



**4TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL AND EMERGING RISKS (SCHEER)**

Venue: HTC building
11, rue Eugène Ruppert, L-2557 Luxembourg

2 February 2017

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies:

The Chair welcomed the participants, including the Vice Chair of the SCCS. Two members joined the plenary meeting by audio.

Colleagues from DG GROW and DG ENV joined the plenary by audio for the discussions on the Opinion on UVC-lamps, scientific advice on PIP and the possible association between breast implants and anaplastic large cell lymphoma, the preliminary Opinion on the need for non-human primates in biomedical research, safety and efficacy testing (Update 2017), the mandate on public health impacts and risks resulting from onshore hydrocarbon exploration and production in the European Union and the mandate on technical guidance for deriving environmental quality standards.

2. Adoption of the agenda:

The Agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declaration of interests on matters in the agenda:

The Chair invited participants to declare any interest regarding matters on the agenda. None of the participants declared any interest conflicting with the matters on the agenda.

4. For adoption

1. Final Opinion on Biological effects of UV-C radiation relevant to health with particular reference to UV-C lamps (results of public consultation)

The representative of DG GROW joined the meeting by audio.

The Chair gave the floor to the Chair of the WG who presented the final Opinion and the results of the public consultation. The SCHEER discussed the Opinion and several members provided comments to the text. The SCHEER adopted the Opinion including comments discussed and agreed upon during the plenary meeting.

The publication date of the Opinion was planned on 17 February, after the quality checks and editing performed by the Secretariat. A factsheet has been prepared for publication along with the Opinion.

2. Preliminary Opinion on the need for non-human primates in biomedical research, safety and efficacy testing (Update 2017)

The representative of DG ENV joined the meeting by audio.

The Chair of the WG presented the preliminary Opinion to the SCHEER members. The SCHEER members had comments, which were discussed.

The preliminary Opinion was approved for public consultation. The public consultation is planned to take place between 10 February and 26 March. Public hearing on the preliminary Opinion is planned on 14 March; the deadline for registration is on 26 February.

3. Scientific Advice regarding a call for data and literature review concerning the safety of PIP silicone breast implants

The representatives of DG GROW attended the plenary meeting and presented their comments.

The Chair gave the floor to the Chair of the WG to present the scientific Advice. The Committee discussed the Advice and concluded that the document needs more work in terms of content and scientific approach and postponed its adoption. The Committee recommended the WG to revise the text, addressing comments received from DG GROW and SCHEER members.

4. Scientific Advice regarding a possible Opinion on connection between breast implants and anaplastic large cell lymphoma

The representatives of DG GROW attended the plenary meeting and presented their comments to the text.

The Committee thoroughly discussed the text and finally it was decided that the scientific Advice needed further work in terms of content and scientific approach to better meet the requests of the mandate and postponed its adoption. The Secretariat was requested to contact the WG in order to organise the work and to set up a date for a meeting by the end of February so as to go through all comments.

5. Rapid risk assessment for cross-border chemical incidents

The Chair of the WG presented the guidance document on RRA of chemical threats. Several members submitted their comments in writing and the Chair of the WG revised the document accordingly. The guidance document was adopted by the SCHEER and it is planned to be published on 2 March.

6. Guidance on the structure and content of the SCHEER Opinions

Due to the lack of time to discuss this document, it was decided to send it for adoption by written procedure.

5. Ongoing work: Progress on the following Opinions

Draft Opinion on the potential risks to human health of Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs)

The Chair of the WG presented the progress of this Opinion. The first meeting of the WG was organised in Luxembourg on 25 November 2016. The next meeting is scheduled on 14 February.

Revision of the 'Memorandum on weight of evidence and uncertainties'

The Chair of the WG updated the SCHEER members on the progress of the WG. The last meeting was organised in Luxembourg on 15 December. The next one is scheduled on 30 March. The session on uncertainty with EFSA representatives, scheduled on 17 May 2017, will contribute to finalising the document.

Draft Opinion on proposed EU minimum quality requirements for water reuse in agricultural irrigation and aquifer recharge (DG JRC)

The Chair of the WG informed that the WG met the day before the plenary. The WG selected two external experts. An expert on agricultural irrigation/ aquifer recharge is still needed. The WG also discussed contributions prepared by the WG members and had a discussion with DG ENV and JRC to clarify some issues in the mandate and in the JRC report. Clarification is needed from DG ENV/JRC as regards the deadline for the Opinion; the WG is able to deliver the Opinion in June. DG ENV does not expect a public consultation on this Opinion.

Draft Opinion on the tolerable intake of aluminium with regards to adapting the migration limits for aluminium in toys (DG GROW)

The Chair of the WG informed that the WG met the day before the plenary meeting. The WG went through the literature provided by the Commission library and discussed contributions prepared by the WG members and appointed the rapporteurs for the Opinion. The preliminary Opinion is planned to be approved for public consultation on the next plenary meeting on 18 May.

6. New mandates

– Request for an Opinion on public health impacts and risks resulting from onshore hydrocarbon exploration and production in the European Union

The representative of DG ENV joined the meeting by audio and presented the draft mandate on hydrocarbon exploration. The members welcomed this new request for a scientific Opinion but raised a number of questions related to the text of the mandate. A WG was set up and the chair of the WG and the rapporteur were appointed. It was decided that the mandate needed fine tuning: the working group would formulate requests for clarification to be submitted to DG ENV. The mandate will then be adopted by written procedure.

– Request for a SCHEER opinion on technical guidance for deriving environmental quality standards

The representatives of DG ENV attended the meeting and presented the new mandate on technical guidance for deriving environmental quality standards. The mandate was adopted by the SCHEER. The working group was formed and the chair and the rapporteur were appointed.

7. Communication by Commission Departments

The deputy Head of Unit reported about the Visit of the Secretariat to JRC, informing that IPCHEM database of JRC could be of interest for the work of the Committees. The SCHEER agreed to invite JRC colleagues to have a presentation during forthcoming plenaries.

Obligation of the Secretariat to publish names of the experts and amount of special indemnities received when exceeding 15000 euro a year.

Members' Survey will be launched before next plenary meeting in May.

8. Chair's/ member's report

This agenda item was postponed to the next meeting due to lack of time.

9. Any other business

The SCHEER plenary meeting are planned as follows:

5th plenary meeting on **17-18 May 2017**

6th plenary meeting on **28 September 2017**

7th plenary meeting on **22 January 2018**

Annex 1

List of Participants

Members of the SCHEER

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

SCHEER secretariat

Donata Meroni
Silvia Hrubanova
Diana Herold
Mihaela Haratau

Other Commission departments

DG GROW

Luca del Colombo
Paul Piscoi
Olga Tkachenko

DG ENV

Helen Clayton
Stephanie Schaan
Florence Limet
Susanna Louhimies