



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS
26TH PLENARY MEETING

*Held on 23 September 2008
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 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 Risk Assessment of Products of Nanotechnologies informed the Committee that one of the invited external experts had declared an interest in view of his affiliations.

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

An additional member of that WG would be reminded to provide an update of his declaration of interest for discussion at the next plenary meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The draft minutes of the 25th plenary meeting were adopted without modifications. The minutes are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_mi_025.pdf

5. CHAIR'S/MEMBERS' REPORT

5.1. Use of the Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) approach for the health risk assessment of chemicals

Members discussed the latest version of the draft opinion and provided feedback to the Secretariat. Further comments and feedback from absent members should be sent directly to the Secretariat of the WG.

5.2. The risk assessment methodologies and approaches for Mutagenic and Carcinogenic substances

A member informed the Committee about the ongoing work. The latest version of the draft opinion would be circulated to members for comments. These would be collected by the Secretariat of the WG.

6. ONGOING REQUESTS

6.1. Light sensitivity (for adoption)

The Chairman of the WG presented the draft opinion to the plenary followed by a discussion. The draft was slightly revised to enhance clarity and to take account of recent information and scientific data. It was confirmed that no public consultation would be carried out. The opinion was adopted. Following final editing, the opinion (including an Annex) would be published at the following webpage:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_o_019.pdf

6.2. Noise (for discussion / possible adoption)

The Chairman of the WG reported on the outcome of the public consultation to which 9 contributions had been received. The majority of respondents agreed or mostly agreed with the opinion. The Chairman presented the revised draft opinion which had been modified in a WG meeting following the consultation. A separate chapter had been introduced to respond to the comments received. The necessary modifications to the opinion in view of these comments were discussed and approved. The opinion was adopted and can be found at the following webpage:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_o_018.pdf

A popularised layman language version of the opinion would be available at the following webpage:

<http://ec.europa.eu/health/opinions/en/hearing-loss-personal-music-player-mp3/index.htm>

6.3. Biocides – antibiotic resistance (for discussion / possible approval for public consultation)

The Chairperson of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work and presented the latest draft version which was subsequently discussed and revised by the members. It was foreseen that the completion of outstanding issues and the final revision of the draft should be finalized within the next 2 to 3 weeks after which the preliminary report would be approved for public consultation by written procedure. An additional WG meeting would be scheduled after the deadline of the public consultation.

6.4. EMF (for discussion)

The Chairperson of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work and the future schedule of the WG whose mandate and membership was now established. The Secretariat informed about current and future activities, topics for discussion and requests in relation to EMF to which members provided feedback.

6.5. Nanotechnologies Risk Assessment (for discussion)

The Chairperson of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work and the focus of the discussion. An opinion on nanotechnologies was also in preparation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

7. NEW REQUESTS

None

8. EMERGING ISSUES

The Secretariat mentioned recent scientific evidence in relation to Bisphenol A. This might be a potential topic for assessment by the future Scientific Committees.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretariat informed about the upcoming call for expression of interests for the renewal of the Scientific Committees which would be open until 31 October 2008. More information would be available at the following webpage:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/call_expression_en.htm

Feedback from the Commission services on the follow-up to the SCENIHR opinions on Di-(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP) and on dental amalgam and alternative dental restoration materials would be provided in the next plenary meeting.

The Secretariat provided information on the upcoming 2nd Dialogue on Nanotechnology – Safety for Success (Brussels, 2-3 October) and on other activities in relation to nanotechnologies and risk assessment.

The Secretariat informed about an International conference on Risk Assessment (Global Risk Assessment Dialogue) to take place in Brussels on 13-14 November 2008.

The Secretariat reminded members to ensure that reimbursement forms are fully and legibly completed.

An additional tentative plenary meeting was scheduled for **19 January 2009**.

Annex I

<p>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS 26TH 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, Dr. M. THOMSEN

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Mr. L. BONTOUX, Ms. K. BROMEN, Mr. V. GARKOV, Ms. C. ISTOC, Ms. A. KANELLOPOULOU, Ms. K. KILIAN, Mr. P. MARTIN.

Other Commission staff:

Mr. A. TOTH (DG TREN)