



**Minutes of the 35th plenary meeting of the
European Commission's Group of
Chief Scientific Advisors**

11-12 October 2022, Brussels (in hybrid format)

Brussels, 01 December 2022

Minutes

35th plenary meeting of the European Commission's Group of
Chief Scientific Advisors (GCSA)
11-12 October 2022, Brussels (in hybrid format)

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

The minutes of the 34th plenary meeting have been adopted by written procedure and published on the [scientific advice mechanism](#) (SAM) website.

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was held in Brussels (and in hybrid format). It was closed to the public.

3. List of items discussed

Ongoing and possible future scientific advice

- Eric Lambin summarised progress on the scientific opinion on '*Towards sustainable food consumption*'. Participants agreed on the need for a systemic view, focus on consumers and clear and actionable recommendations. June 2023 was agreed as date for publication of the opinion.
- Maarja Kruusmaa summarised progress on the near-final scientific opinion on '*Strategic crisis management in the EU*'. A sounding board and a stakeholder meeting took place on 6 July and 30 September 2022, respectively. The handover of the three products on crisis management – GCSA's scientific opinion, SAPEA's Evidence Review Report and EGE's statement on values in times of crisis - to Commissioners Gabriel (Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth) and Janez Lenarčič (Crisis Management in the EU) is planned for 22 November 2022 in Strasbourg at the occasion of the European Parliament's plenary.
- The Advisors discussed possible candidate topics, which are still in early stage.

Exchange with Barbara Prainsack, Chair of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies

Maarja Kruusmaa and Eric Lambin briefly summarised the work of SAM and their latest scientific opinions. Barbara Prainsack thanked the Advisors for the excellent collaboration and updated the participants on EGE's current work, including their statement on 'Ethics of democracy in the digital age' (working title). Participants emphasised a high degree of complementarity between the work of the EGE and that of the GCSA by virtue of a combined evidence and a value base, which form a holistic view.

Participants discussed candidate topics and the potential role of ethics therein. The ensuing discussion revealed common interests in democracy and values, the digital age, the role of AI in a democracy and the notion of human rights.

Both chairs agreed on the importance of dissemination and outreach. In this context, both advisory groups are preparing the handover of the three products on crisis management - GCSA's scientific opinion, SAPEA's Evidence Review Report and EGE's statement on values in times of crisis. In addition they plan to use respective contacts in the GCSA, SAPEA and EGE members' countries and beyond to raise awareness of policy makers. They will continue to update each other on their current and future work, to explore areas of common interest further and to discuss potential opportunities for synergies.

Discussion with Antonio Loprieno and SAPEA representatives

Nebojsa Nakicenovic and the SAM unit updated the participants on the progress on the opinion on '*Strategic crisis management in the EU*' and on the opinion '*Towards sustainable food consumption*'. Participants agreed on the importance of effective follow-up with targeted audiences and events. Antonio Loprieno informed the meeting about SAPEA's ongoing work on the topic of '*Towards sustainable food consumption*' and on communication plans for the topic of '*Strategic crisis management in the EU*'. In the ensuing discussion on impact, Rudi Hielscher informed about SAPEA's work on bibliographic impact (citations of SAPEA Evidence Review Reports and Scientific Opinions in the scientific literature and policy documents) inviting joint follow-up by SAPEA and the SAM unit.

The SAM unit informed about the ongoing discussion on candidate topics, which require more time to reach maturity before any work for scientific advice could begin.

Outreach and synergies

The discussion focussed on ways to optimise communication and outreach activities. Participants discussed how to strengthen the SAM brand and visual identity, develop a targeted communication strategy for SAM and a communication plan per topic and target group with the scientific opinion on '*Strategic crisis management in the EU*' serving as a pilot. For their activities, they considered making use of written media outreach, social media, national newspapers, scientific journals, multipliers and vectors, etc.

Exchange on Staff Working Document on 'Supporting and Connecting Policymaking in the EU and Member States with Scientific Research'

Jacques Verraes, Kristian Krieger and Alessandro Allegra presented an overview of the [staff working document \(SWD\) 'Supporting and connecting policymaking in Member States with scientific research'](#). Its purpose, they explained, was to promote and inform discussion and policy development around the use of science in informing policymaking (S4P) in the Member States. In the ensuing discussion, the Advisors were invited to reflect on their position in the S4P ecosystem; their possible role (individually and collectively as GCSA) in their respective Member States to support the development of a S4P ecosystem; and on ways that the GCSA could be ambassadors for S4P. They announced plans for a presentation of the SWD on 26 October 2022 by DG JRC, DG RTD and DG REFORM ([see launch event](#)); for the launch of a

technical support instrument for 7 Member States on 8 November 2022 ([see project kick-off event](#)); for a debate at the Competitiveness Council of 2 December 2022; and for an international conference for 3Q 2023.

Next steps and conclusions/recommendations/opinions

- Handover of the scientific opinion on '*Strategic crisis management in the EU*', SAPEA's Evidence Review Report and EGE's statement on values in times of crisis to Commissioners Gabriel (Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth) and Janez Lenarčič (Crisis Management in the EU) planned for 22 November 2022 in Strasbourg at the occasion of the European Parliament's plenary.
- Presentation of the scientific opinion '*Strategic crisis management in the EU*' by Nicole Grobert and Maarja Kruusmaa at the disaster risk management knowledge centre (DRMKC) on 22 November, 2022 in Paris.
- Sustainable food consumption team to continue work on the scientific opinion on '*Towards sustainable food consumption*'.
- Chair of GCSA and SAM unit to be invited to slots at SAPEA board meetings as necessary.

4. Next meeting

The next plenary meeting of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors will take place on 14-15 December 2022, virtually via Webex.

List of Participants

Group of Chief Scientific Advisors

Nicole Grobert, Chair; (excused)
Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Deputy Chair;
Éva Kondorosi, Member;
Maarja Kruusmaa, Member;
Alberto Melloni, Member;
Eric Lambin, Member;
Eva Zažímalová, Member.

Science Advice to Policy by European Academies (SAPEA)

Antonio Loprieno (President All European Academies (ALLEA), Chairman of SAPEA Board, agenda point 6;
Rudolf Hielscher, SAPEA Coordinator, agenda point 6;
Toby Wardman, SAPEA Head of Communications, agenda point 6.

Other participants (invited experts)

Barbara Prainsack, Chair of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE), agenda point 3;
Janusz Bujnicki, Professor, Head of the Laboratory of Bioinformatics and Protein Engineering, International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw, agenda point 2;
Carina Keskitalo, Professor of Political Science, Department of Geography and Economic History, Umeå University, agenda point 2;
Pearl Dykstra, Professor of Sociology, Erasmus University in Rotterdam, agenda point 2.

European Commission

Gilles Laroche, DG RTD, Head of Unit 03 – Science Policy, Advice and Ethics;
Jacques Verraes, DG RTD, Deputy Head of Unit 03 – Science Policy, Advice and Ethics;
Kristian Krieger, DG JRC, Policy Officer, Unit H1 - Knowledge for Policy (Concepts & Methods);
Alessandro Allegra, DG RTD, Policy Assistant to Deputy Director-General Joanna Drake;
Ingrid Zegers, DG RTD, Unit 03 – Science Policy, Advice and Ethics, SAM team leader;
Annabelle Ascher, DG RTD, Unit 03 – Science Policy, Advice and Ethics, Head of the Secretariat of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors;
Vita Volante, DG RTD, Unit 03 – Science Policy, Advice and Ethics, Secretariat of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors.
Additional members of the unit depending on topic discussion.