



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

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS
28TH PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 19 January 2009
in Brussels*

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman, Prof. J. Bridges, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

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

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

The Chair of the SCENIHR Working Group (WG) on electromagnetic fields (EMF) informed the Committee that one of the invited external experts had declared an interest in view of her affiliation.

Taking into account the nature of the declaration, the Committee decided that they did not constitute a conflict of interest and that the external expert could participate in the discussions on this matter.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The draft minutes of the 27th plenary meeting were adopted with minor editorial modifications. The minutes are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_mi_027.pdf

5. CHAIR'S/MEMBERS' REPORT

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

A member informed the Committee about the ongoing work. The public consultation on the preliminary report closed on 2 January 2009 followed by a WG-meeting. However, an additional revision by the WG was needed to appropriately examine and address all comments received before final adoption of the opinion. The Chairman reported about related work of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on this issue.

The risk assessment methodologies and approaches for Mutagenic and Carcinogenic substances

A member informed the Committee about the ongoing work. The opinion had been finalized in a WG-meeting after public consultation. It was adopted by the Scientific Committee (SC) on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) after consideration of the comments received from the SC on Consumer Products (SCCP) and SCENIHR.

The joint opinion was adopted by SCENIHR and is available at the following webpage:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_113.pdf

6. ONGOING REQUESTS

6.1. Biocides – antibiotic resistance (for adoption)

The Chairman of the WG presented the outcome of the public consultation to which 13 contributions had been received. The revised opinion, taking the contributions from the public consultation into account, was discussed. Members suggested minor changes to the report which would be incorporated by the Chairman and Secretariat after the meeting.

The opinion was adopted and, upon conclusion of final editing, would be published at the following webpage:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_o_021.pdf

It was suggested that the opinion should be published in a scientific journal to ensure wide dissemination of the results. Furthermore, members stressed the importance to alert research funding schemes to the recommendations on research in the opinion.

Commission services thanked the Committee for the work performed: The opinion would be considered in the revision of the Biocides Directive (98/8/EC)¹.

6.2. EMF (for adoption)

The Chairman of the WG presented the draft opinion to the plenary followed by a discussion. The draft was slightly revised to enhance clarity and to take account of recent information. It was confirmed that due to time constraints no public consultation would be carried out. The opinion was adopted. Following final editing, the opinion would be published at the following webpage:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_o_022.pdf

6.3. Nanotechnologies Risk Assessment (for adoption)

The Chairman of the WG presented the draft opinion to the plenary followed by a discussion and revision of the document. It was confirmed that due to time

¹ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/1998/l_123/l_12319980424en00010063.pdf

constraints no public consultation would be carried out. The opinion was adopted. Following final editing, the opinion would be published at the following webpage:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_o_023.pdf

7. EMERGING ISSUES

The Chairman of the WG presented the draft position paper to the plenary followed by a discussion and revision of the document. The position paper was adopted. Following final editing, the opinion would be published at the following webpage:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_s_01.pdf

8. SCENIHR ACHIEVEMENTS

Due to time constraints a handout of the presentation prepared by the chairman was distributed to members. The presentation provided an overview on the activities carried out by SCENIHR during its first mandate.

9. RENEWAL OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

The Secretariat informed that the establishment of the new Scientific Committees was in progress and that the first meeting would take place at the end of March 2009.

10. NEW REQUESTS TO THE NEXT SCENIHR

The Secretariat informed about new requests which would involve the new SCENIHR. These would be further discussed at the first meeting in March. The requests are in relation to medical devices and antimicrobial resistance.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretariat and the Chairman informed members about allegations concerning professional activities and non-declared interests against a member of SCENIHR. After a follow up by Commission services it was concluded that the member's activities did not constitute a conflict of interest in view of his affiliation with SCENIHR or the WGs to which he contributed. However, it was stated that the member should have declared all the activities in relation to his membership in SCENIHR and not only those which he perceived as a conflict of interest. This issue would be considered by the Commission services when developing the rules of procedure and the template for declaration of interests for the upcoming SCs to prevent any future misunderstanding.

The Secretariat informed about an upcoming meeting with stakeholders in relation to the opinions on dental amalgam of SCENIHR and SCHER.

The Secretariat informed about a public consultation of EFSA on the draft scientific opinion "Guidance of the Scientific Committee on Transparency in the Scientific Aspects of Risk Assessments carried out by EFSA. Part 2: General Principles"

(deadline: 15 February)². It was agreed that, where appropriate, the chairs and vice-chairs of SCCP, SCHER, and SCENIHR would comment jointly on this.

The Chairman thanked members and the Secretariat for the work performed and the good collaboration during the mandate of the SCENIHR.

² see http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902219119.htm

Annex I

<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS 28TH 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, Dr. M. THOMSEN

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Mr. L. BONTOUX, Ms. K. BROMEN, Ms. G. FONTANESI, Ms. N. FOUVEZ, Mr. A. GARKOV, Ms. A. KANELLOPOULOU, Ms. K. KILIAN, Mr. P. MARTIN.

Other Commission staff:

Mr. A. TOTH (DG TREN), Ms. B. VAN TONGELEN (DG ENV)