

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

13th Plenary Meeting

Brussels, 8 December 2010 – Centre Albert Borschette (CCAB) – Room 2B

Flash Report

1. INTRODUCTION

The chair stressed the excellent work of the SCAR-WG during the last semester and thanked the BE Presidency for chairing the meetings. However, a more active participation from Southern-Eastern countries in the SCAR-WG was encouraged. The main achievements from the BE Presidency were presented and followed by an overview of the HU Presidency programme and priorities.

2. THE 3rd FORESIGHT EXERCISE

The delegates very much welcomed the presentation of the foresight expert group (FEG3) on a consolidated report¹ which has built upon a high quality input from relevant KBBE stakeholders² (ERA-Nets, SCAR-CWGs, ETPs, FP7 projects). A stimulating discussion followed on still possible improvements and on the need to deliver clear messages in terms of research priority setting. The findings of the final report should be ready by end January 2011 and will be tabled for discussion at a stakeholders conference organised on 3-4 May 2011 in Budapest, in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development as part of the official Hungarian presidency programme. The SCAR members are invited to make suggestions for a conference title by 13 December. A first announcement may be already sent before Christmas.

3. INPUT FROM SCAR TO THE BIOECONOMY

An update was given on current EU policies and initiatives that impact on the Bio-economy such as the recently adopted "Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative Innovation Union" and "The CAP towards 2020". It was stressed that a more precise picture of Innovation Partnerships (Agricultural productivity and sustainability) should be available in the coming months and therefore allow a reflection on their interaction with relevant existing bodies (e.g. JPIs). In such a context, the SCAR Bio-economy task-force set up last Sept. presented a first contribution to the draft Communication "European strategy and action plan towards a sustainable bio-based economy by 2020", which should be adopted by the Commission in autumn 2011. The SCAR members are invited to provide further input to the reflection paper (available on CIRCA) by 13 December.

4. JOINT PROGRAMMING & COORDINATION INITIATIVES

The coordinators of the two KBBE related JPIs³ were invited to present the latest developments. Both JPIs will be supported (pending decision from the Commission) by an EU financial contribution of 2M€. An update on the Global Research Alliance (GRA) on agricultural GHG and on the whole JP process was also given. The discussion then focused on the possible instruments (other than joint calls) for better coordinated use of national resources and shaping the ERA. It has also been stressed that SCAR will closely monitor the JPI progress in the light of possible forthcoming developments concerning FP8 and other relevant initiatives (e.g. Innovation Partnerships).

The plenary agreed on the establishment of two new CWGs "European transnational Research Cooperation Forest value chain in the light of climate change – ERCF" and "Integrated pest management for the reduction of pesticide risks and use" were respectively proposed by AT-DE and FR. Many delegations expressed the wish to participate in both groups. A consultation will be launched by the Secretariat in the coming days. A short update on other on-going CWGs/ERA-NETS was also given.

5. NEXT STEPS

- § The next SCAR-WG meeting will be held on 17 January 2011 in Brussels
- § The 14th SCAR plenary meeting will take place in June 2011 in Brussels (date still to be fixed).

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

http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/rtd/scar/library?l=/agendas_scar_meetings/meeting_december_3&vm=detailed&sb=Title

¹ 'Sustainable food consumption and production in a resource-constrained world'

² Foresight workshop, 6 October 2010, Brussels

³ JPI 'Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change - FACCE' – JPI 'A Health Diet for a Healthy Life'