariat informed members about a possible request on the appropriateness of existing risk assessment methods for key nanomaterials or products of nanotechnologies, presently being considered by Commission services. If agreed internally, the request would be shared with members as soon as it is finalized and would be further discussed, possibly in the next SCENIHR plenary meeting.

8. EMERGING ISSUES

The Chairman reminded participants to further update the working document on emerging issues. This item would be discussed in the next meeting.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The chairman asked members to prioritize the suggestions for further expertise for the SCENIHR. The Secretariat will resend the list to members.

Members were reminded to suggest topics for a potential new event on the Scientific Committees in 2008.

¹ The Radio and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment (R&TTE) Directive 1999/5/EC governs the health and safety aspects of radio equipment, including mobile phones; the Low Voltage Directive (LVD) 2006/95/EC governing the health and safety of electrical equipment within certain voltage ranges lists the standards referred to below for other types of equipment; the General Product Safety Directive (GPSD) 2001/95/EC seeks to ensure that all consumer products are safe where this aspect is not further detailed in any other “spe-cific” EU legislation (including personal music players).

The next plenary meeting would be held as a 2-day meeting provided that the timelines for approval and adoption of opinions would be kept. Members are asked to foresee this in their calendars but to await confirmation by the Secretariat to be sent by the end of May.

The Secretariat informed about a meeting with the Member States on the implementation of the Council Recommendations 1999/519/EC, where the opinion on EMF should be presented.

Annex I

<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS 18TH PLENARY MEETING</p>

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:

Prof. A. AHLBOM, Prof. J. BRIDGES (Chair), Dr. W. DE JONG (Vice chair), Dr. T. JUNG, Dr. J.-M. PAGÈS, Prof. K. RYDZYNSKI, Dr. M. THOMSEN, Prof. D. WILLIAMS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):

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

Other Commission staff:

Ms. I. DEMADE (DG ENTR), Mr. D. EARDLEY (DG ENTR), Ms. A. OJALA (DG SANCO), Ms. T. PEETSO (DG SANCO)