



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER)**  
**14<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 30 November 2006*  
*in Brussels*  
**MINUTES**

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

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

Apologies: Prof. Komulainen, Dr. Mansgeldorf, Prof. Sokal, Prof. Viluksela.

**2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**

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

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

Prof. C. Janssen declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 6.1 since he was heavily involved in consultation on the report from both competent authorities and industry. Taking into account the nature of the declarations, the committee decided that he could not participate in the working group.

Prof. Linders declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to the same item being The Nederland the Member State rapporteur for the RAR on zinc. Taking into account the nature of the declarations, the Committee decided that he could not be nominated as possible Rapporteur of the opinion on zinc.

He also declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 9.3 since he was involved in the RIVM assessment on copper and in drafting the letter of reaction to the CSTEE opinion. The committee decided that he would not be involved in the discussion.

Prof. J. Tarazona declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 8.1 being the scientific supervisor of the report.

Prof Vighi declared a conflict of interest in relation to the same item since he was directly involved in the working group. The committee decided that they could not participate in the preparation of the related opinion.

Prof. Dekant declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to item 8.2 since he was consulted for an environmental remediation company regarding needs to clean up some Hg-contaminated sites in former East Germany and fish consumption from these sites.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> SCHER PLENARY MEETING**

The [minutes](#) of the 13<sup>th</sup> SCHER plenary meeting were adopted with minor corrections.

#### **5. CHAIR'S REPORT**

##### **5.1. Visibility of the Scientific Committees**

Two members of the Committee contacted the editor of a relevant Scientific Journal specialized on environmental toxicology who agreed for a possible interest. SCHER members were invited to propose opinions for possible submission.

##### **5.2. Mandate of the Scientific Committees**

The Chair informed the SCHER that the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Committees to 2008.

##### **5.3. Next meetings involving members of the committees**

The Chair informed the SCHER on three meetings which would involve members of the three Scientific Committees:

- The Risk Assessment Day organized by DG SANCO in March 2007.
- The SETAC workshop in May in Porto.
- The nanoparticle workshop organized by DG SANCO in June.

Members would be invited to attend or present works related to their activity in the Committees.

##### **5.4. Chairs meeting**

The Chair reported back on the general discussion of the Chair's meeting of October and the main points discussed during the three breakout sessions.

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

**6.1.** A working group was set up to comment on the environmental part of Risk Assessment Reports on zinc and its compounds

**6.2.** Rapporteurs were appointed to comment on the Risk Assessment Reports (RAR) on chlorodifluoromethane (CAS 75-45-6; Env and HH) and methenamine (CAS 100-97-0; Env and HH).

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

**7.1. Sodium Hydroxide (ENV and HH)**

The Committee commented once again on the necessity of a revision of the risk assessment methodology on soil.

The opinions on the environmental and human health parts of the RAR on sodium hydroxide were adopted with minor changes. The opinions are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_046.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_046.pdf)

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_045.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_045.pdf)

**8. NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:**

**8.1. (A) “Model implementation and Quantification of the Eutrophication Risk associated to the use of phosphates in detergents”**

**(B) “Non surfactant Organic Ingredients and Zeolite-based Detergents”**

DG ENTR submitted a request for an opinion on two different subjects.

The first one concerned a new report on a model implementation and quantification of the eutrophication risk associated to the use of phosphates in detergents. The second part of the mandate was more related to the follow up of the CSTE opinion on the eutrophication due to polyphosphates in detergents and concerned the potential impact on the environment associated with a wide range of non-surfactant substances added to detergents, in particular organic compounds.

DG ENTR asked for a deadline for the adoption of the opinion by the end of May. The Committee accepted the deadline.

Due to the complexity of the mandate and the declarations of conflicts of interest done by some members on this item, it was decided that the reply would be split into two opinions. Two different working groups were set up.

## **8.2. Mercury in dental amalgam – DG ENV**

DG ENV presented to the SCHER a draft request for an opinion on the environmental risks from the use of dental amalgam. The opinion should take into consideration all possible mercury emissions resulting from the use of dental amalgam during the products whole life cycle (e.g. dental clinics, sewage disposal systems, crematoria). The committee was also asked to compare the use of mercury in dental amalgam with other available alternatives. A similar mandate focused on the human health risks from the use of dental amalgam was prepared by DG ENTR and submitted to the SCENIHR for an opinion.

A working group was set up. Due to the scarce information available on the environmental risks from amalgam, in the first meeting the working group would discuss on the feasibility of the opinion based on the documentation made available by the Commission and SCHER members.

## **9. ONGOING REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:**

### **9.1. Indoor air quality**

The draft opinion was updated taking into account comments from the last plenary meeting. The SCHER decided that a few parts of the draft would be re-worded and a few conclusions would be added to different chapters. The draft would be finalised in a WG meeting in January 2007 and presented for adoption at the next plenary

### **9.2. Organotins**

The opinion was adopted with a few corrections and it is available at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_047.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_047.pdf)

### **9.3. Copper in antifouling paint**

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

### **9.4. EFSA public consultation: Harmonized scientific approach in Europe to assess the environmental risks posed by substances used in animal feed**

Due to the work load of the Committee, the SCHER regretted that was not able to contribute to the EFSA public consultation in due time.

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

**SCENIHR:** Joint working group on DEHP (di-2-ethylexylphthalate) in medical devices. The member of SCHER involved in the work reported back briefly on the last working group discussion.

**SCENIHR:** The Working Group on TGD on nanomaterials received some information on criteria for toxicity evaluation, tests and methods already proposed for nanomaterials. No information was received on in vitro tests and 28-days studies.

**11. EMERGING ISSUES**

No emerging issues were raised.

**12. NEXT PLENARY MEETING**

The next SCHER plenary meeting was confirmed for 30 January 2007.

Two other plenary meetings were also agreed for 2007: 20 September and 29 November.

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

NoB

**Annex 1: List of participants**

## **Annex I**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER)</b> <b>14<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING</b></p>
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*Held on 30 November 2006  
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### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

#### **MEMBERS OF THE SCHER:**

Prof. H. AUTRUP, Prof. P. CALOW, Prof. W. DEKANT, Prof. Dr. H. GREIM (Chair), Prof. W. HANKE, Prof. C JANSSEN, Prof. Bo JANSSON (Vice Chair), Prof. O. LADEFOGED, Prof. J. LINDERS, Prof. M. NUTI, Prof. A. STEENHOUT, Prof. J. TARAZONA, Dr. E. TESTAI, Prof. M. VIGHI.

#### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION:**

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

Mrs. G. FONTANESI, Mrs. C. DEKINDT.

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

Mrs. K. GRODZKI (DG ENTR), MR. J.C. HEALY (DG INFSO), MR. S. KIOKIAS (DG ENTR), Mr S. PICKERING (DG ENTR) Mrs. S. SCHWARZ-SCHULZ (DG JRC), MR. P. VAN DER ZANDT (DG ENV), Mrs. L. VAHTERISTO (DG ENTR).