

WHAT ARE THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES?

Sound scientific advice is vital for policy makers 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 Food Safety, 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 served as a basis for regulations, contributing to a more evidence-based EU policy-making.

There are two Committees:

- Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS)
- Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER)

The Scientific Committees review and evaluate relevant scientific data to derive conclusions and assess potential risks. Each Committee has top independent scientists from all over the world as members and external experts.

With their work, the Scientific Committees support innovation, jobs and growth in the EU while ensuring a high level of health and environmental protection and consumer safety.



Scientific Committees

2016-2021

- on Consumer Safety
- on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks



Excellence

Independence

Transparency

at the service of EU citizens

For more information on the work of the
Scientific Committees:
http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/

Contact us:

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Health and
Food Safety

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER SAFETY



The Committee addresses questions on:

- health and safety risks, notably chemical, biological, mechanical and other physical risks of non-food consumer products such as cosmetic products and their ingredients, including nanomaterials, hair dyes, fragrance ingredients, personal care and household products such as detergents, toys, textiles and clothing.
- potential risks originating from consumer services, for example tattooing and artificial sun tanning.

EXAMPLES OF SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS:

- Safety evaluation of numerous cosmetic ingredients, i.e. a complete evaluation of all hair dye substances present on the European market, UV filters, fragrances
- Safety evaluation of nanomaterials used in cosmetics
- Fragrance allergens in cosmetic products
- Safety of substances used as preservatives in cosmetics
- Notes of Guidance for the Testing of Cosmetic Ingredients and their Safety Evaluation

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL AND EMERGING RISKS



The Committee addresses questions on:

- health and environmental risks related to pollutants in the environmental media and other biological and physical factors in relation to air quality, water, waste and soils.
- complex or multidisciplinary issues requiring a comprehensive assessment of risks to consumer safety or public health, for example antimicrobial resistance, nanotechnologies, medical devices and physical hazards such as noise and electromagnetic fields.

EXAMPLES OF SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS:

- Safety of medical devices: surgical meshes, medical devices containing Bisphenol A or DEHP-plasticized PVC, metal-on-metal hip implants, PIP silicone breast implants
- Potential health effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields
- Biological effects of sunbeds
- Safety of dental fillings
- Additives used in tobacco products
- Synthetic biology
- Water quality