



2nd Plenary Meeting of the

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

Meeting room: HTC 02/280

25 June 2013, 9:00-16:00

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

The Commission welcomed the participants and a tour the table was made to introduce each other regarding the professional background, affiliations and areas of scientific expertise.

Four apologies were announced by the Chair. One member was connected via audio.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as it was presented.

3. Declaration of interests on matters on the agenda

The Chair asked the committee members to inform of any conflict of interest to be acted in the minutes of the plenary.

One member did not take part in discussion of BPA opinion (Wolfgang Dekant) as a potential risk of conflict of interest had been identified.

The Secretariat will provide to all the members of the committee a document containing clear indications on how to declare any interest.



Guidance Declaration
of Interests_V2.doc

At this point the Deputy Head of Unit of C2 Unit reminded the members to report to SCENIHR Secretariat when attending different workshops, conferences or scientific events of interest to the work of the Committee.

4. Introduction by the Head of Health Information Unit

The Chair gave the floor to the Deputy Head of Unit in order to clarify some issues concerning logistics and working methods.

5. Feedback by Commission Services on follow-up to opinions

The representatives from DG ENTR who have attended the meeting by audio expressed their interest to have they opinions they are interested in adopted soon.

6. Chair's / member's report

- working procedures organization

At this point the Chair took over the meeting and mentioned that Chairs and Rapporteurs had to be appointed for on-going opinions and WGs.

Chairs and Rapporteurs were nominated.

Then the Chair asked the members to express their interest in joining the existing WG. One member expressed the interest in joining the WG on Nanomaterials and medical devices and the one on metal-on-metal joint replacements with a particular focus on hip implants. Another member expressed his interest to join the WG on Health Effects of Nanomaterials Used in Medical Devices.

At this point some suggestions related to the future organization of work were discussed.

7. On-going work

For adoption:

- ***The safety of of Poly Implant Prothèse (PIP) Silicone Breast Implants (2013 update)***
 - The chair pointed out the main issues which delayed the finalisation of this opinion: limited access to information for a certain period of time in some Member States; then too much information available which needed a permanent update of the opinion; organisational problems of the WG due to personal health problems.
 - The Opinion was discussed and many comments and questions rose by the Committee members.
 - Because of the high number of comments received, it was proposed to ask the WG to revise the opinion, organising an additional meeting to address all the comments and questions from SCENIHR members and to finalise the opinion which will be adopted by written procedure.
- ***The safety of medical devices containing DEHP-plasticized PVC or other plasticizers on neonates and other groups possibly at risk (2013 update)***
 - The opinion will be discussed for adoption during SCENIHR next plenary.
 - Few comments were raised to be passed on to the WG members.
- ***The safety of the use of Bisphenol A in medical devices - Update:***
 - Comments and questions were raised.
 - Members were informed that EFSA is going to publish late July an update of their opinion on the safety of BPA in food contact material. It was decided to wait for this publication to consider their conclusions and references for SCENIHR opinion on safety of BPA in medical devices.
 - The opinion will be discussed for adoption during SCENIHR next plenary.
- Update:
- ***Potential health effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF)***
 - The Chair of the WG presented the work progress for this opinion. The Opinion is expected to be approved during SCENIHR next plenary.

- ***Nanosilver: safety, health and environmental effects and role in antimicrobial resistance***
 - The Chair of the WG made a presentation of the opinion. The Opinion is expected to be approved during SCENIHR next plenary.
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- ***The safety of dental amalgam and alternative dental restoration materials for patients and users***
 - The Chair of the WG presented the work progress for this opinion. The WG will meet on 19/08/2013. The Opinion is expected to be approved during SCENIHR next plenary.
- ***The safety of metal-on-metal joint replacements with a particular focus on hip implants***
 - The Chair of the WG presented the work progress for this opinion. The WG will meet on 16/09/2013. The Opinion is expected to be approved during SCENIHR next plenary.
- ***Health Effects of Nanomaterials Used in Medical Devices***
 - The Chair of the WG presented the work progress. The WG will meet on 17/09/2013 and 14/10/2013. The Opinion is expected to be approved during SCENIHR next plenary.

8. Joint Opinions / Participation of members in activities of other scientific bodies

Synthetic Biology

The Chair informed the members that:

- an audio meeting of ICCG was organised on 07 June so as to discuss the joint mandate. The ICCG members have received the summary of the 100 literature docs available (cf. BRE).
- SCENIHR is going to lead this WG and asked the members to express their interest in joining the WG. Four members joined the WG, one of them being appointed as the Chair.
- SCCS and SCHER will designate at least 1 member for the WG.
- The first audio meeting was scheduled at the beginning of July to select eligible external experts from the 34 candidatures received via the public call for expression of interest.
- The opinion is expected to be finalised by October 2014.

9. Any other business

The 3rd Plenary will be on 25-26 September 2013 taking into account the summer break and the necessary time for travel arrangements.

Members were informed that EFSA is forming a working group on Environmental risk assessment and are looking for experts. Members who are interested should contact the Secretariat.

Annex 1

List of Participants

Members of the SCENIHR

Prof Dr Dekant Wolfgang, Dr Emri Igor, Dr Epstein Michelle, Prof Dr Hartemann Philippe (Chair), Prof Dr Leitgeb Norbert, Dr Martinez-Martinez Luis, Prof Dr Proykova Ana (vice-Chair), Prof Dr Rodriguez-Farré Eduardo, Dr Rushton Lesley, , Dr Samaras Theodoros, Dr Theo Vermeire, Dr Testai Emanuela (vice-Chair) – by audio.

Apologies

Prof Dr Hoet Peter, Prof Dr Rizzo Luigi, Dr Martinez-Martinez Luis and Dr Rydzynsky Konrad.

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO)

Donata Meroni and Mihaela Haratau

DG ENTREPRISE

Maila Puolamaa (Unit F1) and Oana Radu