



Scientific Advice Mechanism

Minutes of the ninth meeting of the High Level Group of Scientific Advisors

(Brussels, 5 September 2017)

Brussels, 27th September 2017

Minutes

Meeting of the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) High Level Group (HLG) of Scientific Advisors

5th September, 2017, Brussels

1. Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of previous meeting

The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the previous meeting (27th and 28th June, 2017, Copenhagen) had previously been adopted by written procedure and are available on the Scientific Advice Mechanism website (<https://ec.europa.eu/research/sam/>).

Commissioner Moedas thanked Cédric Villani for his considerable contribution to the HLG, wishing him well in the French Assemblée Nationale, and welcomed Paul Nurse.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was not held in public. The meeting took place in Brussels at the offices of the European Commission.

3. List of points discussed

- Information exchange SAM HLG and SAPEA

HLG members and SAPEA representatives discussed attendance at forthcoming events and candidate 'own-initiative' topics. Progress on ongoing topics was discussed and is summarised below. In the context of ongoing topics, and as SAPEA is now fully operational, the meeting confirmed the interactions of parties involved in the development of Evidence Reports (SAPEA) which inform the High Level Group's Opinions within the Scientific Advice Mechanism.

- Progress report on ongoing topics:

HLG members and SAPEA representatives were supported by the SAM secretariat in providing an update on progress with the topics *Food from the Oceans*, *Carbon Capture and Utilisation Technologies*, and *Authorisation processes of plant protection products in Europe*. A Food from the Oceans expert workshop will take place 14 September, where the two SAPEA working group Chairs will present their evidence review report for comment by experts selected on the basis of their practical and applied knowledge of the field. The intention remains to deliver the scientific opinion following a stakeholder meeting and various SAPEA outreach events, and before the end of 2017. A co-ordination group meeting for the Authorisation processes of plant protection products took place 30 and 31 August and reviewed progress in evidence review prior to the expert workshop, 26 October. The meeting confirmed that elements of 'question (b)' in the scoping paper relating to risk perception and risk acceptance will be examined in a workshop, December 2017, and that the scientific opinion will be delivered in February 2018.

Director General Jos Delbeke (Directorate General for Climate Action) welcomed the HLG's adoption of the Carbon Capture and Utilisation Technologies scoping paper,

also noting Commissioner Cañete's satisfaction with the HLG's previous work on 'Closing the gap between light duty vehicle CO₂ emissions and laboratory testing', and its importance in underpinning forthcoming legislative proposals. Following the adoption of the corresponding scoping paper at the previous HLG meeting, evidence collection has started for the topic, and will be reviewed at an expert workshop in January 2018, to be followed by a stakeholder meeting in February 2018. The intention remains to deliver the scientific opinion in April 2018.

- 'Own initiative' topics

The Chair instructed the SAM secretariat to prepare a draft scoping paper on the *robustness of evidence for policy making* for discussion at the next meeting.

- Information exchange between Regulatory Scrutiny Board and SAM HLG

Chair of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board Anne Bucher presented the RSB, the guarantor of the quality of legislative proposals and reviews in the European Commission, and in the context of the Better Regulation Agenda. The Chair described SAM activities.

- Discussion with European Parliament Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Bureau

STOA Bureau Chair Eva Kaili MEP presented STOA which provides the European Parliament's committees, and other Parliamentary bodies, with independent, high-quality and scientifically impartial studies and information for the assessment of the impact of the introduction or promotion of new technologies. The Chair described SAM activities and instructed the SAM secretariat regularly to exchange information with STOA bureau services.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

The meeting participants will continue to work on the *Carbon capture and utilisation technologies*; *Food from the Oceans* and *Authorisation processes of plant protection products* scientific opinions according to the timelines described above; as well as on the development of a scoping paper for the 'own initiative' topic related to the *robustness of evidence for policy making* topic. The SAM secretariat will exchange information with RSB and STOA bureau services, and will also present ideas for future RSB-SAM cooperation at the next SAM HLG meeting. The SAM secretariat will also submit candidate dates for 2018 HLG plenary meetings to the HLG.

5. Next steps

As above.

6. Next meeting

The next plenary meeting of the SAM HLG will take place 29th and 30th November, 2017

7. List of participants

Present:

Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Chair SAM HLG
Pearl Dykstra, Deputy Chair Sam HLG
Elvira Fortunato, Member SAM HLG
Carina Keskitalo, Member SAM HLG
Janusz Bujnicki, Member SAM HLG
Paul Nurse, Member SAM HLG
Cédric Villani, out-going Member SAM HLG

Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation
Keith Sequeira, Senior Adviser, Cabinet of European Commissioner Carlos Moedas

Eva Kaili MEP
Paul Rübzig MEP

Günter Stock, President, All European Academies (ALLEA)
Bernard Charpentier, President, Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM)
Yves Caristan, Secretary General Euro-CASE

Jos Delbeke, Director General, European Commission Directorate General for Climate Action
Anne Bucher, Chair, European Commission Regulatory Scrutiny Board
Wolfgang Burtscher, Deputy Director General, European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation
Johannes Klumpers, Head of Unit, SAM unit, European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation
Other staff from the SAM Unit; from the Directorate General for Climate Action; and SAPEA staff members.

Apologies:

Silvia Bartolini – Member of Cabinet of European Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete, Climate Action.