

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

12th Plenary Meeting

Brussels, 25-26 May 2010 – Centre Albert Borschette (CCAB) – Room 4B

Flash Report

1. INTRODUCTION

The delegates acknowledged the work of the SCAR-WG during the last semester and in particular the ES Presidency for chairing the meetings. An outlook of the achievements of the ES Presidency was presented and followed by an overview of the programme and priorities of the BE Presidency. The Chair also raised the attention of the HU representatives in SCAR on the need for deeper commitment towards the committee with a view to the HU Presidency in the 1st semester 2011.

2. INPUT FROM SCAR TO THE BIOECONOMY CONCEPT

In order to stimulate an active plenary discussion on the future role of SCAR in addressing the growing challenges of European agricultural research, the Chair gave a keynote speech on the perspectives of the Bioeconomy in the context of the new EU 2020 strategy and the possible role of SCAR, in a number of developing processes contemplated by the committee. At the end of the discussion, it was agreed that the SCAR-WG will look into the possibility of setting up a specific group with the task of reflecting on the expected input from the SCAR initiatives (e.g. foresight, CWGs) to feed into the concept of Bioeconomy. Several delegates stressed the need to include food production and agriculture in that concept.

3. JOINT PROGRAMMING IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (JP AR)

The delegates were given an overview of the whole JP process which culminated on the adoption of two Commission Recommendations on KBBE related JPIs¹ and their endorsement by the Council on 26 May 2010. They were also informed on the latest developments from the last JPIs meetings both in terms of further substantiation of the scientific objectives and in relation to the governance aspects. The discussion focussed on the possible role of SCAR in supporting the development of the JPIs and in influencing their future agenda. While unanimous consensus on the choice for an informal role was recalled, the delegates welcomed the idea of producing a reflection paper on the desirable interaction between SCAR and the JP process.

4. LAUNCH OF THE 3rd FORESIGHT EXERCISE

The delegates were informed on the recent initiatives for disseminating the results of the 2nd foresight exercise and on the launch of the 3rd one through the outcome of the preparatory meeting (6 May) of the foresight group (FEG3) newly appointed by the Commission. The following discussion particularly highlighted the need to bring to the attention of the FEG3 relevant and recent on-going or forthcoming foresight studies, thus ensuring coherence between the various exercises. The SCAR delegates were encouraged to channel any relevant information through the Secretariat.

5. ON-GOING SCAR INITIATIVES

The delegates were informed on the outcome of the kick-off meetings of the new CWGs AKIS and SUSFOOD² respectively held on 4 May in Brussels and on 6 May in Copenhagen. AKIS is still open for new participants. A short update on other on-going CWGs and future ERA-NETS was also given. The following discussion focused on the perspectives of the whole coordination activities undertaken by SCAR and stressed the need to ensure a global coherence between them; to this end, it was agreed to produce a comprehensive table of SCAR related activities.

6. NEXT STEPS

- § The next SCAR-WG meetings will be held on 29 June in Brussels and 8 September in Helsinki (EURAGRI)
- § The 13th SCAR plenary meeting will take place on 8 December 2010 in Brussels.

ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ON CIRCA AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/rtd/scar/library?l=/agendas_scar_meetings/scar_meeting_25-26_1&vm=detailed&sb=Title

¹ JPI 'Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change - FACCE' – JPI 'A Health Diet for a Healthy Life'

² 'Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems - AKIS' – 'Sustainable food production for wealth, welfare and health - SUSFOOD'