



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Public Health and Risk Assessment  
**Risk assessment**

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

*Held on 20 May 2009  
in Brussels*

**Minutes**

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

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

Apologies: Prof A Gard, Prof C Janssen, Prof J Tarazona, Dr Testai

**2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**

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

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

Prof U Ackermann - Liebrich declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to her activity on advice to Government on prevention including fluoridation of drinking water.

Taking into account the nature of the declaration, the Committee decided that Prof. U Ackermann - Liebrich could participate in the discussions on this matter but not act as possible Chair or Rapporteur.

Members were reminded that for the sake of transparency they are asked to be as detailed and comprehensive as possible when declaring their interests. They were also reminded that not all the interests imply a conflict.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SCHER PLENARY MEETING**

The [minutes](#) of the 1st SCHER plenary meeting were adopted.

**5. CHAIR'S REPORT**

The chair introduced a proposal on a review of risk assessment practices prepared by a member of the Committee. The proposal, already discussed and agreed by SCHER, would be presented at the Inter Committee Coordination Group (ICCG) meeting for discussion with the Chairs of the other two Committees.

**5.1 Fifth Chairs' Meeting**

The Chair informed members about the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats which would be held in Brussels on 18-19 November 2009. In the framework of that event,

a meeting on Alternative Methods would be organized and would include presentations by EC representatives and invited experts.

The Committee highlighted that it would be important that at least the members of the Scientific Committee directly involved in the alternative methods would be invited to participate in the event.

The Chair would inform the ICCG on this proposal during the first meeting of that group.

## **5.2 Risk assessment day**

The Chair informed members that the Risk Assessment Day would be held on 20 November in Brussels. All members were invited to attend.

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

### **6.1 Risk assessment from mercury in energy-saving light bulbs – DG SANCO**

A representative of DG SANCO informed the Committee on a possible future mandate on the health risks to consumers from the mercury released from accidental breakage of compact fluorescent lamps. The official mandate would be sent to SCHER in the following week.

### **6.2 Environmental and health risks posed by depleted uranium – DG RELEX**

In May 2008 the EP passed a resolution on Depleted Uranium (DU) weapons which called the Commission for scientific studies on the use of DU and establishing an environmental inventory of DU contaminated areas.

The Commission asked SCHER for an opinion on the environmental and human health risks from exposure to DU in contaminated areas following military activities with DU-containing weapons. SCHER was asked in particular to take into account both the chemical and radiological toxicities of DU and their possible synergistic relations.

Members set up a WG and appointed a Chairperson. Members also identified additional field of expertises that would be needed for the task.

The mandate is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_q\\_085.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_085.pdf)

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

### **7.1 Model implementation and Quantification of the Eutrophication Risk associated to the use of phosphates in detergents - INIA/Green Planet Report**

The Chairperson of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work and the future schedule of the WG. One additional expert was identified to support the WG and was invited to participate in the next WG meeting.

### **7.2 Polycarboxylates in detergents – HERA report**

The WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work. Some members of the WG informed that depending on the availability of some confidential documents,

additional WG meetings might be needed before the discussion of the draft opinion in the next plenary meeting.

### **7.3 Fluoridation of drinking water**

The Chairperson reported back from the first WG meeting. Additional expertise on dentistry and physiology of fluoride was needed. Moreover, since the mandate cover both human health and the environment, the SCHER members with expertise on environmental issues were invited to participate in the WG.

The Secretariat informed that the mandate was modified on the basis of the 97 contributions received from the public consultation on the working mandate.

The first call for information was closed and contributions received were available to members. Since the final mandate was slightly different from the original working mandate, the call for information would remain opened until 26 June to give the possibility to stakeholders to send new articles related to the amended parts of the final mandate.

The final mandate is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_q\\_084.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_084.pdf)

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

### **8.1 SCCP: Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) Approach for Safety Assessment of Chemical Substances**

A member was nominated as new SCHER representative for the working group on the use of TTC.

### **8.2 SCCS: Triclosan**

A member of the committee was invited as SCHER representative in the SCCS WG on triclosan. SCHER agreed on his participation.

### **8.3 EFSA: Guidance document on antimicrobials used in food decontamination**

The member participating and representing SCHER in the WG at EFSA circulated a draft documents to the Committee for comments. A few comments were collected before the plenary and would be reported back to the EFSA WG.

## **9. EMERGING ISSUES**

No emerging issues

## **10. NEXT PLENARY MEETING**

The next SCHER plenary meeting was confirmed as 10 July 2009.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **11.1 Unknown GMOs and GMOs producing pharmaceuticals**

A member of the committee presented a proposal for a possible involvement of SCHER in an activity related to potential health and environmental risks from traces of unknown GMOs and GMOs producing pharmaceuticals. Since this proposal is obviously related to the activities of EFSA, the Chair and the Secretary explained that it was necessary to discuss the issue with the Commission services before deciding whether there might be a mandate for SCHER.

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

## Annex 1

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER)</b> <b>2<sup>ND</sup> PLENARY MEETING</b></p>
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*Held on 20 May 2009  
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### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

#### **MEMBERS OF THE SCHER:**

Prof U. ACKERMANN-LIEBRICH, Prof H ATRUP (Vice Chair), Prof. D. BARD, Prof. P. CALOW, Dr. S. CANNA MICHAELIDOU, Prof. J.DAVISON, Prof. P.DE VOOGT, Prof. W. DEKANT, Prof. H. GREIM (Chair), Dr. A. HIRVONEN, Prof. J. LINDERS, Prof. B. PETERLIN, Prof. M. VIGHI.

#### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION:**

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

Mrs. G. FONTANESI, Mrs. O ZIANE.

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

Mrs. M. DANSTEN (DG SANCO); Mr S. PICKERING (DG ENTR); Mrs A. ROMANOWICZ (DG ENV); Mr J VOGELGESANG (DG SANCO)