

## WHAT ARE THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES?

Scientific sound advice is vital for providing policy makers with information to ensure the high level of health and environmental protection that European citizens expect from the European Union institutions.

The Scientific Committees, managed by the Directorate-General for Health and Consumers, provide the European Commission with advice on scientifically difficult and politically sensitive issues. Since 1978, these Committees have adopted more than a thousand scientific opinions, most of which have served as a basis for regulations, contributing to a more evidence-based EU policy-making.

The Scientific Committees review and evaluate available relevant scientific data to derive conclusions and assess potential risks. Each Committee has independent top scientists from all over the world as members. If necessary, they can also call on additional expertise from a pool of scientific advisors and a database of experts.

The Committees are three:

- Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS)
- Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER)
- Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR)

**For more information on the work of the Scientific Committees:**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/)

**Contact us:**

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# Scientific Committees

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



Excellence

Independence

Transparency

**at the service of EU citizens**

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER SAFETY



### MANDATE

The Committee addresses questions on all types of health and safety risks of non-food consumer products such as chemical, biological, mechanical and other physical risks. In particular, questions in relation to the safety of cosmetic products and their ingredients, toys, textiles, clothing, personal care and household products (such as detergents, etc.), as well as potential risks originating from consumer services (for example tattooing, artificial sun tanning).

### EXAMPLES OF SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS:

- Safety evaluation of numerous cosmetic ingredients, e.g. a complete evaluation of all hair dye substances present on the European market or of the hydrogen peroxide contained in tooth whitening products
- Biological effects of ultraviolet radiation relevant to health with particular reference to sun beds for cosmetic purposes
- Potential health risks posed by chemical consumer products that imitate food and could appeal to children

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS



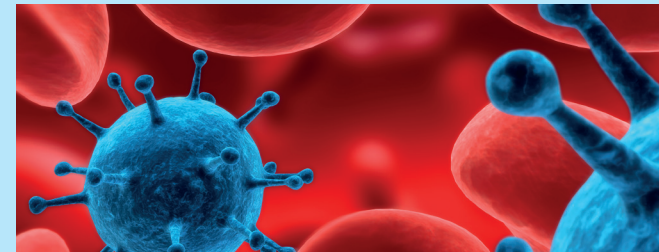
### MANDATE

The Committee addresses questions on health and environmental risks related to pollutants in the environmental media and other biological and physical factors which may have a negative impact on health and the environment, for example in relation to air quality, waters, waste and soils, as well as on life cycle environmental assessment. It shall also address health and safety issues related to the toxicity and eco-toxicity of biocides and of chemical, biochemical and biological compounds.

### EXAMPLES OF SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS:

- Potential mercury exposure to children in certain energy-saving lamps
- Risk of fluoride in drinking water
- Health risks from the use of metallic nickel in toys
- Safety of dental amalgam and alternative dental restoration materials

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS



### MANDATE

The Committee addresses questions on emerging or newly identified health and environmental risks and on broad, complex or multidisciplinary issues requiring a comprehensive assessment of risks to consumer safety or public health and related issues not covered by other EU risk assessment bodies. Examples of potential areas of activity include: antimicrobial resistance, new technologies such as nanotechnologies, medical devices and physical hazards such as noise and electromagnetic fields.

### EXAMPLES OF SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS:

- Safety of PIP silicone breast implants
- Health effects of security scanners for passenger screening (based on X-ray technology)
- Health effects of artificial light
- Safety of medical devices (e.g. metal hip replacements)
- Possible effects of electromagnetic fields on human health
- Addictiveness and attractiveness of tobacco additives
- Potential health risks of exposure to noise from personal music players