



Scientific Advice Mechanism

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

(Brussels 28 September 2016)

0. Adoption of agenda

The Agenda of the meeting was adopted. The group took note that Commissioner Moedas would join the HLG for lunch in addition to the agenda items foreseen.

1. SAM HLG discussion on on-going topics

1.a. Real-world CO₂ emission testing for Light Duty Vehicles

Henrik Wegener and Julia Slingo presented the status of the work to the other HLG members and a first draft of the HLG scientific opinion was discussed. Everything was considered to be on schedule to finalise the opinion by the end of October 2016. The members of the HLG will still have to draft the missing elements: introduction, conclusions and the executive summary. The group agreed that the best term to describe the final scientific advice to be delivered is "Scientific Opinion". Discussions with Commissioner Cañete and Commissioner Moedas continued under agenda point 4.

1.b. Cybersecurity

Rolf Heuer, Pearl Dykstra, Janusz Bujnicki and Cedric Villani presented the status of the work. The next step is a workshop on Secure Digital Identities for the Digital Single Market in Europe that will take place on 25-26 October in Vilnius (Lithuania). The workshop will be a fundamental milestone in helping to fix the specific questions on which to focus and in gathering evidence that will lead to the HLG Scientific Opinion in 2017.

2. HLG discussion on new topics agreed at previous HLG meeting on 25 July 2016

The SAM secretariat presented the status of discussions with DG SANTE (EC Directorate General for Health and Food Safety) which led to a draft scoping paper on "New techniques in agricultural biotechnology" replacing the previous title: "New breeding techniques". The HLG discussed its content and the approach to be followed to produce the explanatory note focussing on key characteristics of the various new techniques and the comparison with current techniques of genetic modification and conventional breeding techniques. The request for a full opinion on scientific needs and gaps and forward-looking investigation was also discussed.

The discussions with EC services have not yet led to the production of a scoping paper on the request for scientific advice to support the forthcoming evaluation of pesticides legislation. Discussions with Commissioner Andriukaitis and Commissioner Moedas continued under agenda item 5.

3. Potential future topics based on the political agenda of the EC

The HLG welcomed the new request for scientific advice from Commissioner Vella and the draft scoping paper produced by EC services "Food from the oceans". The networks of European Academies, through the forthcoming SAPEA grant, were identified as a potential key player in the elaboration of the HLG Scientific Opinion.

Working Lunch

The lunch provided an opportunity for an exchange of views between the HLG members and Commissioner Moedas on the progress achieved on the first topics and on the growing demand for scientific advice from the College. The involvement of the HLG on new bottom-up topics will be decided by the group taking into account the evolution of their workload.

4. Draft opinion on CO₂ vehicle emissions

After a short welcome by Commission Moedas and introduction by Commissioner Cañete, Henrik Wegener and Julia Slingo presented how the SAM HLG had collected and assessed evidence on this topic and their main emerging findings. Commissioner Cañete had a number of points for clarification about the findings. He thanked the HLG members for their work and confirmed its relevance for the Commission's policy considerations in this area. It was agreed that the HLG should finalise their report within the coming weeks, including a summary of their scientific opinion on the questions posed.

5. Discussion on progress of new HLG opinion on pesticides and new breeding techniques

Commissioner Andriukaitis briefly introduced the two requests for scientific advice submitted to the HLG. Henrik Wegener and Janusz Bujnicki presented the HLG views on a draft scoping paper on "New techniques in agricultural biotechnology" which followed the initial discussion at the previous HLG meeting. The request for an explanatory note dealing with "Key characteristics of the various new techniques and the comparison with established techniques" was accepted by the SAM HLG with some clarifications. The explanatory note will build upon the existing material produced in this area, in particular by the European Academies. It was agreed that potential further work in this area would be discussed at a later stage once the work on the explanatory note has progressed.

Commissioner Andriukaitis briefly introduced his request for advice to support the forthcoming evaluation of pesticides legislation. A scoping paper is under preparation by the EC services for discussion with the SAM HLG.

6. Working modalities between SAM HLG and the European Networks of Academies

Once the SAPEA grant agreement between the European Networks of Academies and the European Commission is signed, the European Academies are expected to make a significant contribution to the work of the EC Scientific Advice Mechanism. Among the new topics currently discussed by the SAM HLG, the "Food from oceans" and the "New techniques in agricultural biotechnology" were identified by the SAM HLG as the first examples to be discussed in the frame of the SAPEA grant.

7. SAM HLG activities planning

The SAM secretariat will proceed with the organisation of the meetings in 2017 by sending a tentative list of meetings to find the most suitable dates to allow for the maximum possible participation of HLG members. This will include four main official meetings and two informal working meetings. Meetings will have duration of one and a half days (starting with the next meeting in November 24th-25th). In addition to the HLG plenary meetings, HLG members expect that the number of ad-hoc working meetings will grow significantly in connection with the increasing need for scientific advice and the corresponding number of HLG opinions being worked on.

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

Present:

- Henrik-Caspar Wegener, Chair of the SAM HLG
- Cédric Villani, Member SAM HLG
- 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
- Keith Sequeira, Cabinet Commissioner Moedas
- Johannes Klumpers, Head of Unit, SAM unit
- José Jiménez Mingo, Secretary of the SAM HLG
- Other members of the SAM Unit

Excused:

- Elvira Fortunato, Deputy Chair of the SAM HLG

Invited participants:

Draft opinion on CO2 vehicle emissions:

- Commissioner Cañete
- Silvia Bartolini, Cabinet Cañete
- Carsten Bermig, Cabinet Bienkowska
- Alexandre Paquot, DG CLIMA
- Cosmin Codrea, DG CLIMA
- Alessandro Marotta, DG GROW

Discussion on progress of new HLG opinion on pesticides and new breeding techniques

- Commissioner Andriukaitis
- Nathalie Chaze, Cabinet Andriukaitis
- Chantal Bruetschy, DG SANTE
- Sabine Juelicher, DG SANTE