



European  
Commission

# **Identification Committee for the High Level Group of scientific advisors under the new Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM)**

*Main elements of the Terms of Reference*

## **MAIN TASK, PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE**

The Identification Committee will assist the European Commission in

- Defining the factors and criteria for the identification of HLG members in line with the objectives of the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM);
- Identifying and selecting potential members of the HLG as well as assessing their availability and willingness to serve as members.

## **CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE HLG OF THE NEW SAM**

In order to further strengthen the use of independent scientific advice to policy making, and in accordance with the general objectives of Horizon 2020, the Commission intends to set up a new mechanism to better bring together the supply and demand for independent scientific advice in Europe. The mechanism will have two main new features:

- Establishment of a High Level Group of scientific advisors (HLG) to improve the interaction between policy demand and the supply of scientific advice, and to ensure the independence, scientific integrity and transparency of the advice provided to the Commission.
- A close relationship with scientific advisory bodies in the Commission services, within the Member States and more widely.

Based on policy demands from the Commission or on its own initiative, the High Level Group will identify the available sources of scientific advice in the short, medium and long term; review the quality of the available evidence and insight; and if necessary complement this with alternative expertise or sources of advice. The High Level Group shall also provide direct views on specific scientific questions where urgent advice is needed. It will seek to deliver its input to the Commission in the form of well-justified scientific insight and evidence, which will be made public subject to the authorisation of the Commission.

The Group is foreseen to comprise seven members with high level expertise covering different scientific fields and, as far as possible, respecting geographical diversity. Gender balance will be respected. The selection of the members of the Group shall be carried out in such a way as to avoid any conflict of interests. They should serve in their personal capacity and act in the public interest. The completion of their tasks will remain independent of the Commission and of any other organisation. The High Level Group will be supported by a dedicated unit in DG Research and Innovation.

The new Scientific Advice Mechanism – including the HLG, the close relationship with European academies and other scientific advisory bodies, and the support unit – should be operational in autumn 2015.

## **TASKS OF THE IDENTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

In order to identify the best possible candidates for this new High Level Group, an Identification Committee will be established.

The Identification Committee will be made up of three members who will allocate the tasks between them with the full support of a secretariat provided by the European Commission, DG Research and Innovation. Given the small size of the Committee, no chair will be appointed.

## SAM Identification Committee - Terms of Reference

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The Identification Committee will start its work in July 2015 and complete its tasks by end of October 2015.

The indicative timetable is:

- *6th July 2015*: first meeting to discuss the context of the Scientific Advice Mechanism, the factors and criteria to be taken into account for the identification of HLG members in line with the HLG terms of reference, the working methods including the identification methodology and the timing.
- *July/ September*: conduct of search process, which depending on the views of the Committee could include a consultation with the main organisations in the field, an open invitation for other representative organisations to suggest possible candidates, suggestions from the Committee itself, or other approaches.
- *25th September*: second meeting to select a list of potential candidates and, if needed, identify any further actions to search for additional candidates.
- *September/Mid October*: assessing potential availability and willingness of listed candidates to serve as members of the HLG.
- *16th October*: final meeting to decide on the list of candidates to be proposed to the Commission, together with a small number of reserve candidates.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

Members of the Identification Committee will be reimbursed for expenses (travel, daily allowance and accommodation allowance) in accordance with the Commission Decision C(2007)5858 of 5 December 2007 and will receive a fee for the three days in Brussels and for up to 10 days work outside Brussels. They will be assisted by a secretariat provided by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation.

### **NAMES OF IDENTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The members of the Identification Committee have been selected on the basis of their collective knowledge and experience of: the use of scientific advice in policy decisions at national, European and international levels; European policy making processes in different policy fields; and their knowledge of the relevant scientific communities.

The Members are:

- Sir David King;
- Ms. Rianne Letschert;
- Mr. Antonio Vitorino.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

The members of the Identification Committee, in accordance with the standard European Commission rules, must treat confidentially any information and documents, in any form, disclosed in writing or orally in relation to the performance of their tasks. The Committee members agree that their names will be made publicly available by the European Commission, together with appropriate information about the Committee's work.