



Luxembourg, 12 October 2020

**Scientific Committees on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER)
16th Plenary meeting
7-8 October 2020**

Minutes

Welcome and apologies, approval of the agenda and declaration of interests

The Chair welcomed the participants and announced one apology on 8/10.

The agenda was adopted without changes.

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.

2. Information from Commission and members of the SCHEER

The SCHEER secretariat informed that majority of the secretariat staff was released from their tasks for the COVID-19 team and that the management of DG SANTE agreed to re-start the usual work of the SCHEER as well as to start with the renewal of the scientific committees next term. The current term of the committees was prolonged due to COVID-19 until the end of 2021.

The secretariat also informed that EFSA would like to be involved in the SCHEER's work on emerging issues as they have interesting activities related to this issue.

3. Points for discussion/decision

3.1 For adoption: preliminary opinions

Safety of breast implants in relation to anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL)

The Chair of the WG on BIA-ALCL presented the preliminary Opinion on BIA-ALCL. The SCHEER suggested some revisions to increase the consistency and clarity of the Opinion and adopted the Opinion with those changes. The Chair and Rapporteur prepared will prepare the revised version as soon as possible and will send it to the SCHEER for a final approval. The preliminary Opinion will be published for public consultation on 26 October (for 6 weeks). A hearing on the preliminary Opinion is planned on 16 November: registration is open until 16 October: https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/events/ev_20201116_en

3.1 For discussion: preliminary opinions

Toxicological reference values for certain organic chemicals emitted from squishy toys with regard to adopting limit values under the Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC

The Chair of the WG on squishy toys presented the preliminary Opinion. The SCHEER concluded that there are still several issues to be finalised and suggested that another meeting of the working group should be organised to finalise the preliminary Opinion. After that, the preliminary Opinion will be adopted by written procedure.

3.2 New mandate(s)

1/ Request for an opinion on the safety of cobalt in toys with regard to a possible derogation from its prohibition

2/ Request for an opinion on the safety of titanium dioxide in toys with regard to a possible derogation from its prohibition

DG GROW D3 presented two new mandates on the safety of cobalt and titanium dioxide in toys. Both mandates were adopted by the SCHEER. Core working groups have been set up. The SCHEER is inviting the SCCS to nominate experts in both WGs. The request will be discussed in the next SCCS plenary on 27-28 October 2020.

Audio-meetings of the working groups will be set up to discuss a need for a literature search and/or any additional expertise.

3/ Revised request for a scientific opinion on "Emerging – economic, business, technological and social – innovations in the Green economy of the Future" FORENV2 (characterisations sent and identified for SCHEER)

The secretariat informed that DG ENV withdrew the mandate on FORENV 2. The SCHEER Opinion would come too late for the foresight process and for the foresight policy cycle in general and therefore DG ENV found another solution this year without the SCHEER's review of the cycle 2 issues.

4/ Request for a scientific opinion on a technical assessment by JRC on nuclear energy under the 'do no significant harm' criterion of the taxonomy regulation

DG ENV and DG ENER presented the draft mandate. The SCHEER adopted the mandate and set up a core working group. The SCHEER asked the mandating DG to send at least an outline of the JRC document as soon as possible and the JRC preliminary report as soon as it will be available. The mandate to JRC (which can already indicate if/what additional expertise might be needed) has been attached to the SCHEER's mandate.

4. Ongoing work

WG on E-cigarettes

The Chair of the WG recalled that the preliminary Opinion on E-cigarettes was adopted by the SCHEER by written procedure on 23 September and is currently in public consultation until 26 October 2020.

WG on rapid risk assessment (RRA)

The Chair of the WG on RRA informed that the WG was put on hold since the beginning of this year because the involvement of the secretariat in the COVID crisis. Several subgroups have been set up to proceed with the work on RRA.

The goal is to identify gaps in knowledge and expertise and to prepare a handover of existing documents by the end of the current SCHEER term. The Chair suggested to organise the next WG meetings back-to-back with the SCHEER plenaries on 3/4 March and 7/8 October 2021.

Emerging health and environmental risks – selftask

The Chair informed that it is planned to update the SCHEER Memorandum on emerging issues by the end of the current term and suggested to start with updating of the issues listed in the last Memorandum. The new and/or updated emerging issues will be discussed in the next plenary.

5. A.O.B.

The next SCHEER plenary meetings have been scheduled as follows:

3-4 March 2021; 9-10 June 2021; 7-8 October 2021