



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)
15TH PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 30 January 2007
in Brussels*
MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

Apologies: Prof Jansson, Prof Sokal, Prof. Tarazona

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 7.1 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.

P Calow declared a possible conflict of interest since he was chairman of the NiPERA (Nickel Producers Environmental Research Association) risk assessment report peer review group and in the same group the zinc industry was present as observer.

Prof. Linders declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to the same item being The Netherlands 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 8.2 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. Mangelsdorf declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to item 8.3 due to her involvement in a UPA project on emission of chemicals from building materials.

4. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 14TH SCHER PLENARY MEETING

The [minutes](#) of the 14th SCHER plenary meeting were adopted with minor corrections.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

5.1 Chairs meeting

The Chair briefly summarized on issues discussed at the last ICCG and informed the Committee on the points to be discussed in the ICCG meeting on the day after.

5.2 SETAC

The Chairs informed the Committee on the number of presentations proposed by SCHER members to the next SETAC meeting.

5.3 Publications

One of the members volunteered to propose some opinions at the next plenary meeting for publication in a Scientific Journal.

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

A Rapporteur was appointed to comment on the Risk Assessment Reports (RAR) on hexachlorocyclopentadiene (HCCP; CAS 77-47-4; HH).

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

7.1 Zinc (ENV)

The rapporteur reported back from the first WG meeting on zinc which was mostly focused on the scoping and the need for external experts.

A few names were proposed but the group decided it did not wish to invite them to participate in the group on the basis of their past or current funding from the zinc industry. The Committee agreed that for the time being the group would include only the SCHER members as decided in the previous plenary and external experts would be possibly considered in due course, if proposed.

7.2 Chlorodifluoromethane (HH)

The opinion on the human health part of the RAR on chlorodifluoromethane was adopted and is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_049.pdf

7.3 Methenamine (ENV)

The opinion on the environmental part of the RAR on methenamine was adopted with minor corrections and is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_050.pdf

7.4 Methenamine (HH)

A preliminary draft opinion on the results of the human health part of the RAR on methenamine was presented by the rapporteur. It would be checked for some references and proposed at the next plenary meeting for possible adoption.

8. ONGOING REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

8.1 Non surfactant Organic Ingredients and Zeolite-based Detergents

The Rapporteur briefly reported back from the first working group meeting. A committee member, expert in the field of human toxicology accepted to join the group. The next WG meeting would be held in March.

8.2 Copper in antifouling paint

The SCHER revisited the previous CSTEE opinion and the comments submitted by the Dutch Authorities, and as a general conclusion considered that the concerns expressed by the CSTEE have only partially been covered by the Dutch response.

The SCHER was of the opinion that the risk assessment performed by the Dutch government to justify the draft measure notified to the Commission did not provide sufficient sound scientific evidence to show that the use of copper-based antifouling paints in leisure boats presents significant environmental risks.

The opinion was adopted and it is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_051.pdf

8.3 Indoor air quality

The SCHER adopted a preliminary report on the risk assessment on indoor air quality that would be put on the web for public consultation. The working group would then meet to discuss the contributions received and finalise the opinion.

An updated version of the draft opinion would probably be proposed for final adoption at the SCHER plenary meeting on 19 July.

Information on the preliminary report and the public consultation are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/scher_cons_01_en.htm

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

9.1 SCENIHR:

DEHP (di-2-ethylhexylphthalate) in medical devices joint working group: The member of SCHER involved in the work reported back briefly on the major results of the ongoing discussion.

TGD on nanomaterials working group: The representative of SCHER reported back on the discussion of the last wg meeting.

9.2 EFSA

Working group on BMD: The representative of SCHER informed the SCHER on the main point of the discussion. Next meeting would be held in March.

10. EMERGING ISSUES

No emerging issues were raised.

11. NEXT PLENARY MEETING

The next SCHER plenary meeting was confirmed as 23 March 2007.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NoB

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex I

<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER) 15TH PLENARY MEETING</p>

*Held on 30 January 2007
in Brussels*

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. H. KOMULAINEN, Prof. C. JANSSEN, , Prof. O. LADEFOGED, Prof. J. LINDERS, Dr I. MANSGELDORF, Prof. M. NUTI, Prof. A. STEENHOUT, Dr. E. TESTAI, Prof. M. VIGHI, Prof. M. VILUKSELA

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCHER Secretariat (DG SANCO):

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

Other Commission staff:

Mrs. GRODZKI (DG ENTR), MR. S. KIOKIAS (DG ENTR), Mr S. PICKERING (DG ENTR),