



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER)
6TH PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 8 July 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, Dr Mangelsdorf, Prof. Nuti, Prof Sokal, Prof Vighi and Prof Vos.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft [agenda](#) was adopted as written.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

No interests were declared.

4. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 5TH SCHER PLENARY MEETING

The minutes of the 5th SCHER plenary meeting were adopted and are available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_mi_005.pdf

5. CHAIR'S REPORT: UPDATE ON THE COORDINATION MEETING OF 22 JUNE 2005 ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE SCHER

- Nanotechnology: many institutions are working in parallel and information is scattered; very few data are available on environment and human health exposure. Suggestion for research will be possibly given in the SCENIHR opinion.
- GENTOX joint working group (WG) is waiting for EFSA to circulate comments. In EFSA, the same group will continue working on the draft opinion which will be submitted for adoption by the EFSA Scientific Committee. If possible, harmonisation should be

sought between EFSA, the European Chemical Bureau and the Scientific Committees (SCs)

- The SCCP asks for data on exposure related to cosmetic ingredients. In particular data on genotoxicity, skin penetration and sensitization are needed. The number of allergies caused by consumer products (cosmetics, rubbers, footwear, clothes) is rising in Member States.

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

Rapporteurs were appointed to comment on the Risk Assessment Reports (RAR) on Nitrobenzene (ENV) and Tetrabromobisphenol-A (TBBPA; HH).

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

7.1. Phenol (HH)

With a few corrections agreed upon, the opinion on the human health part of the RAR on Phenol was adopted and is available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_013.pdf

8. ONGOING REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

8.1. Non animal testing for endocrine disrupting chemicals

The first meeting of the WG was held mid June. The Committee agreed that the opinion would address the approach to be taken on this kind of issue and would endorse the previous [opinion](#) on non animal testing adopted by the CSTEE in 2003. It was also agreed that the opinion should address at least dose/response effects and exposure, and epidemiology, where possible. It should also address the limitation of the in vitro tests for endocrine disrupters.

A second WG meeting would be held in September to prepare a draft opinion to be discussed in the next plenary. An expert on reproductive toxicology would be contacted and invited to join the WG.

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

The Committee and the Commission agreed that some points in the draft opinion needed to be clarified so the adoption of the document was postponed. The members of the working group would meet again to finalize the opinion that would be presented at the next plenary meeting of September for the final adoption.

9. ONGOING REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY DG SANCO ON:

9.1. Indoor air quality

The two rapporteurs of the working group reported back on the discussion of the last working group meeting. Due to the deadline of six months for the part of the opinion on air fresheners, the group would work in parallel on two opinions but would give priority to the finalization and adoption of the opinion on these products.

The two draft opinions would be presented to the Committee for discussion in the plenary of September.

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

10.1. Nanotechnology

The member of the SCHER participating in the SCENIHR WG reported back on some of the main points discussed in the last meeting. The next WG meeting on nanotechnology was foreseen for the end of August.

10.2. GENTOX

A WG meeting had been organized by EFSA to discuss contributions received during the public consultation on GENTOX. Members of SCs already involved in the WG had been invited to attend the meeting.

11. NEXT (7TH) PLENARY MEETING

The date of the next SCHER meeting was confirmed as 23 September 2005.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1. EFSA opinion on exposure assessment

The members had been informed of the adoption of the opinion of the EFSA Scientific Committee on Exposure Assessment.

12.2. EFSA Panel on additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP) - public consultation

The members had been informed of the public consultation on the EFSA web site concerning the working document "Assessing the Efficacy and Safety of Silage Additives". One of the members volunteered to look at the draft and verify whether its content could create conflicts with the SCHER approaches and if it would justify the organization of a working group for establishing a common reply to the public consultation.

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex I

<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER) 6TH PLENARY MEETING</p>
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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. A. STEENHOUT, Prof. J. TARAZONA (Vice Chair), Dr E. TESTAI, Prof. M. VILUKSELA

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCHER Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Ms. G. FONTANESI, Ms. C. DEKINDT, Ms. M. PUOLAMA

Other Commission staff:

Mr. S. BRION (DG ENTR), Mr. T. KARJALAINEN (DG RTD), Mr. PICKERING (DG ENTR), Ms. B. SCHWARZ-SCHULZ (DG JRC)