

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

8th Plenary Meeting

Brussels, 24-25 June 2008 – Charlemagne building – Lord Jenkins Room

Draft Agenda

Chairman: Tim Hall

24 June 2008, 19:30 Dinner

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

Participation of a speaker

25 June 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 3-4 December 2007

4. Agricultural research structures and perspectives in SCAR countries

- *Contribution from RS delegation*

5. Follow-up of the SCAR foresight process initiatives

- **Establishment of a foresight monitoring mechanism**
 - *The setting up of a "Consultancy Expert Group"*
- **New temporary Collaborative Working Groups (CWGs)**
 - *CWG on Climate Change and Agriculture, ES*
 - *CWG on Agriculture and Energy, DE*
 - *CWG on Infrastructures, FR*
- **Workshop "Strengthening the links between knowledge and agricultural innovation in Europe", Angers, 6-7 October 2008**
 - *Presentation of the workshop rationale and programme, FR*

6. Reflections on the future of the European Agricultural Research Area

- **Towards Joint Programming in Agricultural Research**
 - *Update on the forthcoming ERA initiatives in Joint Programming*
 - *Update on on-going SCAR CWGs and new/future ERA-Nets*
 - *Outline of the draft COM on the coordination of agricultural research in Europe*

DISCUSSION:

- ✓ **What are the main mechanisms for Joint Programming in Agricultural Research?**
- ✓ **What could the role of SCAR be in Joint Programming?**

- **FR Presidency initiative at Competitiveness Council, 17 July 2008**
- **The impact of the "health check" of the CAP reform**

7. Agricultural Research for Development

Recommendations from the Task-Force SCAR/EIARD/ERA-ARD

8. Possible synergies between SCAR and KBBE-Net

9. AOB

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Summary Report

Chairman: *Timothy Hall*, Acting Director DG RTD/E
Secretary: *François Constantin*, DG RTD/E¹

1. Opening of meeting

Welcome to **ALBANIA, FYROM and MONTENEGRO**, new observers countries in SCAR and to new appointed SCAR delegates from **HR, FI and IE**. The audience was informed that the SCAR website had been fully updated.

2. Approval of draft agenda

3. Approval of draft minutes from the meeting 3-4 December 2007

4. Agriculture research structures and perspectives in SCAR Countries

RS gave a presentation on the agriculture research structures and perspectives in this country. Volunteer for the next SCAR meeting: **ME**

5. Follow-up of the foresight process initiatives

- a. In the framework of the **foresight monitoring mechanism**, the SCAR Plenary was informed about the setting up of a "Consultancy Expert Group", which held its preparatory meeting on 13 June. The group will report its final findings at the next SCAR plenary in December 2008.
- b. The SCAR plenary was informed about the outcome of the consultation on the **new Collaborative Working Groups (CWGs)** in the AG/climate change, AG/energy and AG/shared infrastructures areas. The Chair stressed the very positive results in terms of participation, the timely response which allowed to already organising preparatory meetings on 24 June (for the first two groups) and encouraged further commitments in these CWGs. **FR** announced that the preparatory meeting of the AG/shared infrastructures CWG would be held in Paris on 23 or 25 September 2008 (an invitation will follow soon).
- c. The SCAR plenary was informed by the **FR** Presidency on the revised rationale and the programme of the **Workshop "Strengthening the links between knowledge and agricultural innovation in Europe"**, which will take place in **Angers** on **6-7 October 2008**. SCAR members were encouraged to attend the event.

6. Reflections on the future of the European Agricultural Research Area

The SCAR plenary was given an update on the **forthcoming ERA initiatives in Joint Programming** and on the expected main features of the future EC communication "*Towards Joint Programming in Research*", which raised particular interest on how such a framework could impact

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on the way SCAR works. The communication is expected to be adopted by the Commission on 16 July 2008.

An update will be provided on the **Commission report on the coordination of agricultural research in Europe**, as required by the Regulation establishing the SCAR. It was stressed that most of the content was based on the initiatives undertaken by SCAR in the last 3 years and that the supervision of SCAR and the active monitoring from SCAR-WG was welcome. The report will be a Communication to the European Parliament and the Council, accompanied by a Commission Staff Working Paper. Once the documents are finalised, an internal Inter-Service Consultation will be launched before adoption by the Commission (around mid-November).

The **FR** delegation presented an initiative of the FR Presidency towards the setting up of a roadmap of possible actions to be undertaken in the field of agricultural research at European level. A draft working document to be tabled at the **Competitiveness Council on 17th July 2008** was discussed by the SCAR members, who were invited to send further comments to the SCAR Secretariat by 27 June.

The SCAR plenary was also given an update by **DG AGRI** on the "health check" of the CAP reform, in the perspective of the EC communication on the recent rise in food prices.

Following these presentations, a broad discussion addressed the main mechanisms for Joint Programming in Agricultural Research and on the possible role of SCAR in that context.

7. Agriculture and Research for Development

The SCAR plenary was informed about the **recommendations from the SCAR, EIARD & ERA-ARD task-force** and was asked to consider how to take these forward.

A general consensus emerged on the report bringing valuable and well supported elements for the reflection at national and European levels on agricultural research for Europe and for DEEC.

In particular, several SCAR members stressed the need for better coordination at national level. For the EU level, the most significant decision by SCAR was that the task-force should continue as a "light coordination mechanism" in promoting convergences and synergies, making recommendations, and regularly reporting to SCAR, EIARD and ERA-ARD on progress made. The terms of reference of the task-force would be revised accordingly. It was also agreed that the task-force could benefit from interested additional members, and that the existing SCAR CWGs may take into account the international dimension in their work.

8. Possible synergies between SCAR and KBBE-Net

The SCAR members were invited to discuss a background note on possible synergies between SCAR and KBBE-Net. The note was also circulated to the KBBE-Net meeting on 26 June back-to-back with the SCAR plenary. The SCAR delegates expressed their concern that the respective scopes and mandates of SCAR and KBBE-Net be clarified so as to avoid overlap and duplication.

9. Next steps

- Next SCAR-WG meeting: 4 September 2008
- 9th SCAR plenary meeting: 10 December 2008

Country	Organism participating in SCAR meeting 24-25 June 2008
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
DK	Development, Environment and Rural Development Directorate for Food, Fisheries and Agri Business
EE	Ministry of Agriculture
EL	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
ES	Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria
FI	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Agriculture
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
IT	Ministero de Politiche Agricole e Forestali
LT	Ministry of Agriculture Department of Rural Development Division of Science and Training
LU	Research and Development Department of Luxemburg Government
	Administration des Services Techniques de l'Agriculture
LV	Division of the development of environment, the Department of Rural Development
ME	Institute for Biotechnology
MK	Faculty of agricultural science and food
NL	Knowledge Directorate Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
NO	Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food , Department of Research, Innovation and Regional Policy
	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
SI	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
SK	Agentura Slovenskej akadémie pôdohospodarských vied
UK	Department for Environment, Food and Rural affaires