

Scientific Advice Mechanism High Level Group of Scientific Advisors

IDENTIFICATION COMMITTEE - STATEMENT ON METHODOLOGY

1. Introduction

The members of the Scientific Advice Mechanism High Level Group of scientific advisors (SAM HLG) are appointed by the European Commission on the basis of a search process carried out by an independent Identification Committee. The Identification Committee carries out its work independently and transparently.

The current identification process relates to the appointment of SAM HLG members who will come into office in autumn 2015. The consultation exercise will contribute to this and possibly future identification processes. The Committee is publishing this methodology that it will adopt for this consultation, which draws on the approach followed by the European Research Council Scientific Council Identification Committee.

2. Consultation of the research and scientific policy community

The Committee intends to create a pool of possible candidates for SAM HLG membership covering all fields of science relevant for EU policy making. It is envisaged that the pool will be updated in order to provide candidates for future renewal of the HLG, including potential retirements or resignations.

The Committee considers it should actively consult the main organisations representative of the various segments of the research and scientific policy community at European level (see below). The consultation will be done by means of a letter from the Committee to the President of each organisation.

The consultation will not necessarily be the exclusive source of candidates. It will be open to other interested representative organisations of the research and scientific policy community and the members of the Committee themselves to suggest other possible candidates. However, self-nominations will not be considered. All candidates, regardless of source of nomination would be considered by the Committee using the same process as described in Section 4.

3. Factors and criteria to be taken into account

The Committee considers that the factors and criteria for identification of SAM HLG members are as follows:

The composition of the SAM HLG must demonstrate that it can provide scientific advice for European Commission policy decisions which is authoritative and absolutely independent, combining wisdom and experience with vision and imagination. The credibility of the HLG will be built on the balance of qualities amongst the men and women who make it up, and they should collectively reflect the breadth of the research community across Europe. Members of the SAM HLG must individually have an undisputed reputation as research leaders and for their independence and commitment to research. Generally, they must be

current or recent research practitioners, as well as those who have exercised scientific and policy leadership at European or world level. Consideration should also be given to younger next-generation leaders.

Members must reflect the broad disciplinary scope of research, embracing the natural sciences, medicine and engineering, as well as the social sciences, economics, and the humanities. However, they should not be considered as representatives of a discipline or of a particular line of research and should not perceive themselves as such; they should have a broad vision which collectively reflects an understanding of important developments in research, including inter- and multi-disciplinary research, and the needs for scientific advice for policy at European level.

Beyond their proven reputation as scientists and researchers, the membership should collectively bring experience in providing scientific advice to policy makers, acquired across a broad range of EU Member States, and at European and international levels. This could include experience in areas such as the public communication of science, data analytics and visualisation, involvement in legislative processes, studies of scientific advisory systems, and the wider political context in which the SAM HLG is situated.

The membership should reflect the range of scientific institutions which provide policy relevant advice; it should include those with experience in advisory councils and committees, government scientific advisors, academies of science and learned societies, universities and research institutes, for example. Members who have gained experience in more than one country could be valuable to the HLG, and some members may be drawn from outside Europe.

A balance between men and women shall be sought.

4. Methodology

To draw up the list of candidates, the organisations consulted (and others who wish to nominate individuals) will be asked to provide suggestions of persons who in their estimation:

- have the highest eminence as scientific leaders and the qualifications and experience reflecting the criteria set out above;
- are available and willing to work as a member of the SAM HLG independently of any other interest, and
- would be expected to have the trust and confidence of the scientific community and of policy makers.

The Committee will regard the names and personal details of candidates as confidential. The committee will only consider candidacies that will be accompanied by a short statement by the nominating organisation regarding the qualifications and broader profile of each candidate, adequate for it to make an informed judgement. This would be expected to include:

- A synopsis of the candidate's background and curriculum vitae;

- Relevant professional experience (e.g. universities, scientific institutions, business, government, etc., indicating also any administrative or scientific advice to policy experience);
- Major publications and other significant works and prizes;
- Broader aspects of the candidate as appropriate (e.g. country of residence, experience abroad, nationality).

It is recommended to use the attached template in order to provide information about the qualifications of the proposed candidates.

The Committee recognises that the availability of persons to participate in the SAM HLG will be affected by the precise duties of the latter. It should be noted that the SAM HLG is expected to meet at least 6 times per year for 1 day meetings which are held normally in Brussels or other European cities and are conducted in the English language. The maximum number of days per year HLG Members are expected to devote to these tasks is up to 40 working days (including meetings and remote work). In the case of the chair-person and deputy chair-person the maximum number of days is up to 60 working days.

While nominations of individual candidates would not be any guarantee of selection, the Committee would expect that the nominating bodies would establish the willingness of candidates to serve before their names were forwarded to it.

5. Main representative organisations to be consulted

- EASAC (European Academies' Science Advisory Council)
- EUROCASE (The European Council of Applied Sciences and Engineering)
- ALLEA (All European Academies)
- FEAM (Federation of the European Academies of Medicines)
- Academia Europaea (organisation representing individual scientists and scholars)
- Young academy of Europe
- Business Europe
- EARTO (European Association of Research and Technology Organisations)
- EIRMA (European Industrial Research Management Association).
- ESF (European Science Foundation)
- EUA (European University Association)
- SCIENCE EUROPE (Association of European Research Funding Organisations and Research Performing Organisations)
- LERU (League of European Research Universities)

These organisations will be invited to submit nominations. At the same they will also be asked to invite their respective national affiliates to submit their application directly in order to simplify the process. The Committee also welcomes other interested representative organisations of the scientific community to put forward high level nominations during the same period of consultation. The consultation exercise will be publically announced through

our website <http://ec.europa.eu/sam> inviting other groups representing European research to submit their nominations.

6. Provisional timetable for the further work of the Committee

The provisional schedule for the next stages of the Committee's work is as follows:

- July 2015 – consultation letters sent to representative organisations
- 10 September 2015 – Deadline for receipt of proposed candidates and relevant information
- September / Mid October 2015 - evaluation of candidates / assessment of availability
- October 2015 – confidential proposal to the European Commission and report of the Identification Committee

7. Electronic address for the consultation

Organisations should send the nominations to the following electronic address:

EC-SAM@ec.europa.eu