

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Seventh Plenary Meeting
Brussels, 3-4 December 2007 - Centre Albert Borschette (CCAB) – Room 4B

Draft Agenda

Chairman: Tim Hall

3 December 2007, 19:30 Dinner

Restaurant “L’Atelier européen”, 28, rue Franklin, 1000 Bruxelles

Participation of Mr. Courtney Hough, General Secretary of the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)

4 December 2007, 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 25-26 June 2007**
- 4. Agricultural research structures and perspectives in SCAR countries**
 - *Contribution from DK, NL and SI delegations*
- 5. Foresight activities – EU outlook agriculture 2020**
 - *Draft SCAR position paper on the follow-up of the Conference "Towards Future Challenges of Agricultural Research in Europe", 26-27 June 2007*
 - *Proposals for implementing initiatives*
 - *Establishment of a foresight monitoring mechanism*
 - *New temporary Collaborative Working Groups (CWGs)*
 - *Workshop on the reform of agricultural knowledge systems in several European countries and its impact on the European agricultural research system*
- 6. Agricultural Research for Development**
 - *Outcome of ERA-ARD Conference - 28-29 June 2007, Brussels*
 - *Follow-up initiatives*
- 7. Possible initiatives on Infrastructures**
 - *Proposal from FR delegation*
- 8. Update on on-going activities**
 - *Update on the "health check" of the CAP Reform*
 - *Update on collaborative working groups (CWGs) and new ERA-Nets*
 - *Progress towards SCAR reporting to Agriculture Council*
 - *Towards a Commission report on the coordination of agricultural research in Europe*
 - *The EU AGRI MAPPING project, outlook from the coordinator*
- 9. Green Paper "The European Research Area: New Perspectives"**
 - *Information and comments*
- 10. AOB**

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
85th Plenary Meeting
Brussels, 3-4 December 2007, CCAB – Room 4B

Summary Report

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

1. Opening of meeting

Welcome to **RS**, 34th SCAR country, and to new appointed SCAR delegates from **BG, EE, HU, IL** and **SE**.

2. Approval of draft agenda

3. Approval of draft minutes from the meeting 4-5 December 2006

4. Agriculture research structures and perspectives in SCAR Countries

DK, NL, and **SI** gave a presentation on their respective agriculture research structures and perspectives. Volunteers for the next SCAR meeting: **BE, IS** and **RS**

5. Foresight activities – SCAR position paper on the follow-up of the Conference "Towards Future Challenges of Agricultural Research in Europe", 26-27 June 2007

A pre-version of the publication on the Conference was distributed to the participants. The final publication will be available and sent out in the very next days.

Following the conference, a draft position paper prepared by the SCAR-WG was discussed and approved at the SCAR plenary. The paper contains some of the main messages arising from the SCAR foresight process and a number of initiatives for which the plenary was asked to give its approval.

- a. The SCAR plenary endorsed the principle of establishing of a foresight signalling and monitoring mechanism. A specific subgroup under the SCAR-WG was given the mandate to further develop the frame for the development of the suggested mechanism according to the tasks described in the annex 1 to the position paper. Nominations should be sent to the SCAR Secretariat.
- b. The SCAR plenary discussed on the need to establish two new CWGs in the ag/climate change and ag/energy areas.
 - **ES** committed to coordinate the CWG on "*Climate change and agriculture under the perspectives of adaptation and mitigation*" and produced a descriptive fiche describing the rationale, expected tasks and deliverables. It was agreed that the fiche would be revised by **ES** and further discussed at the next SCAR-WG meeting on 6/02/2008, in order to ensure that the focus is maintained on the coordination of national programmes. Then a consultation among SCAR countries to seek their endorsement and possible interest in participating will be launched.
 - No country "volunteer" to coordinate the CWG on "*Agriculture and energy and the specific research needs resulting from their interaction*". The risk of overlapping with other existing initiatives was stressed. It was then agreed that the SCAR-WG would further reflect on the focus of the work before any decision to be taken in that respect.

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- c. The SCAR plenary agreed on the need to organise a workshop on the motives and considerations for reforming agricultural knowledge systems. The SCAR delegates expressed their views on the scope and focus of this workshop, and asked the sub-group (**FR, NL, DK**) to revise the proposal for further discussion at SCAR-WG level in order to prepare a proposal expressing a common vision. **FR** committed to organise the event during the FR Presidency.

6. Agriculture and Research for Development

The SCAR plenary agreed that the progressive convergence of ARD and agricultural research for Europe at international level was a major reason for SCAR and EIARD/ERA-ARD to explore synergies between different initiatives and avoid unnecessary duplication. Regarding the already existing structures, a new co-ordination structure should be avoided. A small task force (max. 3-4 persons from each side) formed by representatives from SCAR, EIARD & ERA-ARD will be set up to draw recommendations. Task force nominations should be sent to the SCAR Secretariat.

7. Possible initiatives on Infrastructures

FR proposed a work programme on "*European shared research infrastructures: a powerful lever for research progress*" aiming at identifying priority infrastructures in the field of agricultural research, which scientific efficiency would be higher if they were shared or networked. The methodology proposed, which foresees 3 steps of implementation (overview of the AR infrastructures in Europe, identification of the future main AR orientations, setting up of CWG) will be further refined by **FR** and turned into specific terms of reference for a possible future initiative to be discussed at the next SCAR-WG meeting on 6/02/2008.

8. Update on on-going activities

- Main points on the Commission's proposals for CAP reform and future steps were presented. SCAR was requested to reflect on possible implications for research agenda's.
- An update was provided on progress being made by the SCAR CWGs, on the ERA-NETs to be funded under the FP7 FAFB 2007 work programme, and on ERA-NETs to be included in future work programme calls.
- An update was provided on the results of the EU AGRI MAPPING project, which will be used to draft the EC report to the European Parliament and the Council on the coordination of agricultural research in Europe. The final deliverables of the project will be made available in January 2008.

9. Green Paper "The European Research Area: New Perspectives"

A discussion paper was prepared by the SCAR-WG setting out some of the issues relating to agriculture and agricultural research that have been highlighted by the SCAR foresight process and in other fora such as the FP7 FAFB programme committee and EURAGRI, in relation to the six headings used in the EU Commission's Green Paper on the ERA. SCAR was requested to reflect on the Green Paper and to identify issues that need to be addressed and to consider the role of SCAR in shaping the ERA in our domain. This could be a major point in the next SCAR plenary meeting: a back- and forward looking to the SCAR positioning. It was stressed that any proposal in that way should be made by individual SCAR members and should not result from a formal position of SCAR.

10. Next steps

- Next SCAR-WG meeting: 6 February 2008
- 8th SCAR plenary meeting: mid-June 2008 (final date to be chosen)

Country	Organism participating in SCAR meeting 4-5 December 2006
AT	Lebensministerium
CH	Institute for Agriculture and Fisheries Research
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
HU	Ministry of Agriculture
IE	TEAGASC
	Department of Agriculture & Food
IL	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
	Agricultural Research Organization
IS	The Ministry of Agriculture
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
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	University of Belgrade, Faculty of Agriculture
	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
	Agricultural Institute of Slovenia
SK	Agentura Slovenskej akademie pôdohospodarskych vied
UK	Department for Environment, Food and Rural affaires