Scientific Committees
on consumer products
on emerging and newly identified health risks
on health and environmental risk

# Newsletter of the European Commission Scientific Committees

ISSN N° 1830-6993 JANUARY 2008
CATALOGUE NR: ND-AG-08-001-EN-N




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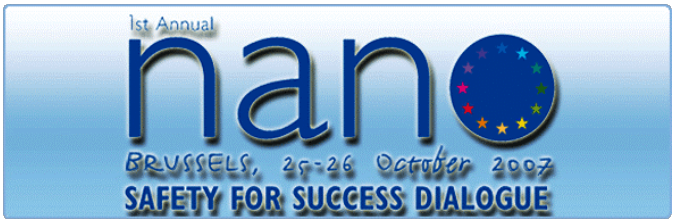
# News




On 24th and 25th October 2007, the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General convened the first annual "Safety for Success" dialogue on nanotechnologies in consumer products including foods, cosmetics and medical applications. 120 participants from industry, universities, NGOs and public authorities from the European Union and its international partners discussed the status of commercial applications, risk assessment, risk management and the regulatory framework. Interests, concerns and priorities were identified such as building public confidence in nano products and players, and open communication between the various actors. Stakeholders debated the labelling of nano products. All stakeholders agreed on the importance of informing the public.

Robert Madelin, Director General DG SANCO concluded by saying that "There is a need for speed and for contribution to these sorts of fora for shaping rapid orientations", he also underlined the informational needs of consumers, NGO´s and public authorities. "I would like companies to tell me very explicitly what they are and are not doing. I also perceive, from my position, that that is what citizens in Europe expect of companies." Therefore he called for an innovative and courageous stakeholder communication approach within Industry and contributions from all stakeholders to the ongoing dialogue.

*More info:*
*http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/ev_20071025_en.htm*

# The Scientific Committees

## Introduction

*Scientific advice plays a key role in the EU decision making process and for many years, EU Institutions have been advised on health, safety and environmental risks by independent scientists. The Commission is committed to base its proposals and its decision on the best available scientific knowledge.*

Henceforth, a comprehensive scientific advice structure is in place, with several external agencies and three independent Scientific Committees (SCs), SCCP, SCHER and SCENIHR, advising on health safety and environmental risks in non-food related areas.
The three Scientific Committees are based on three principles:

**Excellence, independence and transparency**

The Committees also draw the Commission's attention to new or emerging problems which may represent an actual or potential threat.

## The area of responsibilities are:

***The Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP.)*** is systematically consulted on the safety of cosmetics under the Cosmetics Directive and other consumer products such as toys, sun beds etc).

***The Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER)*** provides advice on risk assessment of chemicals, health and environment issues like effects of atmospheric pollution, indoor air quality on the health, etc.

***The Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identfied Health Risks (SCENIHR)*** covers broad multidisciplinary issues and examines new issues like potential risks electromagnetic fields, of nano-technology.

## Finding information about the SC's

**By surfing on:**

**http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/risk_en.htm**


***A video*** *about the work of the Scientific Committees is available at:*
*http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/committees_en.htm*

***Under the section SCs:***
Consultation mandates (questions)
Draft agenda of the Plenary meetings
Minutes of the Plenary meetings
Opinions adopted
Rules of procedure
Members

***Under the section "Popularizing Risk Assessment Results"***
Versions of selected scientific opinions of particular interest for policy makers, stakeholder and the public presented in a language accessible to non experts (layman language summary versions)

***Under the section "News"***
The newsletter of the European Commission Scientific Committees, published three times a year in January, May and September. Public consultations on certain opinions before their finalisation, as well as calls for submission of data
News about developments and events related to the work of the Committees as well as relevant risk assessment issues

**By sending an e-mail:**

SCCP sanco-Sc6-secretariat'at'ec.europa.eu

SCHER: sanco-Sc8-secretariat'at'ec.europa.eu

SCENIHR: sanco-Sc1-secretariat'at'ec.europa.eu

**By registering to this Newsletter (free)**

e-mail: sanco-c7-newsletter'at'ec.europa.eu

**By registering to the Scientific Committees Alerts (free).** The Alerts will be sent to inform you on new opinions published, new public consultations and mandates. e-mail: jan.muyldermans'at'ec.europa.eu

# Recently Adopted Opinions

## SCCP

Dr Ian White, Chair

*The Annexes to Council Directive 76/768/EEC on cosmetic products list banned, restricted or allowed substances for use in cosmetic products. For updates of these annexes, the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products SCCP) has to be consulted to carry out risk assessments based on safety data available in the public domain or provided by industry.*

## Hair Dyes

*In 2001, a scientific report on a possible link between permanent hair dyes and bladder cancer prompted the European Commission to carry out a systematic review of hair dye substances used in Europe in order to establish a positive list of these substances. In the context of the ongoing evaluation of safety dossiers submitted under this 'Hair Dye Strategy', the following opinions have been issued.*

### *A5, Toluene-2, 5-diamine*

The use of toluene-2,5-diamine cannot be considered safe based on the available data. However, this conclusion may be re-evaluated if human toxicokinetic data were to become available in which dosages used more closely approximate the intended use of the substance. Clarification must be given on the myocyte degeneration in the dose range finding study of the 90 day study. Toluene-2,5-diamine is an extremely potent skin sensitiser

### *B52, 2-Hydroxyethylamino-5-nitroanisole*

Since 2-hydroxyethylamino-5-nitroanisole was positive in a gene mutation tests in bacteria, a proper genotoxicity tests covering in vivo gene mutations is essential to definitively conclude on the genotoxicity of 2-hydroxyethylamino-5-nitroanisole.

### *B58,3-Methylamino-4-nitrophenoxyethanol*

The use of 3-methylamino-4-nitrophenoxy-ethanol as a non-oxidative hair dye at a maximum concentration of 0.15% on the head does not pose a risk to the health of the consumer. 3-Methylamino-4-nitrophenoxy-ethanol is a secondary amine and should not be used in combination with nitrosating substances. The nitrosamine content should be < 50 ppb.

### *B77, HC Blue n° 11*

The nitrosamine content in the test substance used in submission III was 1600 ppb. HC Blue n° 11 is both a secondary and a tertiary amine. It should not be used in combination with nitrosating substances. The nitrosamine content should be < 50 ppb. Provided that the nitrosamine content is kept below the level of 50 ppb, the use of HC Blue n°11 as a non-oxidative hair dye in non-oxidative hair dye formulations at a maximum concentration of 2.0% on the head does not pose a risk to the health of the consumer.

### *B98, HC Violet n° 2*

Apart from its moderate sensitising potential, the use of HC Violet n° 2 as a non-oxidative hair dye at a maximum concentration of 2.0% on the head does not pose a risk to the health of the consumer. HC Violet n° 2 is a secondary amine. It should not be used in combination with nitrosating substances. The nitrosamine content should be < 50 ppb.

## Other Substances

### *Polidocanol*

The need for a scientific opinion on this substance was raised by a member state due to the alleged anaesthetic effect of polidocanol, which is also used in medicinal creams to treat dry and pruritic skin disorders. Concerns were stated that the use of a substance with a local- anaesthetic effect in cosmetics might lead to the inability to perceive signals of skin damage as e.g. sunburn or inflammatory reactions so that corresponding defence/avoidance reactions do not occur.

The data included in this dossier demonstrate that polidocanol is of low toxicity and does not pose a risk to the health of the consumer when used up to 3% in leave-on and up to 4% in rinse-off cosmetic products. Recent scientific evidence does not confirm the assumed local-anaesthetic effect of polidocanol. Thus, its presence in cosmetics and skin care products will not affect cutaneous sensation.

All opinions of the SCCP can be found on the following web page:
*http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_sccp/sccp_opinions_en.htm*

# Recently Adopted Opinions

## SCHER

Prof.Helmut Greim, Chair

The Committee has a very broad mandate. Its deals with questions concerning the toxicity of chemicals, biochemical and biological compounds that may have harmful consequences for human health and the environment. In the context of the ongoing evaluation of the risk assessment (RA) reports submitted to the SCHER for peer review, the following opinions have recently been adopted:

***Regulation 793/93 – Existing substances 2,2-bis(chloromethyl) trimethylene bis(bis(2-chloroethyl) phosphate) (V6- CAS 38051-10-4; ENV)***

*The compound is a flame retardant mainly used for polyurethane foams used in automotive industry. SCHER recommends further information and/or testing on the exposure and dynamic measurements of emissions from both use and disposal.*

***Tris [2-chloro-1-(chloromethyl) ethyl] phosphate (TDCP; CAS 13674-87-8; ENV)***

*Significant parts on emission patterns are based on confidential data that have not been submitted to the committee. SCHER stresses that more information needs to be provided to support the validity of exposure assessment for water, sediment and soil.*

***Zinc and its compounds (ENV)***

*SCHER has some concerns about the approach and the outcomes of the RARs: 1. The use of the added risk approach 2. The model for predicting environmental concentrations (PEC) derived from a modified version of EUSES - 3. Bioavailability at the effect side applied at the exposure side 4. Risk characterisations which are based predominantly on North European data.*

***2,3- epoxypropyltrimethylammonium chloride (EPTAC; CAS 3033-77-0; HH)***

*There is a need for limiting the risks for some occupational exposure scenarios regarding mostly dermal expo sures and skin sensitisation*

***3-chloro-2-hydroxypropyl)trimethylammonium chloride (CHPTAC; CAS 3327-22-8; HH)***

*There is a need for limiting the risk for all occupational use scenarios. No further information and risk reduction measures beyond those which are being applied already for the production scenario, are necessary.*

***1-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-3,5,5,6,8,8-hexamethyl-2-naphthyl)ethan-1-one (AHTN; CAS 1506-02-1; HH)***

*There is a need for limiting the risks on dermal exposure and photo-irritation.*

***Tris (2-chloro-1-methylethyl) phosphate (TCPP; CAS 13674-84-5; ENV)***

*There is no need for further information and/or testing and for risk reduction measures beyond those which are being applied already for all environmental compartments. Significant parts of the exposure assessment are based on confidential data not provided to the committee which, therefore, SCHER cannot comment on the acceptability of the conclusions*

***4-tert-butyl phenol (CAS 98-54-4; ENV)***

*There is a need for further information and/or testing for the aquatic environment (freshwater and marine) due to doubts on endocrine disrupting effects There is a need for limiting the risks for the soil compartment.*

***Model implementation and quantification of the eutrophication risk associated to the use of phosphates in detergents***

*The developed model presents a novel tool to quantitatively assess the risks of eutrophication due to phosphorus release. Although some of the assumptions of the report may be criticised, the approach is scientifically valid. However, the report does not adequately address a number of key points. SCHER is of the opinion that, prior to use the application of the model and the use of the results, the science presented in this report should be further developed.*

***The environmental risks and indirect health effects of mercury in dental amalgam***

*SCHER was asked for an opinion on "The environmental risks and indirect health effects from use of dental amalgam containing mercury". On the environmental risk, the available information is too limited for conducting a proper comparative assessment of amalgams and their alternatives. Moreover, the information is presently not sufficient to comprehensively assess the environmental risks and indirect health effects from use of dental amalgam in the EU 25. The preliminary adopted opinion is adopted for consultation.*

*The adopted opinions are available on the following website:*
*http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/scher_opinions_en.htm*

# Recently Adopted Opinions

## SCENIHR

Prof. James Bridges, Chair

This Committee deals with questions related to emerging or newly identified risks related to e.g. interaction of risk factors, synergic effects, cumulative effects, antimicrobial resistance, new technologies such as nanotechnologies; medical devices including those incorporating substances of animal and/or human origin, tissue engineering, blood products, fertility reduction, cancer of endocrine organs; physical hazards such as noise and electromagnetic fields (from mobile phones, transmitters and electronically controlled home environments), and methodologies for assessing new risks (including interaction of risk factors, synergic and cumulative effects). In particular, the SCENIHR issues opinions on scientific and technical questions relating to Community legislation on medical materials and equipment, which were previously dealt with by the former Scientific Committee on Medicinal Products and Medical Devices (SCMPMD).

### *Scientific aspects of the existing and proposed definitions relating to products of nanoscience and nanotechnologies*

The Commission participates in the on-going dialogue at international level on the safety of nanotechnologies in a large variety of applications such as chemicals, food, pharmaceuticals, medical devices etc. For the moment a multitude of definitions related to nanosciences and nanotechnologies exist and are under development, but their scope has not necessarily been considered from the point of view of risk assessment.

Therefore, the SCENIHR was requested to provide a scientific review on definitions and base concepts in the area of nanotechnologies in order to contribute to the development of clear and scientifically coherent terminologies, reflecting also the risk assessment needs. The SCENIHR opinion, adopted on 29 November 2008, should help Commission services to contribute within the appropriate fora to establish scientifically sound terminology for nanoscience and nanotechnologies.

In the opinion, the SCENIHR presents a framework for relevant definitions concerned with nanoscience, nanotechnologies and the products of nanotechnology, based on a sound scientific rationale that emphasises the specific needs for clarity of terminology in relation to risk assessment. Furthermore, a set of essential criteria for the selection of terms and their definition is presented. Criteria used in the selection of terms include their compatibility with other terms used in science, their uniqueness and lack of suitable alternatives, their relevance to risk assessment or related purposes, and their ease of translation. Criteria used in the definition of terms include scientific validity, clarity, the need for practicality and their ability to stand alone.

The report will be published once final editing is concluded.

The adopted opinion will be made available on the following website:
*http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/scenihr_opinions_en.htm*

# Ongoing Work

## SCCP

### Hair Dyes

*Evaluation of 60 remaining substances used in hair dyes in the framework of the European Commission's assessment strategy for hair dye*

### Fragrances

*Treemoss/Oakmoss*
Citral, Farnesol, Phenylacetaldehyde
Evaluation of validity of the "Quantitative Risk Assessment" approach to set concentration limits for sensitising fragrance substances.

### Other Cosmetic Ingredients:

*Hydrogen peroxide, Tea tree oil, Beta-Arbutin*

### Safety of nanomaterials in cosmetics

*In view of the concerns recently raised about the use of nanomaterials in cosmetics, the SCCP was asked to review and, if appropriate, to amend its Notes of Guidance and in particular regarding skin absorption and resorption of nanomaterials. Possible implications on animal testing of nanoparticles and nanoliposomes should be addressed. A preliminary opinion was approved by the SCCP in June 2007. This report was submitted to a public consultation procedure, during which 121 contributions were received.*

## SCHER

### Regulation 793/93 – Existing substances

*2-furaldehyde (CAS 98-01-1; ENV)*
*Tetrabromobisphenol-A (CAS 79-94-7; ENV)*
*Alkanes, C14-1, chloro (MCCP; CAS 85535-85-9; HH)*
*N-Cyclohexylbenzothiazol-2-sulphenamide (CBS; CAS 95-33-0; HH)*
*2,4-dinitrotoluene (CAS 121-14-2; HH)*
*2-nitrotoluene (CAS 88-72-2;HH)*
Mandate: *http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/scher_questions_en.htm*

### Antimicrobial resistance of four substances used as AMT

*The Commission has prepared a draft Regulation implementing measure to allow the use of four specified substances (chlorine dioxide, trisodium phosphate, acidified sodium chlorite and peroxyacids) for the removal of surface contamination of poultry carcasses. The SCHER has been asked to assess the possible environmental impact of the four substances when used to remove microbial surface contamination from poultry carcasses.*
*Mandate:* http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_q_013.pdf

### Genotoxicity - RA methodologies approaches

*Several approaches are in use to assess the risk of substances that are both genotoxic and carcinogenic. The SCHER, in consultation with the SCCP and SCENIHR has been asked to give an opinion on methodologies in use and a harmonized approach for risk assessment of substances that are both genotoxic and carcinogenic in the context of the fields of competence of the three non-food scientific committees complementing and building upon the work recently carried out by EFSA on the same subject. Mandate:* *http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/documents/mandate_Gentox.pdf.*
*This mandate will be finalised after consultation in cooperation with EFSA and other EU bodies.*

## SCENIHR

### Potential health risks of exposure to noise from personal music players and mobile phones including a music playing function

*Inter alia, the SCENIHR is asked to assess whether the exposure to noise from devices like personal music players and mobile phones with this function, at levels corresponding to current permissible noise emissions may cause quantifiable health risks.*
*Mandate:http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_q_011.pdf*

### Antimicrobial resistance of four substances used as AMT (joint request to SCENIHR and SCHER)

*The Commission has prepared a draft Regulation implementing measures to allow the use of four specified substances (chlorine dioxide, trisodium phosphate, acidified sodium chlorite and peroxyacids) for the removal of surface contamination of poultry carcasses. The SCENIHR has been requested to assess the antibiotic resistance effects of biocides (see below). Furthermore, EFSA has initiated a self-tasking project on antimicrobial resistance. To perform an assessment of the impact on and the possible emergence of antimicrobial resistance in the micro-organisms, the SCENIHR is requested, in collaboration with EFSA, EMEA and the CRL, to assess the possible effect on the emergence of antimicrobial resistance in case chlorine dioxide, acidified sodium chloride, trisodium phosphate and peroxyacids were applied according to the proposed conditions of use as a substance to remove microbial surface contamination from poultry carcasses, through exposure routes other than food intake. In parallel, EFSA was requested an opinion on the possible antimicrobial effects of exposure via food intake.*
*Mandate: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_q_013.pdf*

### Antibiotic Resistance Effects of Biocides

*The SCENIHR has received a request on the assessment of the antibiotic resistance effects of biocides. In light of recent scientific evidence, clarification is sought as to whether cross resistance to antibiotics should be an additional criterion to consider in the common principles for the evaluation of dossiers for biocidal products as laid out in Annex VI of the Directive (98/8/EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the placing of biocidal products on the market.*
*Mandate: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_q_012.pdf*

# New Mandates

## SCCP

### Climbazole

*Climbazole may presently be used as a preservative at a maximum authorised concentration of 0.5%. It is also used in rinse-off (at 2.0%) and leave-on (at 0.5%) anti-dandruff cosmetic products.*
*In view of the poor quality of the toxicological data presented in submission I (2004), the SCCP recommended a re-evaluation of the safety of this compound for preservative uses. The present submission represents the current state of knowledge.*

### Triclosan

*Triclosan may presently be used as a preservative at a maximum authorised concentration of 0.3%.*
*In 2006, the SCCP stated that there was no evidence of clinical resistance and cross-resistance occurring from the use of triclosan in cosmetic products. However, information was required on consumer exposure to triclosan from all sources, including cosmetic products.*
*For a toxicological assessment of the safe use of triclosan, a dossier was requested in which data is provided to all relevant exposure and toxicological end-points and conforming to current standards.*
*Industry submitted an update on the question of bacterial resistance and a full toxicological dossier.*

### Toluene

*Toluene is used as a solvent in certain nail products. Although the presence of toluene as a solvent in nail cosmetics was considered by the SCCP not to pose a risk to the health of all groups of consumers, some additional questions were raised during discussions with stakeholders. Therefore the SCCP was asked (i) to assess the potential of Toluene for penetration through the nail plate and (ii) to calculate a concentration for the specific use in cosmetic products, considering that toluene is a CMR 3 substance and assuming also a MOS of 100 or above for the acute effects like headache, dizziness and functional performance.*

*SCCP mandates can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_sccp/sccp_questions_en.htm*

## SCHER

### Regulation 793/93 – Existing substances

*The SCHER has been asked to assess the health risks of the following:*

*Diphenylamine (CAS 122-39-4; HH)*
*Bis(hydroxylammonium) sulphate (BHAS; CAS 10039-54-0; HH)*
*Sodium hypochlorite (CAS 7681-52-9; ENV + HH)*
*Pitch, coal tar, high-temp. (CTPHT; CAS 65996-93-2; HH)*
*Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD; CAS 25637-99-4; ENV + HH)*
*Styrene (CAS 100-42-5; HH)*
*Mandate: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/scher_questions_en.htm*

## SCENIHR

### Health Effects of exposure to Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)

*As part of its mandate, the SCENIHR is asked to continuously monitor new information that may influence the assessment of risks to human health from exposure to EMF and to provide regular updates on the scientific evidence base to the Commission. Recently, there have been several articles and broadcasts in the general press and media referring to new scientific evidence on possible effects on human health of exposure to EMF notably from mobile phone technology. Some of these state that new evidence proves the carcinogenic nature of exposure to EMF. Consequently, the SCENIHR is being asked to examine relevant publications that were published after its own scientific opinion in March 2007.*

# Public Consultations Calls for Information

### The Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) approach

*TTC has its roots in the concept that 'safe levels of exposure' can be identified for individual chemicals with known toxicological profiles. TTC aims to establish 'safe exposure levels' based on chemical structure and toxicity data of structurally related chemicals for substances for which toxicological data are not available.*

*With this joint mandate, SCCP/SCHER/SCHENIHR are requested to critically review the publicly available scientific literature on the concept of TTC in general and to assess applicability of this approach in areas of interest to the three committees, in particular for cosmetic ingredients, where a recent publication suggested the use of TTC.*

*In the framework of the stakeholder dialogue procedure, a preliminary mandate for this request has been published for comments and a Call for Information has been launched to receive additional data on this topic. More info: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/call_info_02_en.htm*

## SCHER

### The SCHER has adopted a preliminary report on "The environmental risks and indirect health effects of mercury in dental amalgam" for public consultation on 29 November 2007.

*The consultation will run until22 February 2008, in parallel to the consultation on the SCENIHR opinion on dental amalgam (see below). Link to public consultation: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/scher_cons_02_en.htm*
*Link to the eNews: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/dyna/enews/enews.cfm?al_id=681*

### Risk assessment methodologies and approaches for Mutagenic and Carcinogenic substances

*In the framework of the stakeholder dialogue procedure, a preliminary mandate for this request has been published for comments and a Call for Information has been launched to receive additional data on this topic. More info: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/call_info_01_en.htm*

## SCENIHR

### The safety of dental amalgam and alternative dental restoration materials for patients and users

*The SCENIHR was requested to evaluate the health effects and safety of dental amalgam and its alternatives. The Committee has approved the preliminary report for public consultation on 29 November 2007, subject to minor final and editorial revisions. The consultation will run until 22 February 2008, in parallel to the consultation on the SCHER opinion on dental amalgam (see above).*
*Link to public consultation: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/scenihr_cons_07_en.htm*
*Link to the eNews: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/dyna/enews/enews.cfm?al_id=681*

### Health Effects of Smokeless Tobacco Products

*The report addresses health effects and addiction potential related to the use of STP and examines their role in smoking initiation and cessation. Furthermore, the possibility to extrapolate the experience and use patterns from countries permitting the marketing of oral tobacco to other EU-countries where it is currently not available was assessed. The comments are currently assessed. The final opinion is expected to be adopted during the next SCENIHR plenary meeting in February 2008.*
*See : http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_o_009.pdf*

### The safety of medical devices containing DEHP-plasticized PVC or other plasticizers on neonates and other groups possibly at risk

*The public consultation on the preliminary report closed on 26 November 2007 and additional working group meetings are foreseen to assess its results. The final opinion is expected to be adopted during the next SCENIHR plenary meeting*
*See: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_o_008.pdf*

### Call for Information:

### Potential health risks of exposure to noise from personal music players and mobile phones including a music playing function

*The call for information was closed on 10 January 2008. The submissions received are currently being assessed.*

# Follow-up of adopted opinions - News

## SCENIHR

***Presentation of SCENIHR-opinion at international meetings***

*The commission has set up a Working Working Group with Member States Representatives for the Implementation of Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC on the limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields (0 Hz to 300 GHz). The first meeting was held 13-14 June 2007 and the questionnaire on the implementation situation was sent to the Member States was sent out in early July.*
*The Second meeting of the Working Group with Member States Representatives on the Implementation of Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC on the limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields (0 Hz to 300 GHz) was held in November 2007.*

## News - News - News - News- - News

***3rd Meeting of the Chairs of Scientific Committees/Panels of Community bodies involved in risk assessment, hosted by the ECDC***

*On 6 and 7 November 2007, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) hosted the third meeting of Chairs of Scientific Committees of Community bodies involved in risk assessment in Stockholm. Representatives of Scientific Committees/ Panels from the European Environment Agency (EEA), European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), the European Medicines Agency (EMEA), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and DG SANCO attended, including Chairs, scientific secretariat/coordinators and officials from other services.*

*The objectives were to build upon previous cooperation activities and future developments for a common risk assessment approach across all community policy. In particular, presentations on coordinating activities on emerging risks and illustrations of the risk assessment process in SCENIHR and the ECDC were provided. During the second day two mixed discussion groups focussed on the following issues: mandate and objectives of these meetings, emerging risks/rapid risk assessment, definitions/terminology/methodology, follow-up to risk assessments.*
*The next meeting will be hosted by EFSA in Parma in October or November 2008.*

***Meeting on Building Risk Assessment Capacity in Europe - Supply and Training of Risk Assessors***

*20 November 2007, a first informal brainstorming meeting on the supply and training of risks assessors in the EU took place with experts from the Commission's non food Scientific Committees (Chairs and Vice-Chairs), from national Risk Assessment bodies, academia, scientific organisations, industry, and EU Agencies.*

*Participants confirmed the decline in basic academic training in (eco)toxicology and risk assessment offered by European academic institutions and stressed the need for training not only in (eco)toxicology but also in the risk assessment process. Emphasis was also placed on the importance to ensure adequate exposure assessment training.*

*A number of reasons for this decline were identified and discussed (not sufficient funding, old fashioned image of Toxicology, animal welfare, low awareness of job opportunities) and as well as the need for training that goes beyond existing short-term training schemes into a combination of solid academic training, professional internship with established RA bodies, and eventually a certification mechanism for (Eco)Toxicologists/Risk Assessors.*
*The experts discussed with the Commission services a number of ideas on the ways to improve the situation both in terms of raising the profile of Risk Assessment as a science/academic discipline, improve the functionality and networking existing training schemes and the eventual introduction of internships of young (eco)toxicologists with established RA bodies.*

## PUBLICATIONS

*Two studies carried out on behalf of the Risk Assessment Unit of the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General have been finalised and the reports have been made publicly available in the following internet addresses:*

*http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/documents/risk_rd01_en.pdf and*
*http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/documents/risk_rd02_en.pdf*

*The first study was carried out by the Central Science Laboratory of the United Kingdom and aimed to compare the terminology and expressions used by the non food Scientific Committees using a sample of 100 opinions of the current and previous Scientific Committees selected by the Commission services.*

*The second study was also carried out by the Central Science Laboratory of the United Kingdom and aimed to compile an inventory of formal and 'on the job training' of relevance to the work of the non food scientific Committees. A number of courses that are offered in the English language were identified via Internet searches.*