



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Public Health and Risk Assessment  
**Risk assessment**

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

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 6 July 2009  
in Brussels*

**Minutes**

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chairman, Prof. J. Bridges, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Prof. A. Auvinen, Dr. H. Norppa, Prof. K. Schulze-Osthoff, 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 Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in relation to zoonotic infections 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 one of the invited external experts had declared an interest in view of his affiliation.

The Chair of the SCENIHR WG on Tobacco Additives 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 the external experts could participate in the discussions on those matters.

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

The draft minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> plenary meeting were adopted without modifications. The minutes are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr\\_mi\\_030.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_mi_030.pdf)

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

### **5.1. Inter-Committee Coordination Group (ICCG), 25 June 2009**

The Chairman explained the role of the ICCG that is composed of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the three Scientific Committees (SCs). Its role, reinforced under the new Rules of Procedure, is to assist the Commission on matters relating to the coordination of the Committees, including the harmonisation of risk assessment. It also deals with questions which are common to more than one Committee, diverging scientific opinions, and exchange of information on their activities. Furthermore, the ICCG is expected to provide guidance on methodological issues.

The Chairman reported, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

- The draft agenda of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Chairs planned for 18-19 November 2009 was mentioned. In particular, SCENIHR-members were informed about a special session on alternative methods in the afternoon of 19 November.
- The Risk Assessment Day, scheduled for 20 November would include relevant presentations on research activities and a stakeholder dialogue session. The Rules of Procedures would be adopted at a joint meeting of the 3 SCs, to be held in the morning session of the programme.
- A member of the SCHER had presented the results of a reflection process on the need to review risk assessment practices that would be further addressed in a cross-committee WG.
- The process on the revision of special indemnities regarding the participation of members at meetings would soon be concluded.
- The European Toxicology Risk Assessment Training Programme (TRISK) is open for application. This is an initiative supported by the European Commission in response to the need for trained risk assessors in Europe.
- The discussion on the follow-up to the 1st International Conference on Risk Assessment is ongoing. The work on several related activities, including emerging issues, exposure assessment, and terminology is expected to start in the autumn of 2009.
- Finally, several activities are foreseen that would involve members from all three SCs.

### **5.2. Other**

Dr. W. de Jong informed members about an international meeting on regulatory issues regarding nanotechnology, organized by the US FDA (Washington, DC, 15-16 June), in which he represented the SCENIHR.

## **6. ONGOING REQUESTS**

### **6.1. Electromagnetic Fields – Research Strategy (for adoption)**

The Chairperson of the WG presented the draft opinion to the plenary followed by a discussion. The draft was slightly edited to enhance clarity. The opinion was adopted. Following final editing, the opinion would be published at the following webpage:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scenihr/docs/scenihr\\_o\\_024.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_o_024.pdf)

### **6.2. Mercury Sphygmomanometers (for discussion)**

The Chairperson of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work. While one member had resigned from the WG, additional experts had been identified and were invited to the next meeting. The call for information produced 18 submissions (from 11 sources) which were reviewed and thoroughly discussed by the WG. Furthermore, the first version of the draft

opinion based on the initial contributions from WG members was reviewed and the respective tasks for writing and reviewing specific sections distributed. It is expected that the opinion will be ready for adoption at the next plenary meeting.

### **6.3. Tobacco Additives (for discussion)**

The Chairperson of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work and the future schedule of the WG. The WG had decided on a provisional structure of the opinion and made a preliminary distribution of tasks to current members. The need for a call for information and for additional expertise would be discussed at the next meeting.

## **7. JOINT OPINIONS / PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS IN ACTIVITIES OF OTHER SCIENTIFIC BODIES**

### **7.1. Antimicrobial resistance - zoonotic infections**

The Chairperson of the SCENIHR WG on this issue informed the Committee about the ongoing work and the discussions in the overarching WG. The contribution of SCENIHR to the joint report would be discussed in an upcoming WG-meeting and would be sent to the other bodies involved upon completion.

### **7.2. Guidance document on antimicrobials used in food decontamination (EFSA)**

A member representing the SCENIHR in the WG of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) informed the Committee about the ongoing work. It was suggested to discuss the draft document at the next plenary meeting.

### **7.3. Other**

#### **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.

#### **Triclosan**

A member participating in the WG organized by the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) informed the Committee about the ongoing work that had just started.

#### **Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) Approach for Safety Assessment of Chemical Substances**

The Secretariat informed that the hearing on TTC is planned for 24 September 2009. Aside from Commission services it would involve the WG on TTC and the stakeholders who contributed to the public consultation. Other members of the three non-food SCs are welcome to attend. One member of SCENIHR expressed an interest in participating in the hearing.

The Chairman also informed the Committee that he participated in a working group of EFSA on TTC.

One member would participate in a new WG of SCHER on depleted uranium.

## **8. NEW REQUESTS**

The Secretariat informed about possible requests that are currently in discussion with Commission services. Further information will be provided at the next meeting.

## **9. EMERGING ISSUES**

Members discussed the ideas and suggestions on emerging issues. The proposals collected so far were discussed and structured into different categories. Additional topics would be added and the proposal further developed until the next meeting based on input from members. It was suggested to further review individual categories at future plenary meetings to improve the basis for discussion with Commission services on potential new topics. As a start, members discussed possibly emerging issues in relation to micro-organisms, antimicrobial resistance and medical devices.

Members were asked to send their comments and suggestions to the Chairman and the Secretariat.

The Secretariat and Chairman informed about a meeting with other EU-bodies involved in risk assessment to collaborate on emerging issues. An additional meeting of that group would be held in September.

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Dental Amalgam**

The Secretariat informed members about the reply sent to some stakeholders participating in a meeting regarding the opinions on dental amalgam by SCENIHR and the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER). A paper on Methodology – Weight of Evidence was in preparation and would be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Scientific Hearing on Nanotechnologies, Brussels, 10 September 2009**

The Secretariat reported on a meeting including SCENIHR and SCCS members that was held to prepare the hearing and in particular to assess the approximately 55 contributions received during the public consultation. The programme for the hearing, in which members from SCENIHR and the other non-food Scientific Committees would participate, would soon be finalized. The result of the public consultation would be published during the summer.

### **Other**

It was suggested to use CIRCA also for the compilation of relevant working documents of the SCENIHR.

**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. 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. J.-M. PAGÈS, Prof. A. PROYKOVA, Prof. E. RODRÍGUEZ-FARRÉ, Dr. J. SCHÜZ, Dr. M. THOMSEN, Dr. T. VERMEIRE

##### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION:**

##### **SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):**

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

##### **Other Commission staff:**

Mr. S. KIOKIAS (DG ENTR), Mr. S. PICKERING (DG ENTR), Mr. M. SGARRELLA (DG ENTR)