

# STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

9<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting

Brussels, 17-18 December 2008 – Centre Albert Borschette (CCAB) – Room 4C

## Draft Agenda

Chairman: Tim Hall

### **17 December 2008, 19:30 Dinner**

**Restaurant "L'Atelier européen", 28, rue Franklin, 1000 Bruxelles**

*Participation of a speaker*

### **18 December 2008, 9:00 – 18:00 hrs**

#### **1. Opening of meeting**

- *Welcome/Introduction, Tim Hall, Acting Director, DG RTD/E*

#### **2. Adoption of the draft agenda**

#### **3. Adoption of the draft minutes from the meeting 24-25 June 2008**

#### **4. Agricultural research structures and perspectives in SCAR countries**

- *Contribution from IS, ME and SK delegations*

#### **5. Reflections on the future of the European Agricultural Research Area**

- *Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament "Towards a coherent strategy for a European Agricultural Research Agenda", EC DG RTD/E*
- *"Vision 2020" for the ERA (Ljubljana Process), FR Presidency*
- *Joint Programming in Research: impact on SCAR*
  - *Conclusions of the Competitiveness Council 2/12/2008*
  - *"SCAR reflection paper"*

**=> DISCUSSION: Which role for SCAR in Joint Programming?**

#### **6. Follow-up of the SCAR foresight process**

- *Outcome of the Consultancy Expert Group (CEG)*
  - *Presentation of a synthesis report, CEG*
  - *Final statement on the CEG synthesis report, SCAR-FG*
  - *Discussion on dissemination of CEG findings*
- *Future development of the foresight monitoring mechanism*
  - *Presentation of a revised concept note, SCAR-FG*

#### **7. On-going SCAR initiatives**

- *Overview of old and new Collaborative Working Groups (CWGs): outlook and perspectives*
- *Strengthening the links between knowledge and agricultural research & innovation in Europe*
  - *Presentation of the main findings from the workshop in Angers on 6-7 October 2008, FR*
  - *Discussion on the follow-up*
- *Progress from the Task-Force SCAR/EIARD/ERA-ARD*

#### **8. AOB**

## Summary Report

Chairman: *Timothy Hall*, Acting Director DG RTD/E  
Secretary: *François Constantin*, DG RTD/E<sup>1</sup>

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Chair thanked the participants of the SCAR-WG for their work during the last semester and in particular the **FR** delegation for chairing the meetings. From 1 January 2009, **CZ** will hold the EU Presidency but did not give any indication about SCAR-WG chairing over the next half year. The out coming **FR** and incoming **SE** Presidencies agreed to take over.

**IS** and **ME** gave a presentation on their respective agriculture research structures and perspectives, while **SK** presented the 25<sup>th</sup> AGROFILM Festival in Nitra 29/09-3/10 2008.

### 2. REFLECTIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN AR AREA

- a. The SCAR Secretariat presented the **Communication "Towards a coherent strategy for a European Agricultural Research Agenda"**, which was adopted by the Commission on 15 December 2008. The Communication, together with its accompanying Commission Staff Working Paper, will be transmitted to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. With a view to increase the political impact of the Communication, the Chair stressed the role of Member States who can influence the Council agenda. It was therefore agreed that the Competitiveness Council would be the main platform to discuss the Communication provided it is also sent for information to the Agricultural Council.
- b. The **FR** Presidency recalled that at the end of an in-depth debate between the Member States, which was launched at the Informal Council meeting of 17 and 18 July in Versailles, the **European Research Area (ERA)** was endowed with a **"Vision 2020"** at the Competitiveness Council on 2/12/2008.
- c. The SCAR plenary was informed on the procedure for the **Joint Programming (JP) in Research**, as adopted by the Competitiveness Council on 2/12/2008, and widely discussed on how such a framework could impact on the way SCAR works. A "reflection paper" on JP and the possible role of SCAR in its implementation (together with a "promotion paper" on SCAR initiatives to be disseminated among relevant stakeholders) supported the discussion. Following a reflection process initiated at the Informal Council in Versailles on 17 July 2008, there are concrete possibilities for SCAR to be formally consulted for the selection of an agro-food research theme in the forthcoming months. The SCAR-WG was then given the mandate to narrow down the reflection towards the identification of a JP topic, to be endorsed by SCAR before possible submission to the JP procedure.

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### 3. FOLLOW-UP OF THE SCAR FORESIGHT PROCESS

The SCAR Plenary was informed on the outcome of the **Consultancy Expert Group on Foresight (CEG)** work. A draft synthesis report (and individual contributions) from the CEG was presented together with a preliminary statement from SCAR-Foresight Group as a response to the CEG report and highlighting the most important key messages. A more detailed analysis will be performed by the SCAR-FG in the early part of 2009 and based on the CEG *final* synthesis- reports.

As regards the issue of the **utilisation/dissemination of the CEG results**, the suggestion to make a publication (Commission foreword + CEG reports + SCAR-FG analysis) was supported by the plenary. This publication should be ready in time for the Conference "*Sustainable development - a challenge for European Research*" on 26-28 May 2009 in Brussels, where a special session will be dedicated to the SCAR foresight. A SCAR web-page will also be created. Individual dissemination initiatives by SCAR countries were also encouraged.

Overall, the SCAR-WG was given the task of reflecting not only on the next steps of the **SCAR Foresight Monitoring Mechanism (SCAR-FMM)** but also to provide a roadmap for tentative further steps.

### 4. ON-GOING SCAR INITIATIVES

- a. The SCAR plenary was informed about the recent developments from on-going **Collaborative Working Groups (CWGs)** like AG/Baltic Sea, AG/energy and AG/climate change. **FR** stressed that the CWG on Shared Research Infrastructures is collaborating with the BMS group of ESFRI towards the organisation of a common workshop in May 2009 with the aim of analysing the conclusions of the survey being carried out by the CWG. A clarification was also made on the situation of several groups which ended or suspended their activities (an updated list is now available on CIRCA). The Chair also informed that a meeting is planned on 17-18 February 2009 to bring all KBBE related ERA-Nets and CWGs together and discuss best practices and more efficient ways to operate. The SCAR-WG will carry on the reflection on the ways to improve the linkage between CWGs and SCAR as from the next meeting.
- b. **FR** informed the SCAR plenary on the main achievements of the **Workshop "*Strengthening the links between knowledge and agricultural innovation in Europe*"**, which took place in Angers on 6-7 October 2008. A report is available on the SCAR website. The SCAR-WG will look into the possibility to set up a CWG on this issue.
- c. The SCAR plenary was updated on the **SCAR, EIARD & ERA-ARD Task-Force** since the previous SCAR plenary meeting in June. The report of the TF on "*Fostering complementarities & synergies between European Agricultural Research for Europe and for Developing & Emerging Economy Countries*" was reviewed and finalised with the inclusion of comments received from SCAR, EIARD and ERA-ARD. The SCAR proposal to rely on the TF as a "light coordination mechanism" on international agricultural research was endorsed by EIARD and ERA-ARD. The Terms of Reference of the TF were revised accordingly and adopted by the SCAR plenary.

### 5. NEXT STEPS

- Next SCAR-WG meeting: 30 January 2009
- 10<sup>th</sup> SCAR plenary meeting: 16 June 2009 (dinner 15/06)

Country	Organism participating in SCAR meeting 24-25 June 2008
AL	Agricultural University of Tirana
	Albanian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection
AT	Lebensministerium
BG	Institute of Soil Sciences "Nikola Poushkarov"
CH	Office fédéral de l'agriculture - OFAG
DE	Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung
	Bundesministerium für Verbraucherschutz, Ernährung und Landwirtschaft
	Ministry for Food and Rural Areas of Baden-Wuerttemberg
DK	Development, Environment and Rural Development Directorate for Food, Fisheries and Agri Business
EE	Ministry of Agriculture
ES	Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria
FR	Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation, de la pêche et des affaires rurales
	INRA
HR	Faculty of Chemistry and Technology University of Split
HU	Ministry of Agriculture
IE	TEAGASC
	Department of Agriculture & Food
IL	Agricultural Research Organization
IS	The Ministry of Agriculture
LU	Research and Development Department of Luxemburg Government
ME	Institute for Biotechnology
NL	Knowledge Directorate Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
NO	The Research Council of Norway, Dept. Agriculture and Marine Issues
PL	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
PT	INIAP
RO	Academy for Agricultural and forestry Sciences
RS	Institute of field and vegetable crops
SE	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs Agriculture Division - research section
	The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning
SI	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
SK	Agentura Slovenskej akadémie pôdohospodarských vied
UK	Department for Environment, Food and Rural affaires