



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

*Held on 15 January 2008  
in Brussels*

**Minutes**

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

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

Apologies: Prof. H. Autrup, Prof C.Janssen, Prof M.Vighi

**2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**

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

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

Dr E Testai declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to item 6 since her Institute was involved in the preparation of the RAR on chlorine.

Prof. J. Tarazona declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to item 7.8 and 7.9 since even if he was not directly involved on the human part of the two RARs on toluene, a laboratory of his department was involved.

Prof. W. Dekant declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to item 7.12 since it was involved as consultant for industry. He also declared a possible conflict in relation to item 9.1 since he was involved in the preparation of the EFSA opinion on poultry treatment with antimicrobials adopted on December 2005.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHER PLENARY MEETING**

The [minutes](#) of the 20<sup>th</sup> SCHER plenary meeting were adopted.

**5. CHAIR'S REPORT**

**5.1 Abstracts of opinions for publication**

A list of opinions was proposed and agreed for publication in a previous plenary. Two members volunteered for drafting abstracts to be discussed at the plenary and proposed for publication.

**5.2 Publication of relevant opinions on Green Facts**

One opinion for each committee would be published by Green Facts on their website. For SCHER the opinion proposed by DG SANCO was the one on risk assessment on indoor air.

### **5.3 Possible new requests for SCHER:**

#### **- MDI respiratory allergy:**

A study protocol financed by industry and designed by experts from FP6 research programme on respiratory allergy might be submitted to SCHER next March or May.

### **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 N-cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-sulphenamide (CBS; CAS 95-33-0; ENV), 4-methyl-m-phenylenediamine (2,4-TDA; CAS 95-80-7- ENV), 2-buthoxyethanol (EGBE; CAS 111-76-2; HH), chlorine (CAS 7782-50-5; ENV + HH), and tetrachloroethylene (PERC;CAS 127-18-4;HH)

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

#### **7.1 Diphenylamine (HH)**

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

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_074.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_074.pdf)

#### **7.2 2-furaldehyde (ENV)**

The opinion on the environmental part of the RAR on 2-furaldehyde was adopted and is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_075.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_075.pdf)

#### **7.3 2,2',6,6'-tetrabromo-4,4'-isopropylidenediphenol (tetrabromobisphenol-A; ENV)**

The opinion on the environmental part of the RAR on tetrabromobisphenol-A was adopted and is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_071.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_071.pdf)

#### **7.4 Alkanes, C14-17, chloro (MCCP; HH)**

The opinion on the human health part of the RAR on MCCP was adopted with some changes and is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_078.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_078.pdf)

#### **7.5 N-Cyclohexylbenzothiazol-2-sulphenamide (CBS; HH)**

The opinion on the human health part of the RAR on CBS was adopted with some changes and is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_073.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_073.pdf)

#### **7.6 Bis(hydroxylammonium) sulphate (BHAS; HH)**

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

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_079.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_079.pdf)

### **7.7 Sodium hypochlorite (HH)**

The opinion on the human health part of the RAR on CBS was adopted with a few comments added and is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_0XX.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_0XX.pdf)

### **7.8 2-nitrotoluene (HH)**

The opinion on the human health part of the RAR on 2-nitrotoluene was adopted and is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_077.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_077.pdf)

### **7.9 2,4-dinitrotoluene (HH)**

The opinion on the human health part of the RAR on 2,4-dinitrotoluene was adopted and is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_072.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_072.pdf)

### **7.10 Pitch, coal tar, high-temp. (PCTHT; HH)**

The draft opinion was discussed and some amendments proposed. An updated draft would be proposed for adoption at the next plenary.

### **7.11 Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD; HH)**

The opinion on the human health part of the RAR on hexabromocyclododecane was adopted with minor changes and is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_076.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_076.pdf)

### **7.12 Styrene (CAS 100-42-5; HH)**

A draft opinion would be presented at the next plenary

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

### **8.1 Phthalates in school supplies (DG SANCO & DG ENTR)**

DG ENTR and DG SANCO submitted to SCHER a joint request for an opinion on phthalates in school supplies. The Danish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently analysed phthalates in school supplies such as school bags, play bags, pencil cases and erasers. From the concentrations found for DEHP and DINP in erasers, the Danish EPA considers that sucking and ingesting small amounts of such erasers over an extended period could be harmful to a child.

SCHER was asked to assess the overall scientific quality of the report and to comment on the validity of its conclusions (question A). Since there are also claims that phthalates other than those banned are used in consumer products, the Commission asked for more general issues on phthalates (question B).

The SCHER was asked for adopting an opinion on question A by 15 May 2008 and question B by 15 July 2008.

A working group was set up and possible names of external experts were suggested.

## **8.2 Possible new mandates**

DG ENTR informed the committee that they would submit a request for an opinion on an update of the earlier scientific opinions based on recent studies concerning: (a) anaerobic biodegradability of detergent surfactants and (b) non surfactant organic ingredients

## **8.3 Endocrine disrupters**

A proposal for a mandate on potential endocrine disrupters would be prepared and submitted to the responsible commission service for agreement and submission to SCHER.

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

### **9.1 Environmental impact and effect on antimicrobial resistance of four substances used for the removal of microbial surface contamination of poultry carcasses**

The rapporteur reported back briefly on the ongoing work and timetable for the adoption. The next working group meeting would be held on 18 January.

### **9.2 Risk assessment methodologies and approaches for mutagenic and carcinogenic substances**

The rapporteur reported back on the last meeting. The next working group meeting would be held on 7 February 2008.

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

### **10.1 EFSA**

- WG on BMD: the work was still ongoing
- WG on transparency: the SCHER member participating in the working group briefly reported back on the ongoing work.

### **10.2 SCENIHR**

The SCHER member involved in the working group on DEHP informed that two additional working group meetings would be foreseen to revise the opinion in the light of the comments received from the public consultation.

### **10.3 SCCP**

A member informed the committee that he would be part of the TTC joint working group as representative of SCHER.

## **11. EMERGING ISSUES**

No emerging issues

## **12. NEXT PLENARY MEETING**

The next SCHER plenary meeting was confirmed as 12 March 2008.

### **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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

## Annex I

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER) 21<sup>ST</sup> PLENARY MEETING</b></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. B. JANSSON, Prof. H. KOMULAINEN, Prof. O. LADEFOGED, Prof. J. LINDERS, Dr. I. MANGELSDORF, Prof. M. NUTI, Prof. STEENHOUT, Prof. J. TARAZONA (vice Chair), Dr. E. TESTAI, Prof. M. VILUKSELA.

#### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION:**

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

Mrs. G. FONTANESI, Mrs. I. COPPOLA.

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

Mrs. K. ASCHBERGER (DG JRC); Mrs. G. LUVARA' (DG ENTR); Mrs. A VAN HAELEST (DG ENV); Mr. S. KIOKIAS (DG ENTR); Mr. J. VOGELGESANG (DG SANCO)