



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
21ST PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 29 November 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.

As a note, Prof. Hajslová is no longer a member in the committee since the end of June 2007.

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 Biocides informed the Committee that three of the invited external experts had declared an interest in view of their affiliations.

The Chair of the SCENIHR Working Group (WG) on Noise informed the Committee about the clarifications received from two external experts following the discussion in the previous plenary meeting.

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

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The draft minutes of the 20th 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_020.pdf

5. CHAIR'S/MEMBERS' REPORT

5.1. Inter Committee Coordination Group on 28 November 2007

The Chairman informed members about the inventory of risk assessment training relevant to the non-food scientific committees. Members are asked to suggest additional training opportunities once the report is published. He also informed about the comparative review of risk terminology and the meeting on terminology to be organised by the European Environmental Agency (EEA) in May 2008. Furthermore, the new requests to the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) on phthalates in school supplies and to the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP) on climbazol and triclosan were mentioned. Finally, upcoming events and conferences organized by the Commission were mentioned, such as an international conference on risk assessment (RA), an international seminar on nanotechnologies to be organized in Brussels in October 2008, a new event on risk assessment with the European Parliament and stakeholders and a meeting on antimicrobial resistance to be convened by DG SANCO.

5.2. Other

The Chairman and a member informed about the first meeting of the joint WG on risk assessment methodologies and approaches for mutagenic and carcinogenic substances (GENTOX).

6. ONGOING REQUESTS

6.1. Smokeless Tobacco Products (follow-up to public consultation)

The Chairman of the WG presented the outcome of the public consultation to which 52 contributions had been received. Two WG meetings were foreseen to revise the opinion in light of the comments received. The results of the consultation and the revised opinion would be discussed in the next plenary meeting. Recent publications would also be taken into account in the revision.

It was suggested to discuss the current Rules of Procedure in light of practical experience in the next plenary meeting.

6.2. DEHP (public consultation - results)

The Chairman of the WG presented the outcome of the public consultation to which 21 contributions had been received. Two WG meetings were foreseen to revise the opinion in light of the comments received. The results of the consultation and the revised opinion would be discussed in the next plenary meeting.

6.3. Nanotechnologies – Definitions (for discussion/possible adoption)

The Rapporteur of the WG presented the draft opinion to the plenary, and the procedures used for the development of the opinion, which were subsequently discussed by members. Additional references would be added by the Rapporteur of the WG. The opinion was adopted. The report would be published once final editing was concluded. It was confirmed that no public consultation would be carried out. Finally, it was agreed that the opinion could be published in a scientific journal.

6.4. Dental Amalgam (for discussion/possible approval for public consultation/adoption)

The Chairman of the WG presented the draft opinion to the plenary followed by a short discussion. Members suggested minor changes to the report which would be incorporated by the Chairman after the meeting. Following final editing, the opinion would be published for public consultation in parallel to the consultation on the SCHER opinion. An additional WG meeting after the end of the consultation was already foreseen. It was suggested that the opinion should be published in a scientific journal to ensure wide dissemination of the results.

6.5. Biocides – antibiotic resistance (for discussion)

The Chairman of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work. Due to the broad mandate of the work, multiple areas of expertise need to be covered by the members of the WG whose formation was still in progress. However, a first draft of the opinion would be discussed in the next WG-meeting.

6.6. Biocides – antimicrobial treatment (for discussion)

The Chairman and the Secretariat informed about the development of the WG and the ongoing discussion. The Secretariat clarified that those aspects of the mandate dealing with food intake would be dealt with by EFSA, while other aspects would remain within the responsibility of SCENIHR (e.g. antimicrobial resistance from inhalation during substance application, take-up from waste-water and sludge) and SCHER (e.g. environmental impact of substances). It was suggested that the parts of SCENIHR and SCHER should be assessed by a joint WG. Furthermore, members of the SCENIHR were selected for participation in the work of EFSA. Their names would be communicated to the colleagues in EFSA.

6.7. Noise (for discussion)

The Chair of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work. The WG had discussed the launch of a call for information which would be further discussed in the next WG-meeting.

7. NEW REQUESTS

Members discussed the draft request on electromagnetic fields for considering recent evidence and for providing a comparative assessment of diverging conclusions drawn by different reports. A Chairman was appointed for the group. The Secretariat informed members about an upcoming request on tobacco additives.

8. EMERGING ISSUES

The Chairman presented the results of the 3rd Meeting of Chairs of the Community Scientific Committees and Panels, hosted by the ECDC in Stockholm (6-7 November 2007). In particular, additional meetings on emerging risks are foreseen for February and March, which would also involve the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

One member declared that he would not be able to participate in additional work on new mandates but would complete all ongoing tasks.

The following meeting dates were agreed for 2008:

6 February, 2 April, 21 May, 24 June, 23 September, 26 November 2008.

All meetings are foreseen as one day events but in exceptional cases a second day may be scheduled (for 5 February, 3 April, 22 May, 23 June, 22 September, 25 November). Members were asked to consider this in their planning.

Annex I

<p>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS 21ST 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. P. HARTEMANN (Vice chair), Dr. T. JUNG, Prof. M.-O. MATTSSON, Dr. J.-M. PAGÈS, Prof. K. RYDZYŃSKI, Prof. D. STAHL, Dr. M. THOMSEN, Prof. D. WILLIAMS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Mr. L. BONTOUX, Ms. K. BROMEN, Ms. N. FOUVEZ, Ms. M. PUOLAMAA

Other Commission staff:

Mr. M. KOHLER (DG ENTR)