



Scientific Advice Mechanism

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

Wednesday, 16 March, 18:00 – 20:00

Thursday, 17 March, 09:00 – 17:00

0. Adoption of agenda

The Agenda of the meeting was adopted.

1. Working methods of the Group and discussion on future topics

Five members (Henrik Wegener, chair, Elvira Fortunato, deputy chair, Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Pearl Dykstra and Janusz Bujnicki) discussed the group's working methods. Robert Jan Smits (Director General, DG Research and Innovation) attended part of the meeting. Johannes Klumpers (Head of Unit, SAM) and other members of the SAM secretariat were present.

In their discussion of their working procedures, the High Level Group (HLG) committed only to use publicly available information as scientific input for their deliberations. Peer reviewed scientific papers will be preferred but other sources may be also considered. For the preparation of the first two topics on which its scientific advice has been requested, the members will form subgroups, each of which will have a rapporteur:

CO₂: Elivra Fortunato (rapporteur), Henrik Wegener, Julia Slingo

Cybersecurity: Rolf Heuer (rapporteur), Janusz Bujnicki, Pearl Dykstra, Cédric Villani; Henrik Wegener.

The HLG also discussed topics which it may bring to the attention of the Commission, in line with its mandate, including those which were discussed during the first HLG meeting. The HLG agreed that topics concerning 'policy for science' should not be retained. The HLG requested support from the SAM secretariat to identify policies under development or revision which might benefit from scientific advice.

2&3. Work plans for preparing scientific advice on topics on real-world CO₂ emission testing for Light Duty Vehicles and on Cybersecurity, and Progress report to Commissioner Moedas on first topics and next steps.

The Chair recalled progress on the two topics of "Closing the gap between light duty vehicle real-world CO₂ emissions and laboratory testing" and "cybersecurity".

In particular he noted that scoping papers have been adopted and published by the HLG, and that the process of evidence gathering is ongoing for both topics. This entails an ongoing review of the scientific literature and of stakeholder reports of relevance, and a fact-finding visit to JRC in Ispra (IT), 4th March, which included a visit to the Vehicle Emissions Laboratories.

Next steps will include further consultation with the scientific community, including European academies and the organisation of workshops with invited experts in the field in May/June for the 'CO₂' topic, and in September for cybersecurity. Output from the 'CO₂' workshop will be discussed at the next HLG meeting in Manchester, UK, 25th July 2016, with a final HLG opinion to be delivered in October 2016. The cybersecurity opinion is to be delivered in early 2017. The Chair noted that the broader scope of the cybersecurity topic has necessarily entailed a later report delivery date. Progress has however been made in narrowing the focus of the activity with the question of Digital Identities for a Digital Single Market being the focus of the HLG Report. Issues such as encryption, trust, multidimensionality and risk will be viewed through this lens. The Commissioner welcomed the progress being made on the first two topics.

4. Relations between SAM and Joint Research Centre (JRC)

Commissioner Moedas and the Chair welcomed Commissioner Navracsics and the Director-General of DG JRC Vladimír Šucha. Commissioner Navracsics and Director-General Šucha underlined the importance of SAM and stressed that the JRC is ready to support the HLG whether through the provision of briefings or experts, the facilitation of contacts, or the organisation of visits to JRC sites. The Chair of the HLG thanked the JRC for their organisation of a recent visit to the JRC site in Ispra, which provided very useful insights into JRC work on the two topics with which the HLG has been tasked.

Commissioner Navracsics also indicated that the JRC can provide ideas on future topics upon which the HLG could focus, given that the JRC has a good overview of the evidence needs of the Commission, including possible future needs that are informed by the JRC's foresight activities.

5. Relations between SAM and EU academies (includes discussion over lunch)

A discussion took place over lunch and under agenda item 5 on the future co-operation between the EU academies and SAM. Commissioner Moedas stressed the key role of the Academies providing independent, comprehensive and high quality input to the process. Jos van der Meer (President EASAC) gave a statement on behalf of the Academies in which he underlined the enthusiasm that the Academies have for cooperation with SAM as a means for ensuring scientific input to the policy making processes in Europe. He also confirmed that the Academies will provide support for SAM in the work on the first two topics.

Commissioner Moedas emphasised the importance that the Commission attaches to the independence of the Academies both when working on topics identified by SAM and of course when working on topics of their own choosing. He added that the SAM can help increase the visibility of the Academies' scientific advice to policy makers. The chair emphasised the benefits of the co-operation in terms of the Academies reaching beyond the national level, while at the same time reinforcing the role of the national academies, and ensuring the dissemination of their activities throughout Europe.

Agenda item 5 also saw a discussion of practical working arrangements, including the need for iterative exchanges between SAM secretariat, the HLG and the Academies during the process of evidence and advice provision.

6. AOB

The next HLG meeting will be held in Manchester on July 25th, in conjunction with the 2016 European Science Open Forum (ESOF) meeting.

The Group were informed about the nomination of national science advisors by Member States and it was suggested to have a first meeting with this network of Member State advisors in conjunction with one of the next meetings of SAM.

The HLG briefly discussed the scientific advice for the regulatory assessment of glyphosate used in plant protection products. It was noted that the role of SAM is not to duplicate existing scientific advisory systems, but broader issues of such advisory systems could be considered. The HLG undertook to provide a short explanatory note on the situation and asked Commissioner Moedas to be informed on further developments.

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Present:

- Henrik-Caspar Wegener, Chair of the SAM HLG
- Elvira Fortunato, Deputy 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
- Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General, DG RTD
- Wolfgang Burtscher, Deputy Director-General
- Johannes Klumpers, Head of Unit, SAM unit
- Jeremy Bray, Deputy Head of Unit, SAM unit
- José Jiménez Mingo, Secretary of the SAM HLG
- Other members of the SAM Unit

Scientific Advice on "cybersecurity" and "closing the gap between light duty vehicles' real world CO₂ emissions and laboratory testing"

- Laure Chapuis, Cabinet Vice-President Ansip
- Kitti Nyitrai, Cabinet Cañete
- Kilian Gross, Cabinet Commissioner Oettinger
- Paul Timmers, Director, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology
- Cosmin Codrea, Directorate-General for Climate Action

Relations between SAM and JRC

- Commissioner Navracsics
- Patricia Reilly, Cabinet Navracsics
- Vladimir Šucha, Director-General, Joint Research Centre

For Lunch debate and Relations between SAM and the EU academies

- Françoise Meunier, Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM)
- Reinhard Hüttl, European Council of Academies of Applied Sciences, Technologies and Engineering (Euro-CASE)
- Jos van der Meer, European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC)
- Sierd Cloetingh, Academia Europaea
- Günter Stock, All European Academies (ALLEA)