



**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  
20<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 27 September 2007  
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, Dr. T. Jung, 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**

The Chair of the SCENIHR Working Group (WG) on Noise 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 declaration, the Committee decided that for some of the experts, they did not constitute a conflict of interest and that the expert could participate in the discussions on those matters. However, for two experts, additional clarification would be sought by the Secretariat.

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

The draft minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting were adopted with minor modifications. The minutes are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scenihr/docs/scenihr\\_mi\\_019.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_mi_019.pdf)

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

**5.1. Inter Committee Coordination Group on 26 September 2007**

The Chairman informed members about the prolongation of the terms of office of current members until 2008, about the preparatory work for the revision of mandates and restructuring of the Scientific Committees after 2008 and a related

future meeting on this issue. He furthermore informed about a meeting on training needs for risk assessors and the ongoing international dialogue on risk assessment.

## **5.2. Other**

The Chairman informed about recent presentations on the activities of the three non-food scientific committees to European Parliament committees and possible further exchange. At the first meeting in September with representatives of the EP Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) the Chairman had presented the role, procedures and work of the SCENIHR.

## **6. ONGOING REQUESTS**

### **6.1. Smokeless Tobacco Products (public consultation)**

Members discussed the request for more information from one of its WG-members regarding the discussion on the draft opinion in the last SCENIHR plenary meeting. They finalized a response to the expert to be signed by the chairmen of the SCENIHR and the WG.

The public consultation on the preliminary report would finish on 28 September 2007

### **6.2. DEHP (in preparation for public consultation)**

Members discussed the status of the preliminary report on di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP). The Secretariat had concluded the consultation with industry on the summary on alternative compounds based, inter alia, on their confidential data in the annex of the opinion. Subsequently, further information on the public consultation would be available at the following webpage:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scenihhr/scenihhr\\_cons\\_05\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/scenihhr_cons_05_en.htm)

### **6.3. Nanotechnologies – Definitions (for discussion)**

The Chair of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work and members discussed the draft opinion, which still needed further revision. It was agreed that the draft was not yet ready for adoption and that no public consultation would be carried out. Additional WG-meetings were scheduled and it was foreseen to discuss the report in the next plenary meeting.

### **6.4. Dental Amalgam (for discussion)**

The Chair of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work. It is foreseen that the opinion and a possible public consultation will be discussed in the next plenary meeting. Comparable to other opinions, the report would contain a chapter on methodology describing the criteria for considering and weighing the available evidence.

### **6.5. Biocides – antibiotic resistance (for discussion)**

A first short meeting of the WG was foreseen after the plenary meeting, where both mandates related to biocides would be discussed.

The final version of the mandate is available at the following webpage:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scenihr/docs/scenihr\\_q\\_012.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_q_012.pdf)

#### **6.6. Biocides – antimicrobial treatment (for discussion)**

See 6.5

The final version of the mandate is available at the following webpage:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scenihr/docs/scenihr\\_q\\_013.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_q_013.pdf)

#### **6.7. Noise (for discussion)**

The Chair of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work. The selection of experts was concluded and additional meeting dates scheduled. Furthermore, the WG has agreed on the general outline and focus of the opinion.

### **7. NEW REQUESTS**

The Secretariat informed members about a possible request on electromagnetic fields for considering recent evidence and for providing a comparative assessment of diverging conclusions drawn by different reports. 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. Members discussed the potential focus of the new request.

Members discussed and provided feedback on the drafts of two upcoming requests which would be joint opinions of the three non-food scientific committees, involving members of the three committees:

- Use of the Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) approach for the safety assessment of chemicals (to be coordinated by the SCCP)
- Risk assessment methodologies and approaches for mutagenic and carcinogenic substances (to be coordinated by the SCHER)

They also proposed names of members who would participate in the work.

### **8. EMERGING ISSUES**

Members discussed briefly the latest version of the document. One member would update the list by including references.

Members discussed health issues related to climate change, such as emerging or re-emerging diseases, safety of water supply, effect of heat waves, as potential future topics for the SCENIHR. This would be further assessed by the Secretariat.

### **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Members discussed the status of follow-up activities from the 2nd Meeting of Chairs of EU Risk Assessment bodies and the upcoming 3rd Meeting to be held in Stockholm (6-7 November 2007). In particular, the Secretariat and vice chair reported on a recent meeting of the discussion group on emerging risks in

preparation for the meeting in Stockholm where the working paper and the result of the discussion would be presented.

Furthermore, members discussed the way in which opinions of the Scientific Committees should be published in scientific journals. This will be further pursued with the submission of a concrete example. It was agreed to reflect the support of the WG-members and the secretariat in the list of authors. Furthermore, it was suggested to avoid the term "opinion" which should only be used for the text adopted by the committee.

The Secretariat informed the Committee about the advanced planning for the **Workshop on Nanotechnology**, entitled "Nanotechnologies for Food, Consumer Products and Medical Applications: Safety for Success", Brussels, 25/26 October. It is foreseen that SANCO would organize an annual event on nanotechnology, including scientists, authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders.

It was suggested to discuss the procedure of developing the opinions and general methodologies used in the next meeting.

## **Annex I**

<p><b>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS</b> <b>20<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING</b></p>
---

*Held on 27 September 2007  
in Brussels*

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

#### **MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:**

Prof. A. AHLBOM, Prof. J. BRIDGES (Chair), Dr. W. DE JONG (Vice chair), Prof. P. HARTEMANN (Vice chair), J.-M. PAGES, Prof. K. RYDZYŃSKI, 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. M. Kohler (DG ENTR)