



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
 Directorate C - Public Health and Risk Assessment
C7 - Risk assessment

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER)
3RD PLENARY MEETING

*Held on 28 January 2005
 in Brussels*

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Prof. Greim, Chair of the Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

Apologies: Prof. Hanke and Dr. Testai

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft [agenda](#) was adopted

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Dr. Mangelsdorf declared a conflict of interest in relation to propan-1-ol.

Taking into account the nature of the declaration, the committee decided that Dr. Mangelsdorf could participate in the discussion, but could not be nominated for Chairman or Rapporteur of the Working Group.

No other interests were declared.

4. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 2ND SCHER PLENARY MEETING

The draft minutes of the 2nd SCHER plenary meeting were adopted and are available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_mi_002.pdf

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

5.1. Update on the Coordination meeting of 15 December 2004 on matters of interest to the SCHER

The Vice Chair, Prof. J. Tarazona, who attended the coordination meeting, reported back on the outcome of the coordination group.

- Concerns were raised on waste of some chemical compounds and cosmetic ingredients which might not be adequately assessed and might be a risk for the environment.
- The identification of a candidate from the reserve list, for the vacant position in SCHER was under consideration. Due to possible delay of the formal procedure for the nomination of a new member, it has been agreed that for the time being the committee will largely use the reserve list as a source of environmental external experts for working groups.

5.2. EFSA working group GENTOX: approach for the risk assessment of compounds with both genotoxic and carcinogenic properties.

The EFSA working group has finally decided on a further review of the opinion so it was not presented at the EFSA plenary meeting of December. The document will be submitted for adoption in the forthcoming meeting of February.

Nevertheless, the committees should appoint members of the ad-hoc working group which should comment on the EFSA opinion once it is put on the EFSA site for public consultation.

DG SANCO/C7 will prepare a formal request for an opinion addressed to the SCHER that will be the leading committee.

6. ONGOING REQUESTS ON REGULATION 793/93 EXISTING SUBSTANCES (ESR): (HUMAN HEALTH AND/OR ENVIRONMENT)

6.1. Benzyl butyl phthalate (HH)

After a presentation by the rapporteur of the draft opinion on the risk assessment report, the opinion on the human health part was adopted. It is available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_002.pdf

6.2. Furfural (HH)

With a few corrections agreed concerning the report's conclusion on furfural genotoxicity, the opinion on the human health part of the RAR was adopted. It is available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_00a.pdf

6.3. Propan-1-ol (ENV)

The committee noted that the assessment for this substance to microorganisms was directed at protecting STWs (sewage treatment works) as required by the TGD.

However, as a general concern the committee was of the view that more attention in ecological risk assessments should be given to protecting microorganisms, especially micro fungi, in soil and sediments. This should be considered in future research programmes.

Comments on the first draft opinion made at the last plenary meeting were taken into account. The opinion on the environmental part was adopted and it is available at:

6.4. 2-methoxy-2-methylbutane (ENV; TAME)

The rapporteur presented a draft opinion on the results of the environmental risk assessment of TAME. Some comments were made at the meeting concerning in particular conclusions on ground water and secondary poisoning. It was decided that a revised draft opinion taking comments from the committee into account would be presented at the next plenary meeting.

6.5. DecaBDE (ENV)

New comments on decaBDE as submitted by SCHER members and information from some stakeholders were discussed.

A revised draft taking comments from the meeting into account will be discussed again at the next plenary meeting.

6.6. Phenol (HH)

The substance was not discussed and a draft opinion will be presented at the next plenary meeting.

7. ONGOING REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

7.1. Compatibility of the ISO standard 10708 (biodegradability test method) with the ultimate biodegradability requirements imposed through Annex III of Regulation 648/2004 of Parliament and of the Council

DG ENTR asked the SCHER to give an opinion on whether the methodology and the pass criterion of the ISO standard 10708 (biodegradability test method) are comparable to those of the other OECD methods included in Annex III of the Regulation 648/2004.

A working group was set up and two external experts on surfactants' biodegradation were invited to join the working group.

The chairman of the working group presented the draft opinion to the plenary. The Committee agreed that the ISO 10708 is comparable in terms of methodology to the test in Annex III of the Regulation 648/2004.

The SCHER concluded that ISO 10708 provides an equivalent level of reliability and stringency to the international test methods set out in Annex III of the Regulation 648/2004.

The opinion was adopted and it is available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_008.pdf

7.2. Effectiveness of vapour retardants in reducing risk to human health from paint strippers containing dichloromethane

The rapporteur informed the Committee that, in view of recent information concerning paint strippers containing dichloromethane, the draft opinion needed to be reviewed. The discussion would therefore be postponed until the next plenary.

7.3. Environmental risk assessment of non biodegradable detergent surfactants under anaerobic condition

The chairman of the working group reported back on the discussion of the first working group meeting. Two external experts on biodegradability tests have been identified and they will be contacted for joining the working group.

The members of the working group will meet again to prepare a draft opinion that will be presented at the next plenary meeting.

8. ISSUES FOR WHICH THE SCHER IS THE LEADING COMMITTEE:

8.1. Indoor air quality

A meeting between DG SANCO/C4 and C7 to finalize a request concerning indoor air quality has been fixed in February.

Due to the breadth of the topic, the Committee stressed the need for a precise mandate with very specific questions.

8.2. Working group on Genotoxicity

Three members of the Committee volunteered for the working group. It will be decided later whether the group will need more experts.

Three members of the SCCP and one of the SCENIHR also volunteered to join the working group.

9. PARTICIPATION OF THE SCHER IN ACTIVITIES/WORKING GROUPS OF OTHER SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES OF THE COMMISSION OR EFSA

- Prof. Vos was confirmed as the representative of the SCHER in the EFSA working group on PFOS to ensure exchange of information.
- The SCENIHR working group on nanotechnology invited Prof. Janssen to join the working group to contribute in the field of environmental impact of nanotechnologies.

10. NEXT (4TH) PLENARY MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Committee was confirmed as 18 March 2005.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex I

<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER) 3RD PLENARY MEETING</p>
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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCHER:

Prof. P. CALOW, Prof. W. DEKANT, Prof. Dr. H. GREIM (Chair), Prof. W. HANKE, Prof. C. JANSSEN, Prof. Bo JANSSON (Vice Chair), Prof. H. KOMULAINEN, Prof. O. LADEFOGED, Prof. I.A. MANGELSDORF, Prof. M. NUTI, Prof. J. SOKAL, Prof. A. STEENHOUT, Prof. J. TARAZONA (Vice Chair), Prof. M. VIGHI, Prof. M. VILUKSELA and Prof. J. VOS.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCHER Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Ms. G. FONTANESI, Ms. M. PHILIPPÉ, Ms. M. PUOLAMAA

Other Commission staff: Mr. S. PICKERING (DG ENTR), Ms. B. SCHWARZ-SCHULZ (DG JRC), Mr. P. Van DER ZANDT (DG ENV)