



## **Scientific Advice Mechanism**

### **Minutes of the first meeting of the High Level Group of Scientific Advisors**

***Friday 29 January, 2016, 09:15-16:30***

## **1. Welcome, introductions and expectations for the Group**

The Agenda of the meeting was adopted.

Commissioner Moedas underlined the strategic character of SAM for EU policies and gave his full support as Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation.

He underlined the establishment of the SAM Secretariat in DG Research and Innovation, the structured dialogue with EU academies and the wide scientific community, and his role to ensure an effective link with his fellow Commissioners and President Juncker.

The following points were discussed

- The SAM HLG Members agreed on the designation of Henrik Wegener and Elvira Fortunato as the Group's Chair and Deputy Chair respectively for the first 12 months period.
- The main role for SAM is Science for Policy and not Policy for Science.
- The role of SAM is to describe the scientific aspects associated to the various policy options without advocating for any specific option.
- The formulation of the questions to be addressed by SAM is one of the key issues. A good understanding of the policy context and the timing is needed.
- The advice provided by the SAM HLG needs to be accessible and useful for policy makers. They should be based on "state of the art" science and should mention uncertainties or contradictory views and evidence when they exist.
- The EU science academies, supported by a specific grant under Horizon 2020, will be a key provider of scientific evidence. Their inputs will be considered alongside other sources of scientific evidence, including the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. Independently of its origin, the SAM HLG should also identify and make use of the best knowledge available.
- While the role of the SAM HLG is to advise the Commission, appropriate interactions with the European Parliament and other EU level institutions should be explored.
- In line with their mandate, the Group should consider advising on overall improvements to scientific advisory systems across the Commission. This should not be an initial topic, but should be considered once the Group is well established.

## **2. Scientific advice on cybersecurity**

Vice-President Ansip provided an introduction and explained the opportunities and challenges of realising the Digital Single Market, and gave examples on cybersecurity challenges such as digital identities or encryption. He highlighted the complex nature of cybersecurity that affects citizens, companies and governments and explained that there are different ways to approach the question of trust.

Regarding the timetable, VP Ansip clarified that cybersecurity questions for the Commission will be on the Commission agenda for some time. The HLG discussed the question of trust, new technologies that may present new challenges and new solutions, and highlighted the need to focus the approach and agree on a realistic timetable, that will enable the HLG to provide timely advice for forthcoming initiatives.

The Group agreed that a scoping paper with focused questions and timings should be agreed and made publicly available as a basis for the work of the Group.

### **3. Scientific advice on closing the gap between light duty vehicles' real world CO2 emissions and laboratory testing**

Jos Delbeke, Director General of DG CLIMA, in his introduction pointed at the fact that greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector have not decreased over the last decades whereas emissions from other sectors have substantially been reduced. He explained that in the case of CO2 emissions the legislation has a very different character than in the case of NOx as the CO2 emissions limits do not apply to individual vehicles but to fleets.

The advice from the SAM HLG should look into the possibilities to reduce the gap between real world driving emissions and car type approval values. The advice is expected to present a scientifically sound analysis of the various options and should be delivered by October 2016.

The Group agreed to start work to provide scientific advice on closing the gap between light duty vehicles CO2 emissions and laboratory testing, within the requested timeframe. They agreed that a scoping paper defining the questions should be made publicly available as soon as possible.

#### **Lunch discussion**

During the lunch, the Group held an exploratory exchange on potential future topics, in line with their mandate to initiate topics. Potential ideas raised included:

- Migration treated in a holistic way, as a phenomenon to stay, considering economic, political, environmental and climate aspects and their impact in the society;
- Climate adaptation and climate mitigation as a consequence of the Paris decision. Is the existing technology enough for the scenario of a lower temperature increase (1.5° instead of 2.0°);
- Sustainable Development Goals and how they should be dealt with and incorporated in the EU policy making process;
- Changing landscape of climate risk with a particular focus on food and water security;
- Cloud computing and the strong dependency of Europe in relation to the US;
- Information sharing and open access to publications;
- Transfer of technology: openness and protectionism;
- Higher Education and the attractiveness of the best minds to Europe, the problem of brain drain;
- Inequality in the research systems in Europe;
- The role of twinning schemes and the need for capacity building in research systems.

It was agreed that these ideas need further reflection, including an assessment to ensure that there is no duplication with other advisory activities.

### **4. Roles and relations of the Group**

The Rules of Procedures of the SAM HLG were discussed. It was emphasised that SAM HLG members need to make a clear distinction between addressing the media in their personal capacity and in their capacity as a member of the HLG.

It was agreed that the Rules of Procedures should be adopted by written procedure following the meeting to include comments made by the HLG members.

## **5. Planning of activities, including work on first topics**

- Minutes of the meeting, Rules of Procedures and scoping papers will be published on the EC SAM website as soon as they are finalised.
- On the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions topic, an early meeting will be organised between the SAM HLG (participants to be decided) and JRC scientists specialised in this area, given the JRC's leading competences in this field.
- The Group will further reflect on its working methods, to ensure timely and effective identification of key scientific expertise in the topics and methods to engage with the scientific community.
- As needed, the Group members may meet in smaller working groups.

Video conferencing should be explored for some working meetings.

- It was considered valuable to invite representatives of the European networks of academies to the next meeting, and to request inputs from these networks for the topics.
- The next HLG plenary meeting will take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016, in Brussels, with precise timing and content to be determined by the SAM secretariat.

Present:

- Henrik-Caspar Wegener, Chair of the SAM HLG
- Elvira Fortunato, Deputy Chair of the SAM HLG
- Cédric Villani, Member SAM HLG
- Dame Julia Slingo, Member SAM HLG
- Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Member SAM HLG
- Pearl Dykstra, Member Sam HLG
- Janusz Bujnicki, Member SAM HLG
- Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation
- Antonio Vicente, Head of Cabinet, Commissioner Moedas
- Keith Sequeira, Cabinet Commissioner Moedas
- Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General, DG RTD
- Johannes Klumpers, Head of Unit, SAM unit
- José Jiménez Mingo, Secretary of the SAM HLG
- Maria da Graça Carvalho, SAM unit
  
- **Scientific Advice on cybersecurity**
  - Andrus Ansip, Vice-President for the Digital Single Market
  - Viviane Loonely, Cabinet Vice-President Ansip
  - Kilian Gross, Cabinet Commissioner Oettinger
  - Paul Timmers, Director, DG CNECT
  - Iphigenia Pottaki, SAM unit
  
- **Scientific advice on closing the gap between light duty vehicles' real world CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and laboratory testing**
  - Silvia Bartoli, Cabinet Commissioner Cañete
  - Jos Delbeke, Director-General DG CLIMA
  - Alexandre Paquot, Head of Unit, DG CLIMA

(**For Lunch debate:** Antoine Kasel, Cabinet President Juncker)

- **Roles and relations of the Group**
  - Lucia Caudet, DG COMM, Spokesperson
  - Jeremy Bray, Deputy Head of Unit, SAM unit