



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

*Held on 23 March 2007  
in Brussels*  
**MINUTES**

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

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

Apologies: Dr Mangelsdorf, Prof Sokal

**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 in relation to the same item 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 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.

Prof.J Tarazona declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 8.2 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 8.4 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 15<sup>TH</sup> SCHER PLENARY MEETING**

The [minutes](#) of the 15<sup>th</sup> SCHER plenary meeting were adopted with minor corrections.

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

##### **5.1 Risk Assessment Days**

The Chair briefly summarized on issues discussed in the RA days which included in particular, an information session for Members and Staff of the European Parliament, a joint meeting of the three Committees and a Stakeholder Dialogue Session.

#### **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 2-nitrotoluene (CAS 88-72-2; HH), 4-tert-butyl phenol (CAS 98-54-4; ENV), 2,3-epoxypropyltrimethylammonium chloride (EPTAC – ENV and HH), 3-chloro-2-hydroxypropyl)trimethylammonium chloride (CHPTAC – ENV and HH).

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

##### **7.1 Zinc (ENV)**

A draft opinion was presented and discussed in the meeting.

The rapporteur informed the Committee that the working group would invite the experts who worked on some parts of the risk assessment report (RAR) to attend and present their work at the next WG meeting. The meeting would be necessary to clarify some approaches and results reported in the RAR.

##### **7.2 Chlorodifluoromethane (ENV)**

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

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_053.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_053.pdf)

### **7.3 Methenamine (HH)**

The opinion on the human health part of the RAR on methenamine was adopted with a few corrections and is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_051.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_051.pdf)

### **7.4 Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (HCCP; HH)**

The opinion on the human health part of the RAR on methenamine was adopted and is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_052.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_052.pdf)

## **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 last working group meeting. He also informed the Committee that another meeting would be necessary to finalize the draft opinion before the next plenary.

### **8.2 Model implementation and Quantification of the Eutrophication Risk associated to the use of phosphates in detergents**

A few comments on the ongoing work were made by the rapporteur. The next WG meeting will be held in April.

### **8.3 CEN report – organic chemicals in toys**

The rapporteur presented the draft opinion. The committee agreed on the parts of the opinion concerning limits values but decided that other parts of the document needed some rewording to better clarify the position of the Committee.

### **8.4 Use of Hg in dental amalgam**

The discussion was postponed to the next plenary

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

### **9.1 SCENIHR:**

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

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

#### **10. NEXT PLENARY MEETING**

The next SCHER plenary meeting was confirmed as 29 May 2007.

#### **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **12.1 Publications**

It was agreed that DG SANCO would keep official contact with the interested publisher. Some opinions adopted by SCHER were proposed and agreed for publication.

##### **12.2 Cost-benefit analysis**

A member of the Committee would prepare a paper on the possible involvement of the committee in socio-economic assessment and cost-benefit analysis, to be discussed at the next Plenary.

#### **Annex 1: List of participants**

## **Annex I**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER)</b> <b>16<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING</b></p>
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*Held on 23 March 2007  
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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. B. JANSSON, Prof. H. KOMULAINEN, Prof. O. LADEFOGED, Prof. J. LINDERS, Prof. M. NUTI, Prof. A. STEENHOUT, Prof. J. TARAZONA, Dr. E. TESTAI, Prof. M. VIGHI, Prof. M. VILUKSELA.

#### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION:**

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

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

***Other Commission staff: -----***