



**3RD PLENARY MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL AND EMERGING RISKS (SCHEER)**

17 November 2016

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants, including the Vice Chair of the SCCS, and announced that two apologies had been received. Two members joined the plenary meeting by audio.

Colleagues from DG GROW, DG JUST joined the plenary by audio for the discussions on the Opinion on sunbeds, scientific advice on PIP and the association between breast implants and anaplastic large cell lymphoma and for the mandate on the tolerable intake of aluminium.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declaration of interests on matters in the agenda

The Chair requested participants to declare any interest on the matters on the agenda. None of the participants made a declaration of any conflict of interest.

4. Communication by Commission Departments

The Chair gave the floor to the Secretariat.

A short training took place on how to complete the new form for annual Declaration of Interests that needs to be filled in by the SCs members by the end of the year. These DOI will be assessed by the Secretariat and then published on the website.

An update was given on the state of play on the following issues:

– **Tattoos**

The Joint Research Centre published a Science for Policy report to support the European policy-making process. A technical report was already published in 2015 on "Safety of tattoos and permanent make-up compilation of information on legislative framework and analytical methods". The Secretariat is exploring the Commission's interest in a possible mandate for the SCCS.

The SCHEER expressed its interest to join a possible SCCS WG on this issue.

- **ECHA and SCs' Secretariat bilateral** (videoconference) was held on 28 September 2016.
- **EFSA and SC's secretariat bilateral** (audio conference) was held on 12 October 2016.
- the **Database of Experts** has been re-opened: members are invited to promote it by letting others in the scientific community know about the opportunity to apply for registration. http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/experts/database/index_en.htm.
- **Seminar on Uncertainty:** the Secretariat will organise a training session on uncertainty on 17 May 2017.
- **2 days PBPK modelling session** is planned on Thursday 8 and Friday 9 December 2016 in the framework of a SCCS WG on Methodology. Two SCHEER members will participate.
- **Information on the follow-up to the SCs' Opinions:** dental amalgam Opinions have contributed to the proposal for ratification of Minamata convention which is currently under discussion in the Parliament.

5. Chair's / member's report

The Chair gave the floor to the members of the SCHEER who attended conferences, workshops or meetings as representatives of the SCHEER:

- A. Proykova TIMMED 2016 Conference in Timisoara, Romania where a presentation on use of nanomaterials in personalised medicine was delivered.
- Conference of Synthetic Biology in Brussels on 18 October 2016 – the conference was organised by the Presidency as a preparation for the Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting under the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD).
- Knowledge Hour in DG SANTE C, Luxembourg on 16 November where the Chairs of the SCHEER and SCCS delivered presentations of their activities.

The secretariat informed that further Knowledge Hours are planned, to be organised with DG GROW and DG JUST.

6. For adoption:

- **Final Opinion on biological effects of ultraviolet radiation relevant to health with particular reference to sunbeds for cosmetic purposes**

The representatives of DG GROW and DG JUST joined the meeting by audio.

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

The publication date of the Opinion was planned on 30 November, after the quality checks and editing performed by the Secretariat. A factsheet and a web summary are prepared to be published together.

7. New mandates

- **Request for an opinion on the tolerable intake of aluminium (DG GROW)**

The representative of DG GROW joined the meeting by audio and provided the legislative and technical background to the mandate on aluminium in toys.

After discussion, the mandate was adopted by the SCHEER and the WG was set up. The preliminary Opinion should be available before summer 2017 and final Opinion in autumn 2017.

- **Revised request for an Opinion on proposed EU minimum quality requirements for water reuse in agricultural irrigation and aquifer recharge**

The revised mandate for adopted by the SCHEER without comments and the working group was set up.

8. Ongoing work

- **Preliminary Opinion on additives used in tobacco products – Tobacco Additives II**

The Chair of the WG gave a presentation on the state of play of this Opinion. Public consultation was open from 22 July to 22 September 2016; 213 contributions resulting in almost 1000 comments were received, the vast majority from the tobacco industry and which were critical of the Opinion. The comments not sent by industry were positive. WG took place on 8/11 to discuss the comments and distribute tasks.

The Final Opinion is expected to be published by the end of December. The final Opinion will be sent to the SCHEER for adoption by written procedure at the beginning of December.

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

The Chair gave the floor to the Chair of the working group for an update. Public consultation was open from 29 July to 30 September 2016. The contributions received during the public consultation (51 with a total of 140 comments) were forwarded to the Chair of the WG. The final Opinion is expected to be adopted at the next plenary (2 February 2017).

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

The Chair gave the floor to the Chair of the working group to present the state of play of this Opinion. The work is in the beginning stages. The composition of the working group has been finalised and its first meeting is scheduled on 25 November. The contributions received during the Call for information were sent to the members of the working group for their consideration.

- **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**

The Chair gave the floor to the Chair of the working group for an update. Both scientific advices are expected to be sent for adoption during the plenary meeting of the SCHEER scheduled on 2 February. The representative of DG GROW joined the meeting by audio.

- **Update to the scientific Opinion on the need for non-human primates in biomedical research, safety and efficacy testing**

The Chair of the working groups provided an update on the progress of the WG. The WG prepared a first draft of the Opinion to be discussed in the WG meeting on 18 November. The preliminary Opinion is planned to be submitted to the SCHEER for adoption in the next plenary (2 February 2017).

- **WG on *Ad hoc* rapid risk assessment performed by the SCHEER**

The Chair of the WG provided an update on the progress of the WG. The WG met on 11 November to choose experts to the pool for experts. 52 experts met the minimum criteria set up in the call. 4 experts were proposed to join the WG to train the WG members to develop the core capacities to be able to carry out rapid risk assessment. The secretariat is checking the DoI of all selected experts before appointing them.

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

The Chair of the WG gave an update on the progress of the WG. There was no WG meeting since the last SCHEER plenary. The next meeting is scheduled for 15 December.

9. Any other business

First year internal evaluation of new SCs and Secretariat support is foreseen after the plenary meeting in May 2017 by means of an anonymous form to be sent by e-mail. Members are encouraged to send in any issues that they consider relevant for the evaluation. The secretariat will circulate the draft questions.

Emerging risks

The Chair reminded that it was agreed during the plenary meeting in April to update the Position Statement on emerging and newly identified health risks to be drawn to the attention of the European Commission published by the former SCENIHR in 2014. It has been suggested to raise this point at every plenary meeting on the agenda if there is any emerging issue that the SCHEER members would like to discuss.

Next meetings:

2 February 2017

18 May 2017

A doodle will be sent to fix a date for an additional SCHEER plenary in September/October 2017.

Annex 1

List of Participants

Members of the SCHEER

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

Apologies received

Pim de Voogt, Remy Slama

SCHEER secretariat

Philippe Roux
Donata Meroni
Silvia Hrubanova
Mihaela Haratau

Other Commission departments

DG GROW

Luca del Colombo
Paul Piscoi
Jürgen Vogelgesang

DG JUST

Ana Maria Blass