



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Public Health and Risk Assessment
Risk assessment

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS
(SCENIHR)**

2ND PLENARY MEETING

*Held on 28 May 2009
in Brussels*

Minutes

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman, Prof. J. Bridges, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

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

Prof. M.-O. Mattsson provided additional information on the declaration summarized in the draft minutes of the last plenary meeting. This concerned in particular the financial compensation received for his activities for *Wissenschaftsbeirat Funk* and for two Swedish private companies (TeliaSonera and Pelagia AB). This information is reflected in the final minutes of the first plenary meeting and in his Annual Declaration of Interests (DoI).

Prof. A. Auvinen specified that some of the research projects in which he is involved are partly funded by industry. However, none of this funding is received by him personally. Furthermore, this information is part of his Annual DoI.

The Chair of the SCENIHR Working Group (WG) on electromagnetic fields (EMF) informed the Committee that several of the invited external experts had declared an interest in view of their affiliations.

The Chair of the SCENIHR WG on Sphygmomanometers informed the Committee that several of the invited external experts had declared an interest in view of their affiliations.

Taking into account the nature of all the declarations, the Committee decided that they did not constitute a conflict of interest and that Prof. Mattsson and Prof. Auvinen as well as the external experts could participate in the discussions on those matters.

It was pointed out that the use of the term 'private' in the DoIs could be misleading as this term would not indicate the relevant information whether a private institution was working for-profit versus non-profit. It was suggested to

change the terminology in the template. This would be further discussed in the next meeting of the Inter-Committee Coordination Group.

The Secretariat reminded members that the Dols of external experts would be available on the CIRCA-site of the SCENIHR (accessible only to members) to allow a detailed assessment of the Dols.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The draft minutes of the 1st plenary meeting were adopted with minor modifications. The minutes are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_mi_029.pdf

5. CHAIR'S/MEMBERS' REPORT

The Chair informed members about an initiative of the European Commission to support training of Risk Assessors (European Toxicology Risk Assessment Training Programme – TRISK). This has resulted in an ongoing international collaboration between several European research institutions, involving members of the non-food Scientific Committees. He furthermore informed about an invitation to represent the SCENIHR at a US-meeting on scientific mapping at the end of July 2009.

Dr. W. de Jong informed members that he will represent the SCENIHR in a meeting on Nanomaterials, organized by the US FDA in Washington, DC on 15-16 June.

Prof. M.-O. Mattsson informed members that he has been asked to represent the SCENIHR in a meeting on EMF organized by DG EMPL under the Swedish presidency on EMF.

6. ONGOING REQUESTS

6.1. Electromagnetic Fields – Research Strategy (for discussion)

The Chairperson of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work and the future schedule of the WG whose membership was now established. Additional WG-meetings were foreseen before the discussion of the opinion in the next plenary meeting. It was suggested to circulate an advanced draft of the opinion to members well before this meeting.

6.2. Mercury Sphygmomanometers (for discussion)

The Chairperson of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work and the future schedule of the WG. Additional experts had been identified to support the WG and were invited to the next meeting.

7. JOINT OPINIONS / PARTICIPATION OF SCENIHR-MEMBERS IN ACTIVITIES OF OTHER SCIENTIFIC BODIES

7.1. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) - zoonotic infections

The members involved in this task and the Secretariat informed the Committee about the ongoing work. In preparation for the next meeting of the overarching WG, members discussed and endorsed a proposal for a novel scientific framework to address the issue comprehensively. This would be provided for discussion at that meeting.

It was highlighted that it would be important to obtain a global overview on the relationship between the use of antimicrobial agents and the development of AMR in humans. This would also aid the Commission to identify the most relevant aspects related to AMR.

Members set up a WG for SCENIHR and appointed a Chairperson. Members also identified additional expertise that would be needed for the task.

7.2. Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) Approach for Safety Assessment of Chemical Substances

A member and the Secretariat informed the Committee about the ongoing work. To address the contributions received during the public consultation, a hearing would be organized in the second half of 2009.

7.3. Guidance document on antimicrobials used in food decontamination (EFSA)

A member participating in the WG at EFSA and representing the SCENIHR informed the Committee about the ongoing work.

7.4. Nanomaterials in Cosmetics

A member participating in the WG organized by the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) informed the Committee about the ongoing work on 2 dossiers that had just started. Additional experts would be invited for the next meeting.

7.5. Other

The Secretariat informed about a WG on Triclosan and AMR that was currently set-up by the SCCS. Following an earlier opinion by the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP) on the toxicity of Triclosan, the SCCS is now asked to assess the safety of Triclosan as a preservative in cosmetic products taking into account documentation of resistance development by certain micro-organisms and cross-resistance.

8. NEW REQUESTS

8.1. Tobacco Additives

Following the discussion in the last meeting, members provided feedback on the terms of reference to Commission services and identified additional expertise needed for this task. Members also identified experts in the Pool of Scientific Advisors and the Database of Experts to support the WG. A first WG-meeting was scheduled in which the need for a call for information would be further discussed. A public consultation on the preliminary opinion would be carried out.

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

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_q_020.pdf

9. EMERGING ISSUES

Members discussed their ideas and suggestions on emerging issues. The purpose of the document compiling these themes was to serve as a basis for discussion within the Committee and, in particular, with Commission services on potential new topics. Members were asked to send their comments and suggestions to the Secretariat to allow regular updates of this collection.

The Secretariat informed about activities to collaborate on emerging issues at EU- and international level, in which the SCENIHR would be involved. Members were invited to send their comments to the Secretariat.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dental Amalgam

A member and the Secretariat reported about a meeting with stakeholders in relation to the opinions on dental amalgam by SCENIHR and the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER). The meeting was considered a useful exchange of views even though not all interest groups were represented. Subsequently, SANCO had received a letter of some participants on issues that had also been discussed at that meeting. SCENIHR discussed a suitable response to this letter and to related requests. To that end a self-standing document would be prepared describing the methodology used by the SCENIHR when developing opinions.

Scientific Hearing on Nanotechnologies, Brussels, 10 September 2009

In preparation for this hearing, a meeting including SCENIHR and SCCS members would be organized in order to assess the contributions to the related public consultation¹ (deadline: 19 June).

Follow-up to Biocides-Opinion

A representative from DG Environment (ENV) briefly described the review programme of Biocides Directive 98/8/EC where active substances used in biocidal products are evaluated for their risks to human health and the environment. To that end it was proposed to focus first on monitoring AMR induced by a number of selected biocides or by biocides that are widely used. The SCENIHR could contribute to this approach by developing detailed monitoring schemes and protocols and methodologies and by identifying priorities for the assessment of biocides. As a first step, the recommendations made by SCENIHR in their recent opinion on biocides² could be expanded. This would be further discussed between services. SCENIHR would provide input to this debate.

The Secretariat provided feedback on the possibility to support the SCENIHR in publishing the opinion on biocides.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/scenihhr_cons_10_en.htm

² http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_o_021.pdf

Annex I: List of Participants.

Annex I

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS (SCENIHR)

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:

Prof. A. AUVINEN, Prof. J. BRIDGES (Chair), Prof. K. DAWSON, Dr. W. DE JONG (Vice chair), Prof. P. HARTEMANN (Vice chair), Prof. P. HOET, Dr. T. JUNG, Prof. M.-O. MATTSSON, Dr. H. NORPPA, Dr. J.-M. PAGÈS, Prof. A. PROYKOVA, Prof. E. RODRÍGUEZ-FARRÉ, Prof. K. SCHULZE-OSTHOFF, Dr. J. SCHÜZ, Prof. D. STAHL, Dr. M. THOMSEN, Dr. T. VERMEIRE

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Mr. L. BONTOUX, Ms. K. BROMEN, Ms. N. FOUVEZ, Mr. A. GARKOV, Ms. A. KANELLOPOULOU, Mr. P. MARTIN

Other Commission staff:

Mr. P. CHORAINE (DG ENV), Mr. D. DE MARTINIS (DG ENV), Mr. K. DE SMETS (DG SANCO), Ms. T. PEETSO (DG SANCO), Mr. S. PICKERING (DG ENTR)