



1st Plenary Meeting

Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER)

Venue

HTC 02/280
HITEC building
11, rue Eugène Ruppert, L-2557 Luxembourg

Meeting date: 29 April 2016, starting at 13:00

Minutes

- **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES (CHAIR: THEODOROS VERMEIRE)**

The Chair of the SCHEER welcomed the participants and presented the apologies received (1).

- **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted as presented.

- **DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

The Chair requested that participants declare any interest on the matters on the agenda. It was explained that according to the Rules of Procedure the members are asked at each meeting to declare any specific interest they may have on matters concerning the Agenda, to assess any potential conflict of interest.

The following interests were declared:

- E. Testai declared an interest related to the mandate on non-human primates being a member of the SCHER which drafted the first opinion on this topic:
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_110.pdf
This interest was not considered to be a conflict with the matter on the agenda, but an element of continuity with the work carried out in the past.
E. Testai also declared that she was part of a Marie Curie project on the re-use of water, co-funded by the EU.
- W. De Jong declared that he was requested by his institute to carry out specific work assessing the quality of breast implants.
- R. Duarte declared that she was the project coordinator of an EU project related to the Rapid Risk Assessment (ECHEMNET), funded under the Health programme, and the partner in another project on rapid risk assessment related to environmental issues funded by DG ECHO.

The SCHEER and the Secretariat concluded that these interests are specific (i.e. related to the matters on the agenda) but do not constitute conflicts because they are related to institutional work performed by public organisations in the public interest. These interests, on the contrary, prove the expertise of the members in the fields relevant to the activity of the Committee.

- **COMMUNICATION BY COMMISSION DEPARTMENTS**

The Chair gave the floor to the Secretariat for an update on the state of play on the following issues:

- Adopted opinions and new opinions/mandates
- Publication in scientific journals
- Preparation of fact-sheets

- The Inter-Committee Coordination Group (ICCG)
- Participation of the SCHEER in the SCCS meetings
- meeting on chemical mixtures
- EFSA working group on Weight of Evidence
- Future events

- **CHAIR'S / MEMBER'S REPORT**

The Chair gave the floor to different members of the SCHEER who attended meetings on behalf of the committee. In particular, A. Proykova reported on her participation in the ECHA workshop "New Approach Methodologies in Regulatory Science" that took place on 19-20 April 2016 in Helsinki.

- **NEW MANDATES**

Request to the SCHEER for an update to an earlier opinion by SCHER concerning the need for the use of non-human primates in biomedical research, safety and efficacy testing

DG ENV presented the new mandate and afterwards answered the questions from the SCHEER members to clarify certain aspects of the mandate. DG ENV stressed the need for a transparent stakeholders' dialogue. The secretariat took note of the request of DG ENV and explained that stakeholders' dialogue, in the form of a public consultation or call for information, is a general practice for SCHEER's opinions; and added that these activities will be decided and consequently organised in cooperation with relevant Commission services after the constitution of the working group.

Deadline: preliminary Opinion to be finalised by the end of 2016 and the final Opinion not later than April 2017.

The mandate **was adopted** by the SCHEER. The Chair of the Working Group was designated, as well as some SCHEER members to be part of the working group.

Request to the SCHEER for a scientific opinion on the potential risks to human health of Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs)

DG GROW joined the plenary meeting to present the new mandate and answered the questions from the SCHEER to clarify certain aspects of the mandate. Deadline: April 2017.

The mandate **was adopted** by the SCHEER. The Chair of the Working Group was designated, as well as some SCHEER members to be part of the working group.

Request to the SCHEER for a scientific advice regarding a call for data and literature review concerning the safety of PIP silicone breast implants and a possible Opinion on connection between breast implants and anaplastic large cell lymphoma

DG GROW joined the plenary by audio to present the new mandate and answered the questions from the SCHEER to clarify certain aspects of the mandate. Deadline: January 2017.

The mandate **was adopted** by the SCHEER. The Chair of the Working Group was designated, as well as some SCHEER members to be part of the working group.

- **ON-GOING WORK AND DESIGNATION OF CHAIRS OF WORKING GROUPS**

Opinions

For discussion

- **Biological effects of UV-C radiation relevant to health with particular reference to UV-C lamps**

The rapporteur presented the preliminary Opinion on UVC lamps. She invited the SCHEER members to provide their comments to the draft opinion to the working group (via the secretariat). The timeline is to approve the preliminary Opinion for public consultation at the next SCHEER plenary meeting.

The SCHEER designated the Chair of the WG and new members joined the existing working group.

For information

– Biological effects of ultraviolet radiation relevant to health with particular reference to sunbeds for cosmetic purposes

The rapporteur for the Opinion presented the preliminary Opinion on sunbeds and reported on the hearing. The preliminary Opinion was published for public consultation from 22 January to 27 April 2016. In addition, a public hearing aiming to complement the public consultation to gather specific comments, suggestions and explanations or contributions on the scientific basis of the Opinion took place on 12 April 2016 in Luxembourg.

The rapporteur explained how the contributions received via public consultations were to be dealt with in order to finalise the opinion. Additional Working Group meetings were considered necessary.

– The SCHEER designated the Chair of the WG.

– Tobacco additives – Opinion II

The Chair of the WG on tobacco additives presented the ongoing work on the second Opinion on tobacco additives.

The SCHEER confirmed the Chair of the WG on tobacco additives and new members joined the existing working group.

– Rapid risk assessment (RRA)

The Chair of the WG on RRA presented the guidance document on rapid risk assessment approved by the SCHER.

The SCHEER confirmed the Chair of the WG on RRA and members who volunteered to be part of the working group.

– Guidance on the structure and content of SCHEER opinions and revision of the 'Memorandum on weight of evidence and uncertainties'

The Chair of the joint WG on structure and content of SCHEER opinions and on the WoE presented the work of the WG. The timeline is to have the opinions adopted in September or December 2016.

The SCHEER designated the Chair of the WG on structure /WoE and new members joined the existing working group.

• ANY OTHER BUSINESS; DATE OF NEXT PLENARY MEETINGS

Dates of the next meetings:

5-6 July 2016

- mid-end October 2016

- end-January 2017

- April 2017

Annex 1

List of Participants

Members of the SCHEER

Roberto Bertollini, Teresa Borges, Wim de Jong, Pim de Voogt, Raquel Duarte-Davidson, Rodica Mariana Ion, Renate Krätke, Demosthenes Panagiotakos, Ana Proykova, Theo Samaras, Marian Scott , Remy Slama, Emanuela Testai, Theo Vermeire, Marco Vighi, Sergej Zacharov

Apologies received:

Peter Hoet

SCHEER secretariat

Donata Meroni, DHoU
Silvia Hrubanova
Mihaela Haratau

Other Commission departments

DG GROW

Victoria Piedrafita
Paul Piscoi

DG ENV

Susanna Satu Louhimies