



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER)
22ND PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 12 March 2008
in Brussels*

Minutes

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Prof. Tarazona, Vice-Chair of the Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

Apologies: Prof. H. Greim, Prof B. Jansson, Dr I. Mangelsdorf, Prof M.Nuti

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. She also declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to item 6.4 since she was involved in the preparation of the voluntary RAR on copper and copper compounds.

Prof. C Janssen declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to item 6.5 since he was involved in the peer review of the environmental part of the voluntary RAR on lead and lead compounds.

Prof. Ladefoged declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to item 7.5 since he was involved in the preparation of a part of the RAR on tetrachloroethylene.

Prof P Calow declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to item 7.6 (RAR on HHCB) since he was involved since he was involved in the expert panel of the Research Institute for Fragrance Materials

4. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 20TH SCHER PLENARY MEETING

The [minutes](#) of the 21st SCHER plenary meeting were adopted.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

1.1. ICCG group

Information on the role of EP STOA committee

The role of STOA in the Parliament and its activities were presented in the ICCG meeting. The STOA representative expressed interest for intensified cooperation with the non-food Scientific Committees of the Commission.

The SC members were interested about the decision making procedure for projects where scientific advice from a neutral body could be useful and considered important to establish formal contacts and ensure discussion of various issues.

Revision of the Scientific Committees

The Chairman reported that the revision of the Scientific Committees has been finalised will be sent for the Inter Service Consultation to EC Directorates. The current three Committees will be maintained with expanded mandates taking into account the future needs of the Commission and reducing the SCHER activities on issues that will be moved to the European Chemical Agency (ECHA).

Meetings

The Chair informed on the outcome of the Meeting on RA training capacity held on 10 March 2008.

The meeting was organised at the request of Eurotox in order to make progress on exploring possibilities to put together at least initially as a pilot case an EU post graduate training scheme/course on RA.

The Chair also informed on other planned meeting which will involve the SCs members

- Risk assessment terminologies will be discussed in the workshop of the European Environment Agency on 28-29 May 2008
- Risk Assessment Day 24-25 June 2008
- SANCO 2nd Stakeholder Dialogue on nanotechnologies 2-3 October 2008
- 4th meeting of Chairs 4-5 November 2008
- First International RA Conference, November 2008.

1.2. Mandates

- The comments received from stakeholders were considered and discussed in the WG meeting on GenTox. An additional ToR related to research needs was added to the final mandate. The updated version of the mandate was published on the web
- Phthalates in school supplies – The public consultation on the working mandate was still running.

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 HHCB and AHTN– ENV, Aluminium fluoride and Calcium fluoride – ENV, 4-tert-butylphenol – HH, Voluntary RAR copper and copper compounds – HH, Voluntary RAR lead and lead compounds – HH

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

7.1 N-cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-sulphenamide (CBS; ENV)

The opinion on the environmental part of the RAR on CBS was adopted with a few amendments and is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_085.pdf

7.2 2-buthoxyethanol (EGBE; HH)

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

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_087.pdf

7.3 Chlorine (HH)

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

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_084.pdf

7.4 Tetrachloroethylene (PERC; HH)

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

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_088.pdf

7.5 Pitch, coal tar, high-temperature (CTPHT; HH)

The Rapporteur presented the updated version of the opinion which included amendments from the previous discussion. The opinion was adopted and is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_083.pdf

7.6 1,3,4,6,7,8-hexahydro-4,6,6,7,8,8-hexamethylindeno[5,6-c] pyran (HHCb; HH)

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

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_086.pdf

7.7 Sodium hypochlorite (ENV)

The opinion on the environmental part of the RAR on sodium hypochlorite was adopted and is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_082.pdf

8. NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

8.2 Anaerobic biodegradability and non surfactant organic ingredients

DG ENTR submitted to the committee 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. The SCHER was asked for adopting an opinion by the end of 2008

The working group was set up and included both SCHER members and possible external experts to be contacted.

The mandate is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_072.pdf

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 – joint opinion SCHER/SCENIHR

The final draft opinion was circulated to SCHER and SCENIHR before the plenary for comments. The opinion was adopted by SCHER and would be adopted by SCENIHR at their forthcoming plenary beginning of April. Prof Bridges and Prof Harteman (SCENIHR), who were part of the working group, participated in the SCHER plenary on this point of the agenda. The adopted opinion is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_081.pdf

9.2 Environmental risks and indirect health effects of mercury in dental amalgam

The rapporteur informed the Committee that the working group needed another meeting to discuss and decide on the comments received from the public consultation on the preliminary report.

The adoption of the opinion was postponed to the next plenary of May.

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

10.2 SCENIHR

The SCHER member involved in the working group on DEHP in medical devices informed that the opinion was adopted. It is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_o_014.pdf

11. EMERGING ISSUES

No emerging issues

12. NEXT PLENARY MEETING

The next SCHER plenary meeting was confirmed as 6 May 2008.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NoB

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex I

<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER) 22ND PLENARY MEETING</p>

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCHER:

Prof H AUTRUP, Prof. P. CALOW, Prof. W. DEKANT, Prof. W. HANKE, Prof. C. JANSSEN, Prof. H. KOMULAINEN, Prof. O. LADEFOGED, Prof. J. LINDERS, Prof. STEENHOUT, Prof. J. TARAZONA (vice Chair), Dr. E. TESTAI, Prof. M. VIGHI, Prof. M. VILUKSELA.

MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:

Prof J. BRIDGES, Prof P. HARTEMAN

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCHER Secretariat (DG SANCO):

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

Other Commission staff:

Mrs. K. ASCHBERGER (DG JRC); Mrs. J. HOUINS-ROULET (DG SANCO); Mrs. G. LUVARA' (DG ENTR); Mr. P. MOURATIDIS (DG ENV); Mr S. PICKERING (DG ENTR); Mrs. A VAN HAELST (DG ENV)