



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)
7TH PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 23 September 2005
in Brussels*

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

Apologies: Prof. Autrup, Prof Sokal, 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

Prof. Greim and Prof. Calow declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 6.2 in the agenda due to their involvement in the evaluation of the RAR on musk ketone. Taking into account the nature of the declaration, the committee decided that they could participate in the discussion, but could not be nominated for chairman or Rapporteur of the Working Group.

4. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 6TH SCHER PLENARY MEETING

The minutes of the 6th SCHER plenary meeting were adopted and are available at:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_mi_006.pdf

5. CHAIR'S REPORT: UPDATE ON THE COORDINATION MEETING OF 14 SEPTEMBER 2005 ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE SCHER

The meeting discussed in detail the SANCO Science paper and the possible actions by C7 Risk Assessment Unit. The paper will be further discussed in the Meeting of Chairs of Scientific Committees in December.

5.1. Meeting of Chairs of SCs in the Community risk assessment bodies

The confirmation of participation at the Meeting of Chairs of Scientific Committees in the Community Risk Assessment bodies had been received from all organisations.

The risk assessment of environmental aspects of chemicals will be addressed separately in the meeting.

5.2. EFSA Gentox

EFSA had finalised its work on Gentox and now welcomed the participation of non-food Scientific Committees in its new working group on Benchmark Dose approach: it was decided that one member from the SCHER would participate in the EFSA working group

5.3. Format of scientific opinions

As the SCENIHR opinions tended to be lengthy, it was decided to insert a chapter “Scientific rationale” and a following chapter “Committee Opinion. The Committee Opinion would be written in a scientific style, while the Executive Summary, if used, would be presented in a concise and non-scientific style.

The same format would also be adopted for lengthy opinions produced by the SCHER and the SCCP.

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

6.1. Risk Assessment Reports

Rapporteurs were appointed to comment on the Risk Assessment Reports (RAR) on Anthracene (HH), 2-ethoxyethyl acetate (ENV) and 2-methoxy-2-methylbutane (TAME; HH).

6.2. Classification of musk ketone (DG ENV)

Musk ketone was recommended by the Commission Expert Working Group (CMR WG) for the 29th ATP proposal for classification, among others, as “carcinogenic category 3”. Since there are no test data on carcinogenicity on musk ketone itself, its classification was obtained by reading-across from musk xylene (which is classified as such since the 29th ATP).

The SCHER is asked to assess if the data available on the carcinogenicity of musk xylene can be used for the hazard assessment and therefore the classification of musk ketone.

A rapporteur was appointed for this request.

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

7.1. Tetrabromobisphenol-A (HH)

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

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_020.pdf

7.2. Nitrobenzene (ENV)

The opinion on the environmental part of the RAR on nitrobenzene was adopted and is available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_018.pdf

8. ONGOING REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

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

The Committee agreed to add a few comments and to reword some parts of the draft opinion. The adoption of the document was postponed to the November plenary.

8.2. Non animal testing for endocrine disrupting chemicals

The last meeting of the WG was held the day before the plenary to finalize the draft opinion. The Committee agreed on a few additional comments and a consideration of a possible false positive due to the in vitro tests. A few additional recommendations were also agreed upon.

The final draft would be proposed for adoption at the November plenary.

9. ONGOING REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY DG SANCO ON:

9.1. Indoor air quality

The working group met the day before the plenary to finalise the part of the draft on air fresheners.

Two draft opinions would then be presented at the plenary of November: the draft on air fresheners for possible adoption and the draft on the general part for discussion.

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

EFSA: -Working group on BMD. A member of the committee was proposed as a representative of SCHER to participate in the EFSA working group on Bench Mark. The first meeting of the group would be held around the end of November or beginning of December.

-Working group on GENTOX: EFSA opinion would be adopted before November.

-Working group on PFOS: the SCHER representative would not be available for the next meetings; the chairman of the committee would replace him, if needed.

EMEA: Conference on environmental risk assessment for human and veterinary medicinal products, 27-28 October 2005, in London. A committee member would attend the meeting as the representative of SCHER.

SCENIHR: The representative of the SCHER in the nanotechnology working group reported back to the plenary main points of the discussion

11. NEXT PLENARY MEETINGS

The date of the next SCHER meeting was confirmed as 25 November 2005.

It was decided that the secretariat would circulate a table to decide dates for plenary meetings of 2006.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex I

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| <p style="text-align: center;">SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER) 7TH 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, Dr. I. MANGELSDORF, Prof. M. NUTI, Prof. A. STEENHOUT, Prof. J. TARAZONA (Vice Chair), Dr. E. TESTAI, Prof. M. VIGHI, Prof. M. VILUKSELA.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCHER Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Ms. G. FONTANESI, Ms. C. DEKINDT

Other Commission staff:

Mr. S. BRION (DG ENTR), Ms. B. SCHWARZ-SCHULZ (DG JRC)