



**Minutes of the 37th plenary meeting of the
European Commission's Group of
Chief Scientific Advisors**

14-15 March 2023, Brussels

Brussels, 06 June 2023

Minutes

37th plenary meeting of the European Commission's Group of
Chief Scientific Advisors (GCSA)
14-15 March 2023, Brussels (hybrid)

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

The minutes of the 36th plenary meeting have been adopted by written procedure and published on the [scientific advice mechanism](#) (SAM) website.

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was held in Brussels in hybrid format and was closed to the public.

3. List of items discussed

Ongoing and possible future scientific advice

- Eric Lambin summarised progress on the scientific opinion '*Towards sustainable food consumption*'. He informed on the scheduled sounding board meeting (27 April), a meeting with policy Directorates-General and Commission services (4 May) and the stakeholders meeting (16 May). The Advisors discussed their draft policy recommendations. The scientific opinion is expected to be published in June 2023.
- The Advisors discussed possible candidate topics. Participants agreed on the organisation of scoping workshops for candidate topics.

Discussion with Antonio Loprieno and SAPEA representatives

The Advisors and the SAM unit updated the participants on progress on the opinion '*Towards sustainable food consumption*' and reported on the significant number of requests for scientific advice that the SAM received from various Directorates-General. Participants welcomed SAPEA's offer to organise scoping workshops for candidate topics and to broaden their services within the SAM. Participants discussed how to improve the acknowledgment of the voluntary contributions of experts.

Exchange on outreach activities and synergies

The SAM unit presented progress on the communication plan for the opinion '*Towards sustainable food consumption*' and proposed targeted audience mapping and possible related activities. The discussion focused on ways to further optimise communication and outreach activities both internally, within the Commission, and externally. For their activities, participants are further examining the use of written media outreach, social media, national newspapers, scientific journals, Op-Eds, etc.

The SAM unit informed the participants of the R&I days to take place in Brussels and Sofia on 25-26 October 2023. Its concept is still under development.

The SAM unit thanked the Advisors for their input to the discussion on the development of a European science for policy-making ecosystem and informed them that their input would be considered in the process of setting the frame of a policy debate ('Towards a European S4P ecosystem'). This includes the plenary of the European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC) on 20-22 June 2023, the hybrid conference on 10-11 October 2023 and council conclusions under the Spanish Presidency on 8 December 2023.

With the objective to deliver highest quality, useful and relevant scientific advice, participants discussed ways to collect feedback, including impact, on their scientific advice from Directorates-General one year after publication.

Next steps and conclusions/recommendations/opinions

- Sustainable food consumption team to continue work on the scientific opinion with likely publication date of 7 June 2023,tbc.
- SAM unit and SAPEA to continue work on the communication plan for the topic on '*Towards sustainable food consumption*' .
- SAPEA to organise scoping workshops for candidate topics.
- Advisors to continuously update their Declarations of Interest and submit to the SAM unit for scrutiny.
- Advisors to submit payment reimbursement requests within timeline to avoid refusal of payment.

4. Next meeting

The next plenary meeting of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors will take place on 4-5 July 2023 via Webex.

List of Participants

Group of Chief Scientific Advisors

Nicole Grobert, Chair, (excused);
Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Deputy Chair;
Éva Kondorosi, Member;
Maarja Kruusmaa, Member;
Alberto Melloni, Member;
Eric Lambin, Member;
Eva Zažímalová, Member.

Science Advice to Policy by European Academies (SAPEA)

Antonio Loprieno, President All European Academies (ALLEA), Chairman of SAPEA Board,
agenda point 3;
Rudolf Hielscher, SAPEA Coordinator, agenda point 3.

Observers

Jacek Kolanowski, Head of the Department of Molecular Probes and Pro-drugs and the
Center for High-throughput Screening Research at the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of
the Polish Academy of Science in Poznań, and standing delegate for the Polish Young
Academy; agenda point 3;
Helen Eenmaa, Researcher in Information Technology at the School of Law at the University
of Tartu, and standing delegate for the Estonian Young Academy of Sciences; agenda point 3.

Other participants (invited experts)

Janusz Bujnicki, Professor, Head of the Laboratory of Bioinformatics and Protein
Engineering, International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw, agenda point 2;
Carina Keskitalo, Professor of Political Science, Department of Geography and Economic
History, Umeå University, agenda point 2;
Rolf Heuer, former Director-General of CERN, President of the SESAME Council, agenda
point 2;
Pearl Dykstra, Professor of Sociology, Erasmus University in Rotterdam, agenda point 2.

European Commission

Gilles Laroche, DG RTD, Head of Unit 03 – Science Policy, Advice and Ethics (excused);
Jacques Verraes, DG RTD, Deputy Head of Unit 03 – Science Policy, Advice and Ethics;
Ingrid Zegers, DG RTD, Unit 03 – Science Policy, Advice and Ethics, SAM team leader;
Annabelle Ascher, DG RTD, Unit 03 – Science Policy, Advice and Ethics, Head of the
Secretariat of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors;
Additional members of the unit depending on topic discussion.