



Scientific Advice Mechanism

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

(Copenhagen 27 and 28 June 2017)

Brussels, 10th July 2017

Minutes

Meeting of the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) High Level Group (HLG) of Scientific Advisors

27 and 28 June, 2017, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

1. Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of previous meeting

The agenda was adopted with the Chair noting an additional item to be taken under 'any other business'. The minutes of the previous meeting (23rd and 24th March, 2017, Brussels) had previously been adopted by written procedure and are available on the Scientific Advice Mechanism website (<https://ec.europa.eu/research/sam/>).

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was not held in public. The meeting took place in Copenhagen in order to allow the Chair to participate in a panel discussion at the 4th European Conference of Science Journalists, and the HLG members attending to participate in a press briefing session at the same event.

3. List of points discussed

- Progress report on ongoing topics:

HLG members and SAPEA representatives were supported by the SAM secretariat in providing an update on progress with the topics *Food from the Oceans* and *Authorisation processes of plant protection products in Europe*. The two SAPEA working groups tasked with providing an overview of the scientific evidence of relevance to the *Food from the Oceans* questions have now met three times. An expert workshop is envisaged which will provide a bridge between the evidence review stage and the HLG's scientific opinion. A public outreach event, organised by SAPEA in Bergen, Norway, in June was well attended and will be followed by similar events in Cardiff, UK; Hamburg, Germany; and Lisbon, Portugal. The intention remains to deliver the scientific opinion before the end of 2017.

A first meeting of the *Authorisation processes of plant protection products in Europe* steering group took place in June in Brussels. An expert workshop is also envisaged, as is a stakeholder workshop prior to adoption of the scientific opinion. The intention remains to deliver the scientific opinion before December 2017. The meeting confirmed the statement in the minutes of the previous meeting, that question (b) in the corresponding scoping paper will only be addressed if time and an appropriate form of evidence interrogation and consultation permits.

- Adoption of the Carbon Capture and Usage scoping paper

The meeting confirmed the adoption of the *Carbon Capture and Usage* (CCU) scoping paper and will deliver a scientific opinion by the end of April 2018. The scoping paper will be made available on the Scientific Advice Mechanism website at the same time as these minutes.

- Update on scientific advice previously issued by the SAM HLG

The SAM secretariat advised the meeting of media citations of scientific advice previously issued by the HLG, related to *Closing the gap between light-duty vehicle real-world CO₂ emissions and laboratory testing*; *Glyphosate*; *Cybersecurity in the European Digital Single Market* and *New techniques in agricultural biotechnology*.

The meeting was also advised that the 'CO₂' scientific opinion is being used by the European Commission in the preparation of post-2020 vehicular CO₂ emissions regulation; that the 'Cybersecurity' scientific opinion contributes to the European Commission's Digital Single Market mid-term review and the review of the cybersecurity strategy; and that the 'agricultural biotechnology' explanatory note will be presented at a European Commission organised high-level conference 'Modern biotechnologies in agriculture – paving the way for responsible innovation', to be held in Brussels, 28th September 2017.

- SAM HLG activity planning

The SAM secretariat informed the meeting that the joint HLG-SAPEA proposals to organise sessions at the 2018 Euro-science Open Forum (ESOF) conference, Toulouse, France, have been submitted.

- Own initiative topics

The meeting recalled prior discussions between the HLG and SAPEA concerning the development of 'own initiative' topics. These are candidate subjects for the provision of scientific advice to the College of European Commissioners which will be proposed to the Commissioner for Science, Research and Innovation, in line with article 2(b) of the Commission Decision establishing the SAM HLG.

Two potential topics were discussed in broad terms, related to the *robustness of evidence for policy making* and *the future of work, artificial intelligence and man-machine interaction*. Meeting attendees will further develop these ideas for continued discussion at the next meeting of the SAM HLG.

- AOB

The Chair announced the election of SAM HLG member Cédric Villani to the French Assemblée Nationale, and accepted his apologies for absence. The Chair congratulated Cédric, warmly thanking him for his considerable contribution to the work of the group. The Chair noted Cédric's intention to step down from the HLG, recently communicated to the Commissioner for Science, Research and Innovation, and suggested that Cédric participates for the final time in the next High Level Group meeting. The meeting was advised of the Commissioner's intention to contact one of the HLG reserve list members in the near future.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

The meeting adopted the *Carbon capture and usage* scoping paper; committed to the further development of 'own initiative topics' for discussion at the next SAM HLG meeting; and welcomed progress with the ongoing topics. Every effort will be made to ensure that a new member of the HLG is appointed in time for the next HLG meeting in September.

5. Next steps

The meeting participants committed to start work on the development of the *Carbon capture and usage* scientific opinion; to hold the *Food from the Oceans* expert and stakeholder workshops in September and November, respectively; and to hold the *Authorisation processes of plant protection products in Europe* expert workshop in August, and the stakeholder event in October.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting of the SAM HLG will take place in Brussels, September 5th.

7. List of participants

Present:

27 June

- Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Chair SAM HLG
- Pearl Dykstra, Deputy Chair Sam HLG
- Elvira Fortunato, Member SAM HLG
- Carina Keskitalo, Member SAM HLG
- Janusz Bujnicki, Member SAM HLG
- Paul Nurse, Member SAM HLG participated at the end of the meeting by telephone
- Johannes Klumpers, Head of Unit, SAM unit, DG RTD, EC
- Other members of the SAM Unit

28 June

- As above

Excused:

- Paul Nurse (except see above), Cédric Villani (both days)

Invited participants:

Agenda item 3

- Bernard Charpentier, President, Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM)
- Günter Stock, President, All European Academies (ALLEA)
- Rudolf Hielscher, Coordinator of the project "Science Advice for Policy by European Academies" (SAPEA)
- Ole Petersen, Vice President Academia Europaea; Member of EASAC Biosciences Steering Panel
- Yves Caristan, Secretary General Euro-CASE
- Laura Norton, SAPEA Head of Communications