



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

*Held on 17 November 2008  
in Brussels*

**Minutes**

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

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

Apologies: 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 25<sup>TH</sup> SCHER PLENARY MEETING**

The [minutes](#) of the 25<sup>th</sup> SCHER plenary meeting were adopted with minor corrections

**5. CHAIR'S REPORT**

**5.1 ICCG meeting**

The meeting was largely dedicated to the renewal of the Committees and the call for expression of interest in membership of the new Scientific Committees

The chair of the ICCG followed up on the Transatlantic Risk Assessment Dialogue held in Washington on July 2008. This meeting was preparatory to the first International Conference on Risk Assessment held on 13-14 November 2008.

**5.2 RA International Conference**

Members of SCHER participating in the Conference appreciated the initiative and the discussions among participants. On the other hand, they highlighted that discussions including environmental risk assessment were largely missed. SCHER would like to see a major involvement of environmental topics in this kind of Commission initiatives.

### **5.3 Chair's meeting**

Part of the meeting was on information concerning the new Scientific Committees and the amended Decision establishing the Committees.

During the meeting there of a project on "Assuring Safety without Animal Testing" was presented by Dr. Bart Sanders and Prof. Jos Klenjans. The presentation was followed by a discussion.

### **5.4 Public hearing on the use of non human primates in research**

A public hearing on the use of NH primates took place on 6 November in Brussels. 50 stakeholders participated from industry, NGO, Academia and governmental organizations. The meeting was very interesting and constructive. Stakeholders were invited to send their contributions to the WG that would consider them in the following WG meeting. Contributions were received from participants in the hearing and passed to the WG for their consideration.

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

### **7.2 Voluntary RAR on lead and lead compounds (HH part)**

The draft opinion on the human health part of the VRAR on lead and its compounds needed some more work. It will be updated and circulated to the Committee for comments in December. The final draft would be presented at the next plenary for discussion and possible adoption.

### **7.3 Voluntary RAR on lead and lead compounds (ENV part)**

The Rapporteur reported back on the main points of the VRAR on lead and its compounds. The draft opinion would be circulated to the committee after the next WG meeting for comments. The final draft would be presented at the next plenary for possible adoption.

### **7.4 Voluntary RAR on copper and copper compounds (ENV part)**

The Rapporteur reported back on the main points of the VRAR on copper and its compounds. The draft opinion would be circulated to the committee after the next WG meeting for comments. The final draft would be presented at the next plenary for possible adoption.

### **7.5 RAR on nickel and nickel compounds (ENV part)**

The Rapporteur reported back on the main points of the VRAR on nickel and its compounds. The draft opinion would be circulated to the committee after the next WG meeting for comments. The final draft would be presented at the next plenary for possible adoption.

### **7.6 RAR on vinyl acetate (CAS 108-05-4; HH part)**

The opinion on the human health part of the RAR on vinyl acetate was adopted with a few correction and is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_10X.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_10X.pdf)

## **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**

Two WG meetings were planned after the public hearing of 6 November to give the possibility to the WG to go through to the contributions received by stakeholders participating in the hearing. The final draft would be circulated to SCHER for adoption by written procedure.

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

The final draft opinion was presented to the Committee who adopted it without amendment. The opinion is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_10X.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_10X.pdf)

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

The preliminary report was adopted by written procedure by SCHER/SCCP/SCENIHR for public consultation. The consultation would run until 2 December 2008. Two WG meetings were planned to discuss contributions and finalize the opinion. Possible proposal for adoption of the final opinion was foreseen for the next plenary.

## **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. Comments from SCHER were taken on board. The following week the preliminary report would be published for public consultation running until beginning of January 2009.

## **11. EMERGING ISSUES**

No emerging issues

## **12. NEXT PLENARY MEETING**

The next SCHER plenary meeting was confirmed as 13 January 2009.

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

NoB

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

## Annex 1

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER)</b> <b>26<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING</b></p>
---

*Held on 17 November 2008  
in Brussels*

### 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. J. TARAZONA, Prof. M. VIGHI, Prof. M. VILUKSELA.

#### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION:**

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

Mrs. G. FONTANESI, Mrs. C. DEKINDT

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

Mrs. K. GRODZKI (DG ENTR); Mr. S. KIOKIAS (DG ENTR); Mr. S. PAKALIN (DG JRC); Mrs. A. VAN HAELEST (DG ENV)