



4TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

(SCHER)

Venue: Hitec Building - Room 02/280

Address: E. Ruppert Street 11, L-2453 Luxembourg

20 December 2013, starting at 09:00

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

DM (deputy head of Unit) briefly welcomed the participants.

All members are present with two apologies (see Annex I).

As Colin Janssen (Chair) was excused the chairmanship was taken by Jan Linders (vice-Chair)

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Declaration of interests on matters on the agenda

The Chair asked the committee members to inform of any conflict of interest to be acted in the minutes of the plenary. No declarations of conflict of interest on any of the agenda items were made by participants.

Members were also reminded that this declaration has to be made orally at each plenary meeting as well as at the start of each working group meeting.

4. Chair's / member's report

Jan Linders briefed the participants on the EFSA working group on ERA held on 28-29 November 2013 in Parma, Italy and the results of WHO/IPCS workshop on uncertainty in hazard assessment held on 19-20 November 2013 in Bilthoven, the Netherlands where the working group is drafting a guidance document.

The Secretariat informed that DG Environment was organising a meeting in Brussels on environmental risk assessment and a representative of SCHER was requested. Jan Linders accepted to participate.

5. Communication by Commission Departments

DM informed the members that according to the Rules of Procedures, a new COI/DOI was going to be requested at the beginning of 2014 and has to be provided before the next plenary in February 2014.

Moreover, an Internal survey on the functioning of the SCs was going to be launched early 2014.

Members were also reminded to book tickets as soon as the invitation is received in order to limit costs.

6. On-going work

Update

The progress of the opinion on the 'potential risks to human health and the environment from the use of calcium cyanamide as fertiliser' was discussed, as well as the opinion reviewing the 'tolerable daily intake for chromium VI in toys'.

Update on closed public consultation

The Secretariat gave an update on the results of the public consultation on the opinion on the environmental risks and indirect health effects of mercury from dental amalgam. The public consultation was launched on 25 September and closed on 20 November. On 6 November a public hearing was held. Jan Linders briefed the members on the outcomes of the hearing. Comments received from public consultation have been sent to the chair and rapporteur of the WG for analysis. The final opinion will be discussed for possible adoption at the next plenary.

7. Joint Opinions/Participation of members in activities of other scientific bodies

Members were informed on the progress of the opinion on synthetic biology. The next meeting of the working group is scheduled on 4-5 February 2014.

8. New Mandates

No new mandates were received since the last plenary

9. Discussion on "Response to serious cross border threats to health"

Members were briefed on the outcome of the plenary Meeting of the Health Security Committee on 28/29 November 2013 on the implementation of the Decision on response to serious cross border threats to health. In this meeting it has been agreed to organise an exercise to test the quality and speed of the Scientific Committees to provide risk assessment.

Ms Rachel Duarte Davidson presented an initial framework for action and discussion on possible involvement of SCHER members on a future framework able to deliver rapid risk assessment. It was agreed that the Secretariat will further work with Ms Duarte to develop this initial framework.

10. Any other business

Next Plenary will be held in Luxembourg 28 February 2014.

Annex 1:

List of participants

Members of the SCHER

Alena Bartonova, Maria José Carroquino, Pim de Voogt, Raquel Duarte-Davidson, Teresa Fernandes, Jadwiga Gzyl, Renate Krätke, Jan Linders, Greet Schoeters

Apologies

Claire Beausoleil, Colin Janssen

SCHER Secretariat (DG SANCO)

Donata Meroni, Giulio Gallo, Marta Campo San Martin