



- on consumer safety
- on emerging and newly identified health risks
- on health and environmental risks

## Newsletter of the European Commission Scientific Committees

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## NEWS

### NEW MANAGEMENT

Following a decision of the European Commission Dr W. Penning was appointed as head of the unit responsible for the Scientific Committees, as from 16 May 2011. Mr Penning's CV is available on the following webpage: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/dialogue\\_collaboration/docs/cv\\_penning\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/dialogue_collaboration/docs/cv_penning_en.pdf)

### REVAMPING OF THE INTERNET SITE OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

As part of its efforts to better fulfil its obligations to provide European citizens – from the expert scientist and policy maker to the interested citizen – with a full and transparent view of the work of its Scientific Committees, the European Commission is in the process of creating a dedicated website for the Scientific Committees at the following address: [www.ec-scientific-committees.eu](http://www.ec-scientific-committees.eu). Work is underway so that the site will be functional by the end of June 2011. Ease of access and search of information, improved lay out and

structure are some of the features which will allow both the expert and the un-informed reader to access and retrieve information on the work of the Scientific Committees.



### CITIZEN SUMMARIES OF SC OPINIONS

Regular visitors of the internet site of the Scientific Committees may be aware of the 'Layman versions' of some of the key opinions the Scientific Committees have produced over the years. The idea behind the layman version is simply to allow the informed reader who is not necessarily an expert in risk assessment and (eco)toxicology to enter in an opinion in as much scientific depth he/she desires (up to two levels of complexity with the third being the Opinion itself). The number of internet 'hits' to the layman versions has increased over the years showcasing an increase in popularity and util-

ity for this feature. As a result, the European Commission has on a pilot basis initiated work to develop even more succinct summaries of the Scientific Committee opinions in the form of citizen summaries. The aim of those documents, which will also be put on the internet site of the Scientific Committees, will be to provide a very short description of the main points of the opinion which may be of interest to a wide public audience. Prototypes of several opinions are being developed with the aim to be put on the dedicated internet site of the Scientific Committees before the summer of 2011.



## REVIEW OF EVENTS

### 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RISK ASSESSMENT, 26–28 JANUARY 2011, BRUSSELS

In follow to the 1st International Conference on Risk Assessment (Brussels, 13–14 November 2008) the European Commission (DG SANCO) organised the 2nd Conference in Brussels on 25–28 January 2011. The focus of the Conference was on scientific risk assessment as a central element of the risk analysis paradigm. Over 200 participants from scientific panels and agencies from the EU (European Commission Scientific Committees, EFSA, ECHA, EMA, ECDC, and EEA), the United States of America (EPA, FDA) and Canada (Health Canada), from Member States, International organisations (WHO, OECD) and from civil society attended this event. The Conference consisted of a number of plenary lectures addressing some of the risk assessment principles, methods, criteria, and practices, and of a number of workshops on the themes identified during the 1st Conference (Risk Assessment Terminology, Uncertainty characterisation and Description and Exposure Assessment) and on novel themes of interest (Risk Assessment of mixtures, Evaluation of evidence). Programme details, the presentations and the report of the Conference can be found at the following internet site: <http://www.global-risk-assessment-dialogue.eu>

### INFORMAL WORKSHOP ON SKIN ALLERGY RESEARCH NEEDS, 9 FEBRUARY 2011, BRUSSELS

In light of the upcoming 'Health call for research projects under the 7th Framework Programme of research of the EU' and the work of the SCCS subgroup on fragrance skin allergies, the European Commission organised a one day informal workshop in order to identify research priorities in the area of skin allergy. About 30 experts from academia, member states, the SCCS and the Commission participated. The presentations and the discussions demonstrated both the magnitude of the public health issue (millions of European affected), the efficacy of risk management measures (e.g. Nickel in jewellery, Chromium in cement) in reducing the incidence of skin allergy and the need for basic and epidemiological research.



### 4TH NANO SAFETY FOR SUCCESS DIALOGUE: ASSESSING THE SCIENCE AND ISSUES AT THE SCIENCE/REGULATION INTERFACE, 29 AND 30 MARCH 2011, BRUSSELS

This 4th yearly conference brought together around 200 people from around the world to share their experience around:

- How scientists detect, measure, and characterise nanomaterials in a physical and chemical way;
- How regulators decide whether something qualifies as a nanomaterial; and
- How risk assessors evaluate risks and, in the case of pharmaceuticals, perform a risk/benefit analysis.

In line with the philosophy of this conference series, this event also sought to build and strengthen the bridges between science and policy and to foster an open, transparent and informed exchange of information between stakeholders. The Nano Safety for Success Dialogues always provide a public forum for the discussion of diverse points of view. They also provide input to the Commission in its work towards delivering legal certainty and regulatory predictability in relation to nanotechnologies.

Four break-out groups provided the audience with ample opportunity to go deeper into the issues:

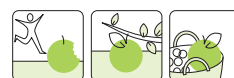
The breakout group "INTELLIGENCE" proposed blueprints for mechanisms to gather information about the market and to register, assess and monitor over time the presence of "nanoproducts".

The break-out group "RISK ASSESSMENT" discussed the challenge of moving away from the current case-by-case risk assessment approach towards a more generic model, based on structure-function relationships.

The break-out group "RISK MANAGEMENT" dealt with the provision of a robust framework for responsible innovation – a framework that must address the concerns of all stakeholders with respect to legal certainty, regulatory predictability and safety for workers, citizens and the environment.

Finally, the break-out group "SAFE DESIGN" embarked on a "cultural" mission: to introduce safe design as a standard and automatic feature of product development.

The presentations of the conference are available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/nanotechnology/events/ev\\_20110329\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/nanotechnology/events/ev_20110329_en.htm)



# The Scientific Committees

## WORKSHOP ON THE THRESHOLD OF TOXICOLOGICAL CONCERN (TTC), 8–9–10 JUNE 2011, BRUSSELS

As part of the work of the European Commission Scientific Committees on the TTC concept, the scientists who are a member of the Working Group participated in an international scientific workshop. About 80 experts participated in this

3 day event. The workshop reviewed current applications of the TTC in risk assessment, identified and examined scientific challenges to its broader application, and explored possible actions to address them.

## EVENTS COMING UP

### INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS AND PUBLIC HEALTH, 16–17 NOVEMBER 2011, BRUSSELS

As highlighted in two recent opinions of the SCENIHR on EMF and Health<sup>1,2</sup>, a number of scientific knowledge gaps in this area remain that need to be addressed by additional research efforts. This lack of knowledge continues to feed scientific controversy. Therefore, DG SANCO is preparing an international scientific conference on electromagnetic fields and public health. Its aim will be to identify the sub-areas where the scientific consensus on the potential health effects of electromagnetic fields is sufficiently strong to bring closure, to highlight the sub-areas in need of further investigation and to develop proposals on a strategy to address the remaining knowledge gaps. This strategy would prioritize research actions according to the level of relevance for public health.

This conference is being organized under the auspices of the SCENIHR within the frame of the periodic review of the scien-

tific evidence as mandated by the Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC.

Registration will be open after the summer. Information will be available by then at [http://ec.europa.eu/health/electromagnetic\\_fields/policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/electromagnetic_fields/policy/index_en.htm)



## OPINIONS ADOPTED

### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER SAFETY (SCCS)

#### Cosmetic ingredients

The Annexes to Council Directive 76/768/EEC on cosmetic products list substances banned or restricted for use in cosmetic products as well as authorised colorants, UV-filters and preservatives. For updates of these annexes, the SCCS has to be consulted to carry out risk assessments based on safety data provided by industry and/or data available in the public domain.



The following risk assessments have recently been concluded:

#### Hair Dyes

Under the safety evaluation of the hair dyes, the SCCS has recently adopted a number of opinions the outcome of those is as follows:

Hair dye found to be safe under the intended use conditions:

- B116, Basic Red 51 (use under non-oxidative conditions)

Hair dyes found to be not safe under the intended use conditions:

- A5, Toluene-2,5-diamine and its sulfate salt
- B87, 4-Amino-2-nitrodiphenylamine-2'-carboxylic Acid
- C15, Acid Orange 7

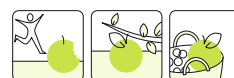
For the following hair dye new data is required before a final conclusion will be reached:

- B116, Basic Red 51 (use under oxidative conditions)
- C8, Basic Red 76

The hair dye opinions are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/consumer\\_safety/opinions/index\\_en.htm#2](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consumer_safety/opinions/index_en.htm#2)

<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/archive/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scenihr/docs/scenihr\\_o\\_022.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/archive/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_o_022.pdf)  
<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/archive/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scenihr/docs/scenihr\\_o\\_024.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/archive/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_o_024.pdf)



# The Scientific Committees

## Preservatives

### Chloroacetamide, P27

Chloroacetamide is used as a preservative in cosmetic products and is currently authorized in a concentration up to 0.3%. According to regulation EC No 1272 (2008), 2-Chloroacetamide is classified as toxic to reproduction Cat 2 (GHS). Based on publicly available information and scientific data received during a public call for information, the SCCS came to the conclusion that this cosmetic preservative is not safe for consumers when used at 0.3% in all cosmetic products. Moreover, concerns were expressed in relation to the fact that human data demonstrate that allergic reactions can already be elicited at concentrations lower than 0.3%.

The opinion is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/consumer\\_safety/docs/sccs\\_o\\_053.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consumer_safety/docs/sccs_o_053.pdf)

### Addendum to the SCCP Opinion on Triclosan, P32 (SCCP/1192/08) from January 2009

Triclosan is currently regulated as a preservative in the Cosmetic Directive, with a maximum concentration of 0.3%. An opinion (SCCS/1251/09) on triclosan and antimicrobial resistance was adopted by the SCCS on 22 June 2010 which concluded that more research on this issue is needed. Based on additional toxicological information and a revised exposure assessment, the SCCS updated its previous toxicological safety assessment (opinion SCCP/1192/08). The SCCS maintained its conclusion that the continued use of triclosan as a preservative at the currently permitted concentration limit of maximum 0.3% in all cosmetic products is not safe for the consumer because of the magnitude of the aggregate exposure. However, the limited use of triclosan at a maximum concentration of 0.3% in toothpastes, hand soaps, body soaps/shower gels and deodorant sticks was considered safe. Additional use of triclosan in mouthwashes at concentrations of 0.15 or 0.2 % and in nail cosmetics is also considered safe.

The opinion is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/consumer\\_safety/docs/sccs\\_o\\_054.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consumer_safety/docs/sccs_o_054.pdf)

## UV-filter

### Bis(butylbenzoate)diaminotriazine aminopropyltrisiloxane, S85

Following the evaluation of the initial submission for this new UV-filter, the SCCS considered that, due to its specific



physico-chemical properties (low solubility which may affect its systemic bioavailability), a quantitative risk assessment could not be performed on the basis of the data available and therefore the safe use of Bis(butylbenzoate) diaminotriazine aminopropyltrisiloxane in cosmetic products in a concentration up to maximum 10.0% could not be demonstrated.

The SCCS concluded that in order to properly assess the safety of Bis(butylbenzoate) diaminotriazine aminopropyltrisiloxane, additional data is required.

The opinion is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/consumer\\_safety/docs/sccs\\_o\\_055.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consumer_safety/docs/sccs_o_055.pdf)

## Other cosmetic ingredients

### N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP)

N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone has recently been classified as toxic to reproduction 1B (GHS) by Commission Regulation 790/2009 with a specific concentration limit of 5%. No regulation yet exists for the use of the substance in cosmetic products. In order to implement the new classifications in the Cosmetics Directive, the Commission services consulted the SCCS regarding the safety of this substance. Although uses in cosmetics have been known, no supporting dossier was provided by the cosmetic industry and the assessment was made on the basis of publicly available data.

Due to an absence of specific information on the maximum concentrations of NMP actually present in cosmetic products and of specific measurements of dermal absorption at relevant concentrations, the SCCS based its assessment on a worst case assessment with a maximum use concentration of 5% NMP in cosmetic products and a dermal absorption of 100%. It concluded that the presence of NMP with a maximum use concentration of 5% in cosmetic products is not safe for the consumer. A re-evaluation may, however, be possible should relevant data addressing the data gaps be provided.

The opinion is available at:

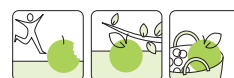
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/consumer\\_safety/docs/sccs\\_o\\_050.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consumer_safety/docs/sccs_o_050.pdf)

## Consumer products

### Potential health risks posed by Chemical consumer products resembling food and/or having child-appealing properties

Chemical consumer products resembling food and/or having child-appealing properties, such as shower gels, body lotions, soaps, and dish-washing liquids, are common on the European market. These products resemble foodstuffs or are child-appealing due to their shape, colour, appearance, odour, consistence, packaging or other characteristics. These products may lead consumers and particularly special vulnerable group, such as children or elderly people, to ingest them. The SCCS was asked to give its opinion on the safety of these products and to evaluate whether ingestion of these products may pose a risk to the health of consumers.

During the public consultation on this opinion, seven contributions were received, of which the majority agreed or mostly agreed to the conclusions of the opinion. All contributions were reviewed by the Working Group and appropriate



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modifications were introduced. The overall conclusions of the pre-consultation opinion were maintained.

The SCCS found that there is a lack of data specifically addressing the issue of accidental ingestion from consumer products that resembling food and/or have child-appealing properties, as such information is rarely recorded by poison centres. The Committee concluded that the weight of evidence from accidental ingestion of general cosmetic products suggests that there is a low risk for acute poisoning in either children or the elderly, whereas for household products, there is a slightly increased risk for a more serious outcome.

The opinion is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/consumer\\_safety/docs/sccs\\_o\\_056.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consumer_safety/docs/sccs_o_056.pdf)



## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER)

### Opinion on: Lead in Drinking Water

Adopted by the SCHER on 11 January 2011.

Following the reduction of the use of lead in car fuels and in the food processing industry, the Committee was asked to evaluate the rationale for the current 10µg/L limit for lead levels in drinking water and whether a change of the lead standard for drinking water, i.e. relaxing the standard from 10 µg/L to 15 or 20 µg/L, will not cause a potential risk for human health. The reason behind this request is that the strong reduction of the sources of lead other than water makes possible an increase of lead in the drinking water while keeping the same total intake. In its opinion, the SCHER concluded that relaxing the standard from 10 µg/L to 15 or 20 µg/L will cause a risk to human health, especially to the mental and neurological development of children aged 0–14. Therefore, the SCHER is of the view that not only should the proposed WHO water concentration limit not be alleviated but a further lowering would be beneficial for the health of European children.

The opinion is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/environmental\\_risks/docs/scher\\_o\\_128.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/environmental_risks/docs/scher_o_128.pdf)

### Opinion on: Chemicals and the Water Framework Directive: Environmental Quality Standards

Adopted by the SCHER on 30 March 2011.

Opinions on the derivation of the draft environmental quality standards (EQS) under the Water Framework Directive (whether the EQS derivation has been carried out in accordance with the draft Technical Guidance on EQS reviewed recently by the SCHER). The opinions for the following substances were adopted: acenofen, anthracene, β-estradiol, bifenoxy, cybutryne, cypermethrin, dichlorvos, dioxins, ethinylestradiol, fluoranthene, hexabromocyclododecane, ibuprofen, and polyaromatic hydrocarbons.

Based on analysis of dossiers presented by a group of Member States experts and stakeholders, SCHER generally concluded that for the majority of these substances:

1. The EQS have been correctly and appropriately derived, in the light of the available information and the Technical Guidance Document on EQS; and

2. The most critical EQS in terms of impact on environment/health has been correctly identified.

In addition, SCHER identified errors and made some substantial critical comments and suggestions for improvement of the procedure and the standards for certain substances.

The opinion is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/environmental\\_risks/docs/scher\\_o\\_127.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/environmental_risks/docs/scher_o_127.pdf)

### Opinion on: Critical review of any new evidence on the hazard profile, health effects, and human exposure to fluoride and the fluoridating agents of drinking water

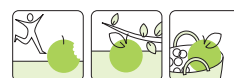
Adopted via written procedure in May 2011.

Fluoride is not an essential element for human growth and development, and for most organisms in the environment.

Large variation in naturally occurring fluoride in drinking water is observed in EU Member States ranging from 0.1 to 8.0 mg/L. Fluoridation of drinking water is recommended in some EU member states, and hexafluorosilicic acid and hexafluorosilicates are the most commonly used agents in drinking water fluoridation. Systemic exposure to fluoride through drinking water is associated with an increased risk of dental and bone fluorosis in a dose-response manner without a detectable threshold. Limited evidence from epidemiological studies points towards other adverse health effects following systemic fluoride exposure, e.g., carcinogenicity, developmental neurotoxicity and reproductive toxicity; however the application of the general rules of the weight of evidence approach indicates that these observations cannot be unequivocally substantiated.

The total exposure to fluoride was estimated for infants, children, and adults from all sources of fluoride, e.g., water based beverages, food, dietary supplements, and the use of toothpaste. Contribution from other sources is limited except for occupational exposure to dust from fluoride containing minerals.

The tolerable upper intake level (UL), as established by EFSA, was exceeded only in the worst case scenario for adults and children older than 15 years of age at a daily consumption of



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2800 mL drinking water, and for children (6–15 years of age) consuming more than 1.5 L when the level of fluoride in the water is above 3 mg/L. For younger children (1–6 years of age) the UL was exceeded when consuming more than 1 L water at 0.8 mg fluoride/L (mandatory fluoridation level in Ireland) and assuming the worst case scenario for other sources. For infants up to 6 months, receiving infant formula, if the water fluoride level is higher than 0.8 mg/L, the intake of fluoride exceeds 0.1 mg/kg/day, and this level is 100 times higher than the level found in breast milk (less than 0.001 mg/kg/day).

The cariostatic effect of topical fluoride application, e.g. fluoridated toothpaste, is to maintain a continuous level of fluoride in the oral cavity. Scientific evidence for the protective effect of topical fluoride application



is strong, while the respective data for systemic application via drinking water is less convincing. No obvious advantage appears in favour of water fluoridation as compared with topical application of fluoride.

In several environmental scenarios it was found that exposure of environmental organisms to levels of fluoride used for fluoridation of drinking water is not expected to lead to unacceptable risks to the environment.

The opinion is available at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/environmental\\_risks/docs/scher\\_o\\_139.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/environmental_risks/docs/scher_o_139.pdf)

*All opinions delivered by the Scientific Committees are without prejudice to personal ethical considerations of the experts.*

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS (SCENIHR)

No opinion was adopted since the publication of the last newsletter in February 2011.

You may find all information about the work of the Committees, on the opinions and the mandates (requests) via the following webpage:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/policy/index_en.htm)

## ONGOING WORK

### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER SAFETY (SCCS)

*The following mandates are currently under evaluation:*

#### Hair dyes

To ensure the safety of hair dye products, a complete review of all hair dye substances on the European market has been initiated by the European Commission. Under this framework, full safety evaluations of 20 hair dyes remain to be performed. In addition, supplementary data on 12 substances that have been initially evaluated have been received and await assessment.

#### Preservatives

- Climbazole
- Ethyl lauryl arginate
- Methenamine 3-chloroallylochloride 2-chloroacetamide (Quaternium 15)
- Zinc pyrithione
- Benzoisothiazolinone

#### UV-filters

- ETH-50
- HAA299 / C-1332
- Titanium dioxide (nano-sized)
- Zinc oxide (nano-sized)

#### Fragrances

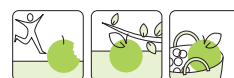
- 3 and 4-(4-Hydroxy-4-methylpentyl)-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxaldehyde (HMPCC)
- Methyl-N-methylantranilate
- Review of fragrance substances that need to be labelled when present in cosmetic products

#### Other cosmetic ingredients

- Arbutin / desoxyarbutin
- Dichloromethane
- Hydrolysed wheat proteins
- Peanut oil
- Polidocanol

#### Others

- NDELA in cosmetic products and nitrosamines in balloons
- Potential risks to human health posed by the presence of nitrosamines or of chemicals which contain secondary amine groups which could give rise to nitrosamines in cosmetics



## NEW MANDATES FOR SCCS

Two new mandates have been submitted to SCCS in the framework of its advisory role for adaptation to technical progress of the annexes of the Cosmetics Directive 76/768/EEC.

### **Oxidised vitamin K1**

Vitamin K1 Oxide (Phytonadione Epoxide) is used in cosmetic products in a concentration up to 1%. The SCCS has been requested to evaluate the safety of its use in the light of the fact that the use of Vitamin K1 in cosmetics has recently been banned. This ban was based on concerns in relation to the allergenic potential which was considered to pose a risk in the light of the therapeutic use of Vitamin K1.

### **Methylene glycol in hair straighteners**

Methylene glycol (hydrated formaldehyde) has recently been found in a number of cosmetic products claimed to have a hair straightening effect. While restrictions exist under the cosmetics legislation for the content of formaldehyde and

paraformaldehyde (authorized as preservatives in a concentration up to 0.2%), methylene glycol is not explicitly included. Therefore, manufacturers of the hair straightening products claim to comply with the legislation, as the ingredient used is methylene glycol rather than formaldehyde. However, concerns about this use were raised by several EU member states, as it is assumed that these products release formaldehyde in the cosmetic formulation and especially during the use procedure, which involves heating of the hair with a straightening iron. The SCCS is requested to assess the safety of use of methylene glycol containing hair straightening products and to advise on an appropriate analytical method to determine the content of free formaldehyde in such products.

All mandates for the SCCS are available on:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/consumer\\_safety/requests/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consumer_safety/requests/index_en.htm)

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS – SCHER

### **Risks when Tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP) is used in toys**

Recently SCHER gave its opinion on the risks from organic CMR substances in toys, stating in particular that the presence of CMR category 2, when characterized by a threshold mechanism, can be accepted, pending a case-by-case evaluation. With the present mandate, the Enterprise Directorate General of the Commission seeks the advice of the Scientific Committee on the expected risks when TCEP is used in toys or part of the toys intended for use by children or in other toys intended to be placed in the mouth in concentrations limit below those set up under the classification and labelling legislation and if lower concentration limits should be set for TCEP. The pre-consultation investigation shows that, in fact, TCEP is no longer used in toys. A possible alternative is tris (2-chloro-1-methylethyl) phosphate (TCPP) for which there is a risk assessment available.

Mandates for SCHER are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/environmental\\_risks/requests/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/environmental_risks/requests/index_en.htm)



## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS (SCENIHR)

*The following mandates are currently under evaluation:*

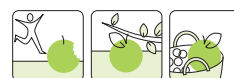
### **Health Effects of Artificial Light**

The European Commission has requested a scientific opinion from the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) on health effects of artificial light. This includes a wide range of commonly used lamps, for example halogen lamps, or normal incandescent lamps. The request is made within the context of promoting the widespread use of energy saving lamps and phasing-out incandescent lamps. It follows the SCENIHR opinion on Light sensitivity of 23 September 2008.

A consultation on the mandate, resulting in minor changes in wording, and a call for information has been carried out. The preliminary opinion is expected to be finalized shortly and is foreseen to enter public consultation before the summer. A scientific hearing with stakeholders will be held in the fall.

The final mandate is available at the following link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/emerging/docs/scenihr\\_q\\_025.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/emerging/docs/scenihr_q_025.pdf)



## NEW AND ONGOING JOINT MANDATES FOR SCENIHR, SCCS AND SCHER

### Addressing the new challenges for Risk Assessment

Risk assessment must be based on the best available scientific evidence. While the data base that supports risk assessments continues to expand and despite several challenges encountered, the general procedures have not changed significantly in the last two decades. Some challenges highlighted in earlier opinions by the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) in 2000 and 2003 include access to data, exposure assessment and the explanation/ expression of findings. Furthermore, there are a number of anticipated changes concerning both the nature and the interpretation of data available for risk assessment in the near future.

Following discussions at the last Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of EU bodies involved in Risk Assessment, the SCENIHR, SCCS and SCHER are requested to carry out a comprehensive review of risk assessment procedures and new challenges for Risk Assessment taking into account both fundamental and practical considerations (sampling, instrumentation, cost, analysis, etc.), and to provide a scientific opinion on the issue.

More information can be found at the following webpage:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/docs/challenges\\_mandate\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/docs/challenges_mandate_en.pdf)

### Combination Effects of Chemical Mixtures

EU Chemicals legislation, in common with the situation in other parts of the world, is based predominantly on assessments carried out on individual substances. However, in reality humans are exposed to a wide variety of chemicals throughout their lives as indeed are animals and plants. While current as-



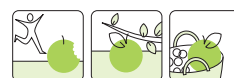
essment methods incorporate safety factors to take account of a range of uncertainties, the Commission is concerned to ensure that EU chemicals' legislation takes proper account of the latest scientific information on mixture toxicity. Therefore, SCHER/SCCS/SCENIHR are asked to advise the Commission if different chemical substances to which man/environment are exposed can be expected to act jointly in a way which affects their impact/toxicity on/for man and the environment, and if the current assessment methods take proper account of these joint actions.

The request is to be found at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/docs/chemical\\_mixtures\\_mandate.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/docs/chemical_mixtures_mandate.pdf)

### Risk-benefit analysis and the optimization of risk assessment in relation to the need of risk managers

This self-tasking work consists of (i) reviewing the current risk assessment practices, (ii) exploring the needs of risk managers and other stakeholders and (iii) identifying approaches that can provide results which are based on the best available science, and which are informative, consistent, transparent and easy to interpret and communicate. Since the issue is of general interest, experts from other EU bodies dealing with risk assessment and socio-economic issues are also involved.

You can find the mandate at the following webpage:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/environmental\\_risks/docs/scher\\_q\\_090.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/environmental_risks/docs/scher_q_090.pdf)





# The Scientific Committees

## PUBLIC HEARING

### Hearing – Health Effects of Artificial Light, Fall 2011

The Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) is currently finalizing its pre-consultation opinion on Health Effects of Artificial Light (see "ongoing work" above). In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and stakeholder dialogue, a public consultation on this pre-consultation opinion as well as a scientific hearing with stakeholders is planned. This hearing shall complement the ongoing consultation and shall provide opportunity for a scientific dialogue between the experts involved in the assessment and stakeholders with relevant knowledge on the subject matter.

More information will be available shortly via the following website: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/events/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/events/index_en.htm)



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