



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Public Health and Risk Assessment
Risk assessment

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER)
25th PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 9 September 2008
in Brussels*

Minutes

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

Apologies: Prof. W Dekant, Prof. J Tarazona, Dr. E 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 possible conflict of interest in relation to item 6.6 being involved in the environment steering committee performing the voluntary RA on lead and its compounds. He also declared a possible conflict related to item 6.8

Prof. P Calow declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to item 6.8 since he was involved in the environment steering committee of NiPERA (Nickel Producers Environmental Research Association).

Prof. Ladefoged declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to item 6.8 since he was involved in the preparation of the indirect human exposure part of the RAR on nickel.

4. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 24TH SCHER PLENARY MEETING

The [minutes](#) of the 24th SCHER plenary meeting were adopted.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

There were no reports from the Chair.

Sanco C7 updated the Committee on the follow up of a the letter sent by SCHER to DG Sanco on the need for a mandate of the Committee which includes a comprehensive, combined and simultaneous risk assessment of HH and the ENV.

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

The Committee highlighted that since three out of the five last RARs under 793/93 received in July (Ni, Pb and Cu - ENV part) were too big, they would need more time for the peer review. It was agreed with DG ENV and JRC that the opinions on these three RARs would be adopted at the plenary meeting of January 2009.

7.1 Propan-1-ol (CAS 71-23-8; HH part)

The opinion on the human exposure part of the RAR was adopted and is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_105.pdf

7.2 Aluminium fluoride (CAS No: 7784-18-1; ENV part)

The opinion on the environmental part of the RAR was adopted and is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_102.pdf

7.3 Calcium fluoride (CAS No: 7789-75-5; ENV part)

The opinion on the environmental part of the RAR was adopted and is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_103.pdf

7.4 4-tert-butylphenol (CAS 98-54-4; HH part)

The opinion on the human exposure part of the RAR was adopted and is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_101.pdf

7.5 Voluntary RAR on lead and lead compounds (HH part)

The Rapporetur reported back on the main points of the VRAR on lead and its compounds. The draft opinion needed to be reworded in several parts. It will be presented at the next plenary for possible adoption.

7.6 Voluntary RAR on nitrobenzene (CAS 98-95-3; HH part)

The opinion on the human exposure part of the RAR was adopted and is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_104.pdf

7.7 Additional comments on the opinions on Sodium Hypochlorite and Chlorine (Env part)

In the opinions of SCHER on the RARs on sodium hypochlorite and chlorine the hypothesis of an immediate disappearance in the aquatic environment was considered not sufficiently supported.

After the publication of the two opinions, an Appendix was provided with some additional comments. In agreement with the EC services the additional document provided was examined and evaluated by SCHER, even if it was received after the adoption of the opinion.

SCHER concluded that the provided document was not enough clear for supporting the very low PECs proposed by the RAR.

9. ONGOING REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

9.1 Use of non-human primates in biochemical research, production and testing products and devices

Possible external experts were contacted for their participation in the working group. Some of them accepted and all the fields of expertise needed for the preparation of the opinion were covered. Since due to the tight deadline there would not be any possibility to proceed with a public consultation on this very sensitive issue, the WG

and the Commission agreed to organize at least a public hearing on the use of non human primates in research. The public hearing would be held possibly beginning of November.

9.2 Anaerobic biodegradation of surfactants and Biodegradation of non surfactant organic ingredients

The Rapporteur reported back on the last version of the draft opinion. The adoption of the opinion was foreseen at the next plenary meeting.

9.3 Phthalates in school supplies

The final draft opinion was reworded and some paragraphs clarified on the basis of the previous discussion. Since still a few modifications and checks were necessary, the Committee decided to amend and adopt the opinion by written procedure in the following weeks.

[(The opinion was adopted on 17 October and is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_106.pdf)]

9.4 Risk assessment methodologies and approaches for mutagenic and carcinogenic substances

The rapporteur reported back on the last working group meeting and an updated draft opinion was presented and discussed. A WG meeting was foreseen the day after the plenary to update the draft that would be then circulated among the three Scientific Committees for approval for public consultation.

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

10.1 SCCP

The SCHER member involved in the working group on the use of the Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) approach for the safety assessment of chemicals updated the Committee on the developments of the ongoing work.

11. EMERGING ISSUES

No emerging issues

12. NEXT PLENARY MEETING

The next SCHER plenary meeting was confirmed as 17 November 2008.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NoB

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex 1

<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER) 25TH PLENARY MEETING</p>

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCHER:

Prof. H. AUTRUP, Prof. P. CALOW, Prof. W. DEKANT, Prof. H. GREIM (Chair), Prof. W. HANKE, Prof. C. JANSSEN, Prof B. JANSSON (vice Chair), Prof. H. KOMULAINEN, Prof. O. LADEFOGED, Prof. J. LINDERS, Dr I. MANGELSDORF, Prof. M. NUTI, Prof. A. STEENHOUT, Prof. M. VIGHI, Prof. M. VILUKSELA.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCHER Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Mrs. G. FONTANESI, Mrs. M. VIITANIEMI

Other Commission staff:

Mrs. K. ASCHBERGER (DG JRC); Mrs. A. VAN HAELEST (DG ENV)