



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Luxembourg, 12 January 2016

REQUEST FOR A SCIENTIFIC OPINION ON
Guidance on the structure and content of SCHEER opinions

From: the Secretariat of the SCENIHR and SCHER

According to the Commission Decision C(2015) 5383¹, the mission of the Scientific Committees is to provide the Commission services with scientific advice and risk assessment in the areas of public health, consumer safety and environmental risks, including, when relevant, identification of research needs to address critical information gaps, assessment of proposed future research actions and of research results.

Scientific advice and risk assessment provided by the Scientific Committees take place by means of scientific opinions.

The scientific assessments carried out by Scientific Committees should always be based on scientifically accepted standards of best practice, and be transparent with regard to the data, methods and assumptions that are used in the risk assessment process. They should identify uncertainties and use harmonised terminology, where possible, based on internationally accepted terms.

The Rules of Procedures² of the Scientific Committees lay down at point 111 the main sections that have to be included in the scientific opinions elaborated by the Scientific Committees and Annex IV disciplines Stakeholder Dialogue Procedures.

In the light of the new organisation of the scientific committees, namely the merger of two committees to form the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER), there is a need to revise the structure and content of future opinions and statements and stakeholder dialogue procedures to better harmonise these areas of work.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The SCENIHR and SCHER are required by the Secretariat:

1. to clarify the target Opinion's group(s) and requirement in terms of background and acceptable level of complexity
2. to prepare a guidance document on the structure and content of SCHEER scientific opinions and statements. The procedure and periodicity for reviewing or updating the guidance documents should be also included. The new structure should be proposed as an annex to the guidance.
3. To revise Annex IV of the Rules of Procedure 'Stakeholder Dialogue Procedures' in the light of best practise used in risk assessment and the experience gained by the Committees during past terms.

The SCCS might be associated in order to ensure overall consistency between opinions of Scientific Committees and of procedures for Stakeholder Dialogue.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/docs/call_2015_5383_decision_with_annexes_en.pdf

² http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/docs/rules_procedure_2013_en.pdf