



12th plenary meeting of the
Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER)
30 March 2011 at 10.00, Rue Breydel 4, room 02/17A - Brussels

Minutes

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Prof. Greim, Chair of the Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

Apologies received from J. Linders.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was adopted as proposed.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

No new declarations were made.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The minutes of the 11th SCHER plenary meeting were adopted.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on:

(i) the Global Risk Assessment Dialogue held in Brussels in January 2011;

(ii) the upcoming public hearing with member-states representatives on the opinions on safety of toys (this topic generated a general discussion about the value public consultations, which are to be held on a case-by-case basis as decided by the Committee and are to be included in the mandate.);

(iii) the new members of the Committee were introduced; and

(iv) the need to elect a new vice-chair was deferred until next meeting.

6. ONGOING REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

6.1. Fluoride and fluoridation of drinking water

The opinion was reviewed and it was decided to adopt it later via written procedure following some suggested changes in the wording used.

6.2. Water Framework Directive – the Environmental Quality Standards

After an extensive discussion, the following opinions were adopted: aclonifen, anthracene, β -estradiol, bifenox, cybutryne, cypermethrin, dichlorvos, dioxins, ethinylestradiol, fluoranthene, HBCDD, ibuprofen, and PAH (including the added answer to the specific question on PAH). It was decided to adopt the following four opinions via written procedure, pending their approval by the EQS working group: diclofenac, dicofol, heptachlor, and PFOS.

6.3. Combination Effects of Chemicals

The Chair of the working group summarized the outcome of the latest meeting of the WG and the general direction of the expected conclusions.

6.4. Improvements in Risk Assessment

The Chair of the working group informed the plenary about the current state of the opinion and the expectations in the future.

7. PARTICIPATION OF THE SCHER IN ACTIVITIES/WORKING GROUPS OF OTHER SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

7.1. Nitrosamines and Secondary Amines in Cosmetics (SCCS in the lead) – The SCHER representative in the WG outlined the main challenges facing the work on this mandate.

7.2. NDELA and Nitrosamines in Cosmetics and Balloons (SCCS in the lead) – The SCHER representative in the WG outlined the main challenges facing the work on this mandate.

7.3. New challenges for risk assessment (SCENIHR in the lead) – The SCHER representatives in this WG presented the main ideas being discussed.

7.4. TTC opinion (SCCS in the lead)

The SCHER representative in this WG explained the current delay in the adoption of this opinion which is related to its harmonization with the upcoming EFSA opinion on the same subject.

8. NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES

There were none presented

9. NEXT PLENARY MEETING – 25 MAY 2011

The request by a member of SCHER to move the meeting scheduled for 20 Sept. to the next day(s) if convenient for everyone was accepted. The new date is 21 Sept.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.