

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (SCAR)
82nd Plenary Meeting
Brussels, 15-16 June, CCAB – Room 2A

Summary Report

Chairman: *Christian Patermann*, Director DG RTD/E
Secretary: *François Constantin*, DG RTD/E¹

1. Opening of meeting

2. Approval of draft agenda

3. Approval of draft minutes from the meeting 1-2 December 2005

4. Update from AT Presidency

AT Presidency reported from the Informal Agriculture Council, Krems 28-30 May 2005 and emphasised the request from the Ministers for an increased role of SCAR towards intensive coordination and cooperation in research and development in the field of agriculture, including education, training and innovation.

5. Foresight activities – EU outlook agriculture 2020

Discussion focussed on the implementation of the whole foresight initiative described in a position paper and on the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the setting up of an expert group in charge of synthesising the analytical and foresight work that exists at national, EU and international level in relation to identified major areas of science and technology.

On the basis of a comprehensive list of names most of them suggested by SCAR members, EC sorted out a "short-list" of 10 experts (and back-ups) according to their field of, and high-level expertise, also taking into account gender and country balance. The work of the selected experts will be funded by EC.

Following the inclusion in the ToR of additional suggested sub-topics (animal welfare, competitiveness, education, capacity building, etc), a holistic approach including cross-challenges analysis in the implementation of the work was encouraged and the whole foresight initiative unanimously endorsed by SCAR, including a first roadmap until next year.

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6. Agriculture research structures and perspectives in SCAR Countries

IT, NO and **TR** gave a presentation on their respective agriculture research structures and perspectives. All SCAR countries presentations will be uploaded in the website. Volunteers for the next SCAR meeting: **EL, AT, CH** and **UK**.

7. Infrastructures in the field of agricultural research

FR illustrated the final version of a working document, tabled alongside a recommendations paper, on possible actions to be endorsed by SCAR for the support to research infrastructures of agricultural relevance.

It was agreed to investigate further on how the issue of research infrastructures was addressed in the context on-going ERA-Nets and other collaborative projects/initiatives of agricultural research relevance, and report to SCAR plenary in December. Then a complete report may be sent to relevant Commissioners by the end of the year.

8. Priority topics for a Common Research Agenda

EC reported on progress and direction from CWGs and **NO** on the joint meeting (15/06) between CWGs and ERA-Nets coordinators of KBBE relevance.

IT and **FR** briefly illustrated the new rationale for the CWG on "*Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean Region*", for which the SCAR countries are asked to express their possible interest in participating. **PL** gave also an update on the CWG on "*Development of Sustainable Agriculture in the Baltic Sea*".

The Chair expressed the need for a more coherent strategy towards a Common Research Agenda and asked the SCAR-WG to prepare a report to be submitted to the next SCAR plenary and to Agriculture Council Meeting on 19-20 December.

9. Development of a prototype for a SCAR web portal

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/scar.html>.

CZ, IL, LU and **SE** will provide SCAR Secretariat with a "country web page". **HR** will start working on its "country web page". **EC** will update the website on a two-week basis

10. Conclusions

- Next SCAR meeting: 5 December all day (dinner on 4 December 19:30)
- Next SCAR-WG meeting: 26 September 2006
- Report from SCAR activities by **FI** Presidency at Agriculture Council Meeting on 19-20 December 2006