



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

9th Plenary meeting

05-06 June 2018, Luxembourg

Minutes

5 June 2018

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

The Chair welcomed the participants and announced one apology for 5 June and two apologies for 6 June.

Four members attended the meeting by audio on 5 June and three members on 6 June.

The Chair welcomed the Vice Chair of the SCCS and informed that the colleague from DG GROW will join the meeting by audio on 6 June for the discussion regarding the guidance on risk-benefit analysis of phthalates used in medical devices.

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

There were two proposals for changes in the agenda: one member proposed to discuss the LED Opinion on 6 June and another member proposed to introduce a new item related to the JRC activity on alternative methods. The agenda was adopted with these changes.

2. Opinions for discussion/decision:

2.1. Opinions for adoption:

– Memorandum on weight of evidence and uncertainties – Update 2018

The Chair of the working group presented the Memorandum. The SCHEER members proposed a number of changes which will be addressed by the rapporteur in a new version of the document. The new version will be submitted to the SCHEER for adoption by written procedure. An infographic was prepared and circulated to the SCHEER for discussion and approval. SCHEER members had a number of comments regarding the text and the design of the infographic and the Chair asked everyone to send their comments to the Secretariat. Then a new version will be circulated for approval.

The SCHEER proposed to have a new WG organised in order to test the Memorandum on WoE on a number of opinions. Three members volunteered to join the WG. The SCHEER nominated the Chair and the rapporteur.

2.2. Opinions for discussion:

– Update of the SCENIHR's Position Statement on Emerging Risks

The Chair recalled that the SCHEER scientific advice on emerging environmental issues within the field of "New technologies in the urban environment" was adopted by written procedure on 23 May. The mandating DG (DG ENV) suggested publishing the SCHEER's advice as an Annex to their final report on this issue which is planned to be published in September. In this way, the SCHEER's advice would be put in context as regards the process (the SCHEER advice is only one step in the whole process) and also the methodology used by DG ENV will be explained there. The SCHEER agreed to this approach.

The Chair prepared a presentation on the approach used to organise the work on the SCHEER position statement on emerging risks. The SCHEER discussed first the document *Emerging Issues and the Role of the SCHEER, Position Paper*. **The Position Paper has been adopted by the SCHEER.**

Afterwards, the SCHEER reviewed the second document *Statement on emerging health and environmental issues* focusing on the following questions:

- Is the issue an emerging issue?
- Does the SCHEER agree with the scoring
- Does the SCHEER agree with the description

The SCHEER decided to have an audio organised at the end of August/beginning of September in order to discuss the additional contributions from members and the final document is planned to be adopted in the next SCHEER plenary meeting, i.e. on 11 October.

6 June 2018

2.1. Opinions for adoption:

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

The Chair of the working group presented the final Opinion. Public consultation was open until 17 September 2017. 85 contributions, 20 papers and nearly 500 comments were received and revised by the working group. The Opinion was adopted together with all documents including replies to contributions received during the public consultation.

3. New mandate(s)

No new mandate has been submitted.

4. Ongoing work:

– WG on oil and gas

The Chair of the working group presented the progress of work. A public consultation was open from 22 March to 6 May. 29 contributions have been received during the public consultation. In addition, DG ENV (the mandating DG) and JRC commented the preliminary opinion. An audio meeting will be organised at the beginning of July in order to discuss the replies formulated by

the WG to the comments received during the public consultation. It is expected to have the final opinion included on the SCHEER's plenary meeting on 11 October agenda for adoption.

WG on RRA

The Chair of the working group presented the progress of work. She informed that a communication exercise was organised on 17 May with a response rate from experts of almost 90%.

The Chair also informed about the planned meetings of the WG on: 4 July, 10 October, 17 October, 23 October and 27 November.

– WG on medical devices

The Chair of the working group presented the progress of the work. There are 3 more meetings planned by the end of 2018 to continue the work on the draft guidance: 19/6, 17/9 and 27/11 to discuss (1) the outline of the guidance, as well as (2) the draft of the content of the guidance with (3) its specific section on methodologies.

5. Information from Commission and members of the SCHEER

5.1 From the Commission

The Secretariat informed the committee about the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Regulation (EU) 2016/679 which was published on 4 May 2016.

The Regulation entered into force on 24 May 2018 and applies as from 25 May 2018. This new Regulation has modified the rules on data protection in the EU. It concerns the treatment of personal data by organisations and companies in the EU. It does not concern EU institutions and bodies. Regulation 45/2001 still governs the protection of personal data processed by the EU institutions and bodies. The new Regulation should enter into force in October.

The Secretariat also informed the SCHEER about the state of play of ongoing publications in scientific journals and about the policy follow-up to the SCHEER opinions.

Then the Chair informed the SCHEER members about the list of mandates and opinions which were circulated to the members before the meeting.

5.2 From the SCHEER members

SCHEER members were invited to report on their participation (as representatives of the Committee) in the following meetings:

- EFSA meeting on chemical mixtures on 6-8 March and 12-13 April
- Lancet Commission on pollution and health
- PARERE and joint PARERE-ESTAF meetings 2017.

6. A.O.B.

The Chair recalled that when the SCHEER started the new term, it has been decided to review the post of the Chair and Vice-Chair at the mid-term. The present SCHEER members expressed

their satisfaction with the work of the Chair and the vice-Chairs and did not see a need for any changes.

Next plenary meetings

The next SCHEER plenary meetings have been scheduled as follows:

- **11 October 2018**
- **7 February 2019**

Next WG meetings:

WG on medical devices:

19 June, 17 September and 28 November 2018

WG on oil and gas:

Audio: 4 July, physical meeting 24 September

WG on WoE (testing the Memorandum):

Doodle to be launched for an audio as appropriate.

WG on rapid risk assessment:

4 July, 10 October, 27 November.

WG on emerging risks

Doodle will be sent for an audio meeting on end of August/beginning of September

The Secretariat was asked to launch doodle polls to set the dates for the rest of plenary meetings in 2019 (June and October 2019).

List of participants

Members of the SCHEER

Teresa Borges, Raquel Duarte-Davidson, Wim de Jong, Rodica Mariana Ion, Demosthenes Panagiotakos, Ana Proykova, Theo Samaras, Marian Scott (present only on 5 June), Emanuela Testai, Theo Vermeire, Marco Vighi

Members of the SCCS

Pieter-Jan COENRAADS

SCHEER secretariat

Diana Herold
Silvia Hrubanova
Natacha Grenier
Mihaela Haratau

Other Commission departments

DG GROW

Paul Piscoi