



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)
18TH PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 19 July 2007
in Brussels*
MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

Apologies: Prof. Autrup, Dr. Komulainen, Dr. Mangelsdorf, Prof. Nuti, Dr. Testai

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.

Prof 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. J 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 9.1 being the scientific supervisor of the report.

Prof M 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. W Dekant declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to item 9.2 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.

In relation to item 8.1, Prof. W. Dekant declared his involvement in the preparation of the EFSA opinion on poultry treatment with antimicrobials adopted on December 2005.

4. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 17TH SCHER PLENARY MEETING

The [minutes](#) of the 17th SCHER plenary meeting were adopted.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT ON THE INTER COMMITTEE COORDINATION GROUP (ICCG)

5.1 Renewal of the Committees

The majority of the SC members would continue. The few of them who do not wish to be confirmed for an additional period of 18 months would be replaced using the reserve list

5.2 Socio-economic assessment

The SCHER paper agreed in the previous SCHER plenary meeting on the role of SCs on Socio-Economic Assessment was presented to the ICCG member. The paper was welcomed and agreed for the future SANCO discussions on the role of SCs after 2008.

5.3 Training of risk assessors

A special meeting was foreseen next autumn. The organization and managing of the training and the possible involvement of members of the committees would be discussed in due time.

5.4 Confidentiality

A document presented by SCENIHR on the use and quotation of confidential documents used by scientific committees was discussed.

5.5 Joint group on alternative methods

A joint working group involving the three scientific committees would be organized to work on and produce an opinion on alternative methods

5.6 Follow-up to the Risk Assessment Days –

Several meetings with Parliament foreseen for the autumn. The first one involving SCHER is foreseen on the first half of September.

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

Rapporteurs were appointed to comment on the RARs on 2-furaldehyde (CAS 98-01-1; ENV), chloroform (CAS 98-01-1; ENV), AHTN (CAS 1506-02-1; HH) and HHCB (CAS 1222-05-5; HH)

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

7.1 Zinc (ENV)

An updated draft opinion was presented and discussed. It was decided that some parts of the opinion need to be reworded.

Another meeting would be held on beginning of September to finalize the opinion for the next plenary.

7.2 2,3-epoxypropyltrimethylammonium chloride (EPTAC – ENV)

The opinion on the environmental part of the RAR on EPTAC was adopted and is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_058.pdf

7.3 3-chloro-2-hydroxypropyl)trimethylammonium chloride (CHPTAC – ENV)

The opinion on the environmental part of the RAR on CHPTAC was adopted and is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_059.pdf

7.4 Tris (2-chloro-1-methylethyl) phosphate (TCPP; ENV) and 2,2-bis(chloromethyl) trimethylene bis(bis(2-chloroethyl) phosphate) (V6; ENV)

Preliminary draft opinions on the results of the environmental part of the two RARs on TCPP and V6 were presented. The effects assessment and the exposure part of both drafts would be checked in parallel by the two rapporteurs. The two opinions would be proposed for adoption at the next plenary.

7.6 4-tert-butyl phenol (ENV)

A preliminary draft opinion on the results of the environmental part of the RAR on 4-tert-butyl phenol was presented by the rapporteur. Some parts of the draft need to be clarified. An updated draft would be proposed at the next plenary.

8. NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

8.1. The possible environmental impact and effect on antimicrobial resistance of four substances used to remove microbial surface contamination from poultry carcasses.

Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin, provides a legal basis to permit “the use of a substance other than potable water” to remove surface contamination from products of animal origin. Such a legal basis did not exist in previous legislation.

In light of the preparation of implementing measures resulting from Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, permission for use should be preceded by a thorough scientific evaluation of all risks involved.

The Commission has prepared a draft Regulation implementing measures to allow the use of four specified substances (chlorine dioxide, trisodium phosphate, acidified sodium chlorite and peroxyacids) for the removal of surface contamination of poultry carcasses.

The SCENIHR has been requested to assess the antibiotic resistance effects of biocides in non-food commodities. Furthermore, EFSA has initiated a self-tasking project on antimicrobial resistance.

To perform an assessment of the impact on the environment and the possible emergence of antimicrobial resistance in the micro-organisms, the SCHER has been asked to assess the possible environmental impact and effect on antimicrobial resistance of four substances used to remove microbial surface contamination from poultry carcasses.

A working group was set up. Two possible external experts would be asked to join the group.

8.2. Genotoxicity - RA methodologies approaches

Several approaches are in use to assess the risk of substances that are both genotoxic and carcinogenic. The SCHER, in consultation with the SCCP and SCENIHR was asked to give an opinion on methodologies in use and a harmonized approach for risk assessment of substances that are both genotoxic and carcinogenic in the context of the fields of competence of the three non-food scientific committees.

A working group was set up. In the next ICCG meeting members from SCCP and SCENIHR would be asked through the respective secretariats and Chairs to join the group.

9. ONGOING REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

9.1 Model implementation and quantification of the eutrophication risk associated to the use of phosphates in detergents

The rapporteur briefly reported back on the results of the last WG meeting and on the progress of the draft. An additional external expert joined the group that would meet again on beginning of September to finalize the opinion.

9.2 Use of Hg in dental amalgam

The call for information on the environmental risks and indirect health effects of mercury in dental amalgam closed on 4 June. Twenty-three contributors sent 54 documents related to the issue. Contributions received were going to be evaluated by the WG and would be discussed in a meeting to be held on end of August. An updated draft opinion would be presented for discussion at the next plenary.

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

9.2 EFSA

BMD the work was still ongoing and the next WG meeting would be held on August.

11. NEXT PLENARY MEETING

The next SCHER plenary meeting was confirmed as 20 September 2007.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Opinions for publication in Toxicology and Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety.

It was agreed that the secretary would prepare the summary of opinions chosen by members for possible publication. Summaries would be circulating for comments and approval to the committee and sent to the Editor for publication.

12.2 Prolongation of the Scientific Committees until 31 December 2008

In the light of the prolongation of the mandate of the three Scientific Committees until end 2008, the members of the three SCs were asked to formally confirm their agreement to remain in office until 31 December 2008.

The SCHER also identified a few names in the reserve list to be asked for their availability to replace who cannot confirmed his membership for the additional period.

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex I

<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER) 18TH 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. B. JANSSON (vice Chair), Prof. O. LADEFOGED, Prof. J. LINDERS, Prof. STEENHOUT, Prof. J. TARAZONA (vice Chair), Prof. M. VIGHI, Prof. M. VILUKSELA.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCHER Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Mrs. G. FONTANESI, Mrs. N. FOUVEZ.

Other Commission staff:

Mr. B. LUND (DG JRC); Mr. S. PICKERING (DG ENTR); Mrs. A. HUICI MONTAGUD (DG EMPL)