9TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

28 november 2014

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

One member excused.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Secretariat suggested an AOB point on 'Future areas of potential risks identified by SCHER'. The agenda was adopted with this change included.

3. Declaration of interests on matters on the agenda

No conflict of interest was reported by the particpants.

4. Chair's/ member's report

The Chairman reported the main conclusions of the Inter-committee coordination group meeting which took place on 16 October 2014 and summarised the main points for the SCHER:

- ✓ New mandate on safety of sunbeds was decided to be in the remit of SCENIHR. Two members of the SCHER expressed their interest to be part of the Working Group developing this opinion
- ✓ Rapid risk assessment. This point was further discussed under point 5 of the Agenda.
- ✓ Guidelines on the handling of declarations of interest of Scientific Committees members and experts.
- ✓ Promotion on opinions in scientific journals

Two SCHER members attended an ECHA Workshop on Regulatory Challenges in Risk Assessment of Nanomaterial and reported on the outcomes of the meeting to the committee.

5. "Response to serious cross border threats to health" – follow up to the Quicksilver exercise

Quicksilver EU-wide exercise took place on 24 – 25 September. Its aim was to test, among others, the capacity and capability of scientific

committees to provide rapid risk assessment. The evaluation report of this exercise will be published in December. The SCHER and the Commission discussed the outcomes of the exercise including the rapid risk assessments which were provided in the exercise and next steps.

Communication by Commission Departments

The Commission informed the SCHER on the following:

- ✓ List of new opinions/mandates from other Scientific Committees.
- ✓ Internal consultation from EFSA on increasing robustness, transparency and openness of scientific assessments. Contributions were requested.
- ✓ A Call for Expression of Interest for Membership of the Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits (SCOEL)
- ✓ Guidelines on handling of declaration of interest:
  The timeline of these Guidelines has been updated to take into considerations relevant provisions of a Commission Decision on conflict of interest of individuals appointed in expert groups in a personal capacity. As the decision is going to be adopted by the end 2014 the Guidelines will be ready by early 2015.
- ✓ A workshop on synthetic biology is planned in the second semester next year
- ✓ Promotion of opinions and activities of the Scientific Committees is being revamped in the form of the web site, fact-sheets and publications on scientific journals.

6. On-going work

Preliminary Opinion on the potential risks to human health and the environment from the use of calcium cyanamide as fertiliser

The next meeting of the WG is scheduled on 15 December.

Preliminary Opinion on cadmium in fertilisers

A meeting of the working group took place on 27 November. The working group discussed and further worked on contributions on different questions addressed in the mandate. The next meeting is planned for 23 January 2015.

Finalisation of the opinion on Cr VI in toys

The meeting of the working group took place on 27 November. The working group discussed the comments received in public consultation and consequent changes in the opinion.
A factsheet on Cr VI for general public which will be published together with the final opinion and is under preparation.

7. Joint Opinions

Opinion on synthetic biology

The preliminary opinion on SynBio II was discussed and approved by the SCHER for public consultation. Its publication is planned before Christmas/early 2015 after the approval of the Scientific Committee on Consumer safety.

8. New Mandates

There have been no new mandates for SCHER since the last plenary.

9. Any other business

Future areas of potential risks identified by SCHER

The SCHER agreed to start developing a list of areas having a potential to significantly impact human health and /or on the environment in the future.

Next SCHER plenary meeting: 22 January 2015

Annex I:

List of participants:

Members of SCHER:

Maria José Carroquino, Raquel Duarte-Davidson, Jadwiga Gzyl, Renate Krätke, Greet Schoeters, Colin Janssen, Claire Beausoleil, Jan Linders, Alena Bartonova, Teresa Fernandes, Pim de Voogt

Apologies: 1 apology received

SCHER Secretariat (DG SANTE)