



## **Scientific Committees on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER)**

### **11<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting**

7 February 2019

#### **Minutes**

#### **1. Welcome and apologies, approval of the agenda and declaration of interests**

The Chair welcomed the participants and announced apologies received (2).

The Chair asked the SCHEER members to declare any interest related to the matters on the agenda. None of the participants declared any interest.

The agenda was adopted as presented.

#### **2. Information from Commission and members of the SCHEER**

##### **2.1. Information from the Commission:**

The SCHEER Secretariat informed about the following:

The need to receive all DoI forms for 2019 as soon as possible

- The dissemination of the SCHEER Statement and the Position Paper on emerging health environmental issues published on 21 January within the relevant Commission services.
- Publication of SCHEER opinions in scientific journals
- The meeting of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) attended by the SCHEER secretariat and 2 external experts of the SCHEER WG on non-human primates
- The list of SCCS and SCHEER mandates and Opinions and the overview of current SCHEER WGs which were circulated before the meeting.

##### **2.2. Information from the SCHEER members:**

The SCHEER members reported on their participation to the following meetings (reports have been distributed by email):

- EFSA Working Group on chemical mixtures in October 2018
- PARERE meeting in November 2018
- Micro-plastics expert workshop in January 2019
- FORENV meeting in January 2019

#### **3. Points for discussion/decision**

##### **3.1. Opinions for adoption**

- **Scientific advice on Safety, health and environmental risks associated with the use of four candidates for a common fiscal marker (Submission II)**

The Chair of the WG presented the draft advice. Representatives of DG TAXUD and JRC attended the meeting by audio. Several editorial changes to the text were proposed. The SCHEER adopted the advice with the proposed changes. The advice contains confidential information from the markers' manufacturers, therefore the final advice will be sent to DG TAXUD. No publication is foreseen.

##### **3.2. Mandates for adoption**

- **Request for scientific opinion on e-cigarettes**

DG SANTE has asked the SCHEER to provide scientific input for the report mentioned in Article 28 of the tobacco products directive. DG SANTE briefly introduced the mandate and the SCHEER, following a thorough discussion, adopted the mandate. A core working group was formed. The SCHEER identified

a need for an additional expertise in the following areas: addiction to tobacco and e-cigarettes; relation between (abandoning) smoking and use of e-cigarettes; exposure scenarios for e-cigarettes; modelling of exposure scenarios for e-cigarettes and parametrization of these models; analytical expertise specific for (e-)cigarettes; risk assessment and risk management advice in relation to e-cigarettes.

Two SCHEER members have been appointed to follow the work of the WG to ensure the application of the SCHEER Memorandum on WoE.

- **Request for testing of the SCHEER Memorandum on WoE – testing**

The SCHEER adopted the mandate prepared by the Secretariat in order to initiate the work of the WG that will ensure the application of the SCHEER Memorandum on WoE in practice. The work will start with the Opinion on e-cigarettes.

- **Request for an Opinion on anaerobic biodegradability of Linear Alkylbenzene Sulphonates (LAS)**

The SCHEER discussed the mandate on anaerobic biodegradability of Linear Alkylbenzene Sulphonates (LAS) submitted by DG GROW. The SCHEER raised several questions and concerns as regards the mandate and asked the Secretariat to transmit their comments and questions to DG GROW. The SCHEER concluded not to adopt the mandate.

#### **4. Ongoing work**

##### **For discussion:**

##### **Guidelines on the benefit-risk assessment of the presence of phthalates in certain medical devices**

The Chair of the WG presented the state of play of the Guidelines (+ Annexes). SCHEER members were invited to comment on the document during the plenary meeting. The Secretariat presented the next steps: finalisation of the Guidelines is planned for the next WG meeting on 18-19 February, written procedure for SCHEER adoption from 8 to 15 March, publication for consultation period from 18 March to 29 April and public hearing on 4-5 April in Brussels (stakeholders and DG GROW with national authorities). Public hearing announcement was published on the web page of the Committees. Registration is open by 6 March.

##### **WG on rapid risk assessment**

The Chair of the WG informed about the past and ongoing activities of the WG: in October and November 2018, the WG organised exercises for the WG on RRA and the pool of experts, the WG and the pool of experts were involved in the EU-wide exercise PACE organised by DG HOME and the annual meeting of the RRA WG and the pool of experts was organised on 27 November.

The Chair also informed about the outcomes of a WG meeting on 6 February. The WG was asked to prepare a concept paper for the EU Health Security Committee (HSC) to point out the tools and activities which are needed to support the work of the RRA WG and to foster greater preparedness for cross-border chemical incidents. The Chair presented to the SCHEER the draft version prepared in the meeting of 6/2. The paper will be revised, taking into account the comments of the SCHEER, and will be sent for approval by written procedure on 18 February 2019.

In addition, in the meeting of 6/2, the WG also selected additional experts to be part of the pool of experts. A call for experts was opened from 27 September - 31 December 2018; 38 applications were received.

#### **5. A.O.B.**

- The Secretariat informed about the follow up of the opinions on sunbeds, LEDs and on breast implants and ALCL and about the SCCS meeting on alternative methods.

**Dates of the next SCHEER plenary meetings:** 18-19 June 2019; 3 October 2019.

## **List of participants**

### **Members of the SCHEER**

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

### **Members of the SCCS**

Pieter-Jan Coenraads

### **SCHEER secretariat**

Mihaela Haratau  
Diana Herold  
Silvia Hrubanova  
Natacha Grenier  
Thomas Zervas

### **Other Commission departments**

#### **DG SANTE**

Julia Langer

#### **DG TAXUD**

Alfio Sferrazzo

#### **JRC**

Saioa Elordui