

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (SCAR)
83rd Plenary Meeting
Brussels, 4-5 December 2006, CCAB – Room 0A

Summary Report

Chairman: *Christian Patermann*, Director DG RTD/E
Secretary: *François Constantin*, DG RTD/E3¹

1. Opening of meeting

2. Approval of draft agenda

3. Approval of draft minutes from the meeting 15-16 June 2006

4. Agriculture research structures and perspectives in SCAR Countries

EL, AT, CH and **UK** gave a presentation on their respective agriculture research structures and perspectives. Volunteers for the next SCAR meeting: **HR, EE, LT, LV** and **HR**.

5. Foresight activities – EU outlook agriculture 2020

At the last plenary in June, SCAR agreed on the terms of reference that the foresight process would be launched through the setting up of a Foresight Expert Group (FEG) in charge of reviewing and analysing foresight information relating to European agriculture in relation to specific major driving forces.

This analysis led to a working paper for each driving force and a draft synthesis report where four future scenarios for European agriculture were identified. The FEG deliverables were illustrated by a summary paper on the whole foresight exercise prepared by the SCAR-Working Group and observation notes on the individual foresight papers.

The presentation of the whole documents was followed by a thorough discussion which led to a consensus on the quality of the work carried out by the FEG and on the future steps of the foresight process.

The discussion then addressed the launch of the second step of the foresight process which will focus on research priority setting and wider examination of prospects for, and development of, agriculture for the years 2015-2020, thus allowing the necessary political answers to be found, according to the mandate given by the Krems Informal Council to SCAR.

It was agreed that the way ahead would, where appropriate, involve dissemination of the FEG outcome in the SCAR countries (e.g. through national foresight meetings) and through the SCAR website. Subsequently, a SCAR preparatory workshop to link foresight and RTD priority setting will be held in Sweden in March and prepare the ground for a Conference on "Research towards Future Challenges of European

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Agriculture" to be held on 26-27 June, aiming at building a coherent agricultural research strategy for Europe for the medium/long term.

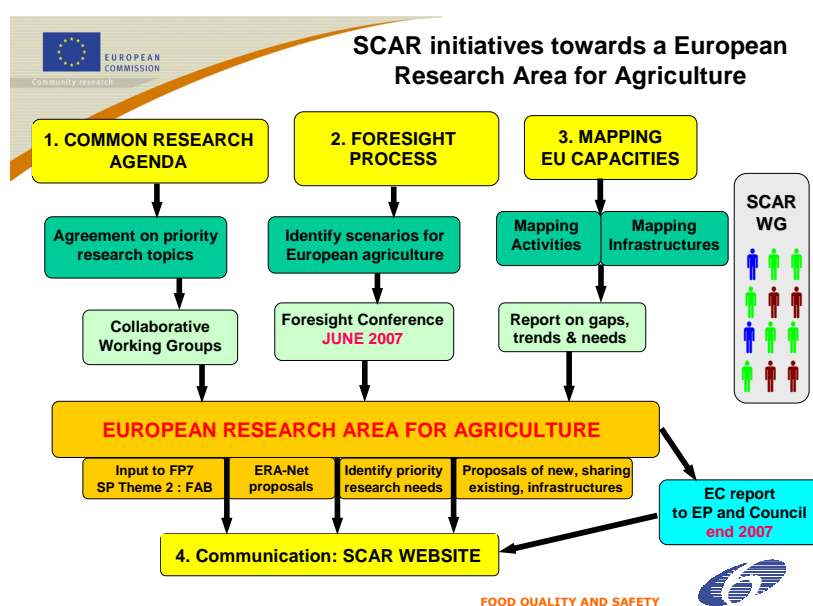
6. Education and training schemes

Following the recommendations from the Krems Informal Council, DG EAC was asked to give an overview of the education and training activities that are promoted by the Commission in the field of agricultural research.

SCAR members were asked to reflect upon possible future initiatives to be undertaken by SCAR in that field, and to be discussed at the next SCAR plenary meeting.

7. Update on SCAR on-going activities

The discussion focussed on a draft interim report on the progress achieved by the 3 main initiatives undertaken by SCAR (Coordination, Foresight and Mapping) after two years.



It was agreed that the report should be improved before (informal) submission to the Council in early 2007 (possibly February). In the shorter term, a two-page summary of the report will be sent to Commissioners Potočník and Fischer Boel, as an outline for a reporting speech to Agriculture Council on 19-20 December.

8. Conclusions

- Report on SCAR activities at Agriculture Council Meeting on 19-20 December 2006
- Next SCAR-WG meeting: 19 January 2007
- **6th SCAR plenary meeting: 25-26 June 2007** (afternoon + dinner + morning) followed by the Foresight Conference