



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate C - Public Health and Risk Assessment
C7 - Risk assessment

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS
23RD PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 2 April 2008
in Brussels*

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman, Prof. J. Bridges, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Prof. D. Williams and Dr. M. Thomsen.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was adopted, with a few changes in the order of points under discussion.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

The SCENIHR Committee was informed that one of the external experts invited to the Noise Working Group had declared an interest in view of his/her affiliations. In addition, the declarations of interest of the new external experts of the Working Group on EMF were presented to the Committee.

Taking into account the nature of the above mentioned declarations, the Committee decided that they did not constitute a conflict of interest and that the experts could participate in the discussions of the respective Working Groups.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The draft minutes of the 22nd plenary meeting were adopted. The minutes are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_mi_022.pdf

It was decided that starting from the next Plenary, the minutes will be adopted via written procedure before the following Plenary meetings.

5. CHAIR'S/MEMBERS' REPORT

5.1. Use of the Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) approach for the health risk assessment of chemicals

The Vice-chair informed about the developments on the Working mandate on TTC, which is done in collaboration of the other 2 Scientific Committees of the European Union (SCCP and SCHER).

5.2. Other

The Chair and the Vice chair provided an update to the Committee regarding the recent meeting on Emerging Risks, which was held in Brussels on 12-13 March 2008.

The Vice-chair informed about the work on the EFSA Working Group on the Risks arising from nanoscience and nanotechnologies on food and feed safety and the environment.

A member informed about the last meeting of the joint WG on risk assessment methodologies and approaches for mutagenic and carcinogenic substances (GENTOX).

6. ONGOING REQUESTS

6.1. Biocides – 4 substances used in poultry carcasses.

The vice-chair of SCHER presented the environmental part of this opinion, which was prepared and approved by the SCHER Committee. The SCENIHR Vice-chair briefly informed members about the work related to the emergence of antimicrobial resistance from the use of these substances. In addition, there was an update on the related opinion from the European Food Safety Authority regarding this issue.

The opinion was adopted after minor modifications to the final draft and can be found at the following webpage:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_o_015.pdf

6.2. Biocides – antibiotic resistance (for discussion)

The Chairman of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work. The lack of data in this field remains even after the recent call for information. Other possible ways of getting data regarding the production and use of biocides were examined.

6.3. Dental Amalgam (for discussion)

A SCENIHR member of the WG presented the results from the recent Public Consultation, as well as the outcome of the assessment of these results by the relevant SCENIHR WG. The necessary modifications to the opinion in view of the comments received from the Public Consultation were discussed and approved. In order to coordinate with SCHER and its related opinion, it was decided that the SCENIHR's opinion will be adopted via written procedure.

6.4. Noise (for discussion)

The Chair of the WG presented to the Committee the latest draft of the opinion prepared by the Working Group. It was decided that a public consultation should be launched for this issue, after SCENIHR approves the preliminary report via written procedure.

6.5. EMF (for discussion)

SCENIHR members briefly discussed whether there will be a possible need for further external experts to the WG.

6.6. Nanotechnology (for discussion)

The Chair of the WG presented the outcome of the first meeting of this issue.

7. NEW REQUESTS

Members discussed the draft request on Light sensitivity, as well as further procedures regarding the establishment of a WG on this issue.

8. EMERGING ISSUES

There were no emerging issues.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1. Smokeless Tobacco Products (feedback by Commission after adoption)

Commission services have provided an update to the Committee with regard to the developments related to the recent adoption of the SCENIHR opinion on Smokeless Tobacco Products. In particular, the Commission has thanked SCENIHR for the high quality of the opinion, which will also be presented to the Tobacco Products Regulatory Committee on 16 April.

9.2. Other

The Head of the Risk Assessment Unit of DG SANCO informed the Committee about the current developments regarding the revision of the Scientific Committees in view of the end of their mandate on November 2008. In addition, possible collaboration with the European Parliament's STOA panel was discussed.

SCENIHR members expressed their concerns about problems regarding their reimbursement and this issue was agreed to be include at the agenda of the forthcoming Plenary meeting.

Annex I

<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS 23RD PLENARY MEETING</p>

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:

Prof. A. AHLBOM, Prof. J. BRIDGES (Chair), Dr. W. DE JONG (Vice chair), Prof. P. HARTEMANN (Vice chair), Dr. T. JUNG, Prof. M.-O. MATTSSON, Dr. J.-M. PAGÈS, Prof. K. RYDZYŃSKI, Prof. D. STAHL.

MEMBER OF THE SCHER:

Dr J. TARAZONA (am only)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Mr. L. BONTOUX, Ms. A. KANELLOPOULOU, Ms. N. FOUVEZ, Mr P. MARTIN.

Other Commission staff:

Ms L. CHAMORRO (DG SANCO), Ms I. DEMADE (DG ENTR), Mrs. J HOUINS-ROULET (DG SANCO), Mrs B VAN TONGELEN (DG ENV).