



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)
5TH PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 3 May 2005
in Brussels*

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

Apologies: Prof. Calow, Prof. Ladefoged, Prof. Sokal and Prof. 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 point 6.1, phenol.

Prof. Janssen declared a conflict of interest in relation to points 7.2 and 8.1, detergent surfactants.

Prof. Jansson declared a conflict of interest in relation to point 9.1, genotoxic and carcinogenic substances

The Committee concluded, after taking into consideration the nature of the conflicts that they could participate in the related discussions.

No other interests were declared.

4. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 4TH SCHER PLENARY MEETING

The minutes of the 4th SCHER plenary meeting were adopted and are available at:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_mi_004.pdf

5. CHAIR'S REPORT: UPDATE ON THE COORDINATION MEETING OF 27 APRIL 2005 ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE SCHER

- The SCCP would consider adopting a "working definition" of the statement in the cosmetics legislation "must not cause damage" to try to clarify what constitutes acceptable harm (transitory irritation, allergies...).
- SC chairs and vice-chairs agreed to send through the secretariat available information to help the SCCP gather the best available data on exposure. The worst case scenario approach would be taken in the absence of adequate data in the dossier provided by industry.
- The lack of environmental impact assessment of cosmetics waste was again highlighted.
- The common concern on the sensitisation to non-food related allergens might result in a joint question to the three SCs mapping the situation across EU and improving data which are not comprehensive or available
- Members of the Coordination Group were presented with an example of an application of the initial template developed by SANCO C7 to rapidly describe a "newly identified risk" identified in the media.
- Members were informed of new mandates in EFSA regarding laboratory animals' welfare and alternative methods. In view of the new request to the SCHER on non animal testing for endocrine disrupters, it was agreed that the secretariat should contact EFSA to investigate how these requests could affect the work of the Committee.
- Members were informed about the favourable reply by most of the bodies contacted on the meeting of Chairs of SCs in the Community risk assessment bodies. Possible dates and topics for discussion still to be agreed.

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

6.1. Phenol (HH)

The rapporteur presented a draft opinion on the results of the human health part of the risk assessment on phenol. Some amendments had been agreed and a new version of the draft would be proposed for adoption at the next plenary.

7. NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

7.1. Non animal testing for endocrine disrupters chemicals

DG ENTR sent a request regarding a report of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) on "a non-animal testing approach for endocrine disrupting chemicals". The SCHER was requested to comment on the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the report. A

working group including members of the SCCP and SCENIHR was set up. The group also included an external *ad hoc* expert on in vitro testing for ED chemicals.

8. ONGOING REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

8.1. Environmental risk assessment of non biodegradable detergent surfactants under anaerobic conditions

The SCHER Committee was asked to take into consideration two new reports before issuing its opinion on non biodegradable detergent surfactants.

The first report to be considered was an in-depth review of the (eco) toxicological hazards of Linear Alkyl Benzene Sulfonate validated by OECD. This study was carried out within the framework of the “high production volume chemicals (HPV)” under the umbrella of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA).

The second report was related to the environmental LAS-based risks.

The Committee, although recognizing the large amount of information to be merged with the previous draft, agreed to delay issuing its opinion, until it had had time to take into consideration the two reports.

9. ONGOING REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY DG SANCO ON:

9.1. Working group on genotoxic and carcinogenic substances

The Joint Working Group was held in April to prepare comments on the GENTOX draft published on the EFSA web site for public consultation. A first collection of comments was prepared and circulated in the JWG.

It had been agreed that the final document should be approved by the chairmen of the three Scientific Committees before being sent to EFSA.

9.2. Indoor air quality

The final mandate which included a few amendments of the previous draft version was presented to the Committee. The participation in the working group of SCCP and SCENIHR members’ representatives was also agreed. The first working group meeting was fixed for the end of May.

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

The next SCENIHR working group on nanotechnology was foreseen for the end of May.

11. NEXT (6TH) PLENARY MEETING

The date of the next SCHER meeting was confirmed as 8 July 2005.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A proposal for a Thematic Strategy on soil protection is scheduled to be put forward by the Commission before the end of 2005. It was agreed that the secretariat should contact the appropriate officials in the relevant DGs asking to clarify whether SCHER might be involved in the process.

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex I

<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER) 5TH PLENARY MEETING</p>
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Held on 3 May 2005

in Brussels

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCHER:

Prof. H. AUTRUP, Prof. W. DEKANT, Prof. Dr. H. GREIM (Chair), Prof. W. HANKE, Prof. C. JANSSEN, Prof. Bo JANSSON (Vice Chair), Prof. H. KOMULAINEN, Prof. I.A. MANGELSDORF, 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

Other Commission staff:

Mr A. ZUBER (DG ENV)