FP7 SECURITY ADVISORY GROUP

ANNUAL SUMMARY

June 2010 – June 2011

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FP7 SecAG Rapporteur and Vice Chairman

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Security Advisory Group (SecAG) consists of 20 independent experts drawn from security end-user organisations, academia and industry. All the members have broad experience in security matters and also have specific deep knowledge of particular operations, technologies or implementation. The SecAG was created in 2007 with an evolving membership.

1.2. The SecAG provides expert, independent advice to the Commission on the content of the annual Work Programme that invites competitive submission of proposals for the Cooperative element of the Security Theme in the FP7 programme. The SecAG has no role in the approval of the annual programme, the assessment of project proposals, or the management of successful projects.
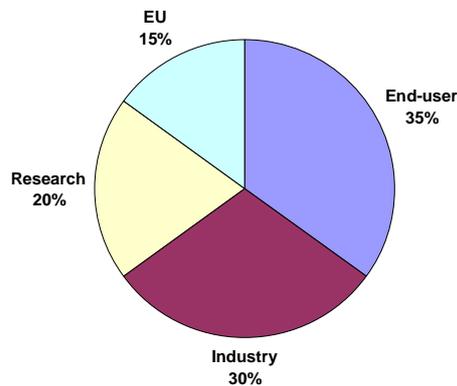
1.3. During 2010/2011 the SecAG has:

- Developed a Guidance Paper to set out strategic issues and help prioritise potential topics for the Work Programme, noting that the number of suggested topics is generally more than five times higher than the number that can be included in a manageable and affordable programme. This Paper crystallised the thinking of the SecAG and represented its considered input to the Commission.

- Under the leadership of individual SecAG members, working papers were developed to advise the Commission on the strategy for each of the six primary Mission Areas that comprise the Security Theme. These emphasised significant trends and where maximum impact could be derived.

- Helped the Commission plan a series of workshops.

- Advised on ways to accelerate deployment of research results to strengthen tangible benefit to users and competitive advantage to European industry.

- Developed candidate topics as one input to the Work Programme.

- Provided detailed comments on the draft Work Programme as constructed by the Commission and the Programme Committee.

2. SecAG MEMBERSHIP

2.1. The membership of the advisory group is appointed by the Commission, with members serving 2 year terms. The group has a chairman and vice chairman appointed from the independent experts. The membership belongs to 13 different nationalities and independent individuals are drawn from across the stakeholder sectors, member states, European institutions and reflect the objectives of the FP7 Security Theme. The charts below show the profile of the current membership.

SecAG Membership Profile

EU
15%

End-user
35%

Research
20%

Industry
30%

2.2. The majority of the activity of the SecAG is undertaken by email interaction, generally around specific actions developed during the formal meetings. The chairman and vice chairman have been invited to attend Programme Committee meetings, and this innovation has enabled a clearer understanding of the member states priorities to influence the deliberations of the experts in the Advisory Group.

3. THE SecAG PROCESS 2010-2011

3.1. The SecAG met seven times between June 2010 and June 2011. Minutes of these meetings are available of the europa website, with the main activities at each meeting being:

3rd June 2010 where the SecAG took stock of the final version of the Work Programme for the 2011 Call and held a brainstorming session to identify key aspirations and objectives for the 2012 programme. Sub-groups were formed to develop working 'thematic papers' for each of the Mission Areas. These sub-groups subsequently worked by email under the coordination of a lead member to draft a short document that highlighted the key drivers of change in each area. A timetable of workshops being organised by the Commission was reviewed, these workshops (see Appendix 1) providing opportunity for in-depth analysis of specific issues and also to provide a forum for engagement between end-users, researchers and suppliers. A paper on Standardisation was considered.

7th July 2010 was a working session developing the Guidance Document, and reviewing ideas highlighted in the thematic papers.

23rd September meeting at the annual SRC Conference, focused on exploring options for enhancing the transfer of research to create maximum impact, for example by closer links to pre-competitive procurement activity. It also received a presentation on Standardisation and its relationship to research.

18th November finalised the Guidance Document, consolidating a large number of comments and additions offered by members of the committee, and took account of comments made at the recent Programme Committee. The main points of the thematic papers were reviewed and the steps that the Commission follow to formulate the Work Programme for 2012 discussed. There was further exploration of funding arrangements to promote impact, and a discussion of issues to take into account in preparing for any Security Theme in FP8.

20th January 2011 focused on topics proposed by SecAG members and established a process, conducted subsequent to the meeting, to form a ranked list of the SecAG proposed topics. The most highly ranked topics were offered for inclusion by the Commission in the Work Programme. A Commission 'non-paper' on FP8 was discussed.

9th March 2011 reviewed the first complete draft of the Work Programme for the 2012 Call and offered many detailed comments (at the meeting and by email) aimed at improving the proposed topics reflecting the expertise of the members.

24th June 2011 reviewed this Annual Report and discussed members' impressions of the Work Programme in its final form. This was followed up by a round of detailed assessments by email. The meeting also looked at how to approach the final year of the FP7 Security Theme, and specifically invited members to reflect on and refresh the narrative context text for each of the mission areas. The programme for future workshops was discussed.

4. WORK PROGRAMME BALANCE

4.1. The Commission receives a large number of proposals for topics for inclusion in each annual call, requiring a significant process of selection or amalgamation of activity items in order to create a feasible Work Programme that is able to be agreed by the Programme Committee. To help formulate a balanced programme that is consistent with the priorities of the member states represented on the Programme Committee, a Guidance Document[1] was produced by the SecAG to highlight issues that might influence the priorities and choices that the Commission and the Programme Committee might wish to address. This paper was produced through an initial workshop, discussion and contributions from all the SecAG members, and was offered to the Commission. This document was used as a base by the Commission for the preparation of an Orientation Paper that was presented at the Programme Committee in December 2010.

4.2. The Guidance Document identified six 'Aspirations', these being top-level objectives that the Work Programme must embrace, based largely on the previous work of ESRAB and ESRIF. It also identified five 'Dimensions of Balance' where there could be a need for an individual topic to lean one way or the other in emphasis, but that across the programme an overall balance was desired. Thirdly, the paper also addressed the need for a balance between the principal scientific disciplines relevant to maintaining underpinning research capability. This gave the Commission an objective framework around which to focus the impact of the final Work Programme for agreement by the Programme Committee.

4.3. The Guidance Document set out choices in direction and emphasis, but did not take any position on how these choices should be exercised. Using the framework of the Orientation Paper, the SecAG felt it relevant to look at the 2012 Work Programme as it emerged in its final form. It was recognised that the real test would be in the research plans and composition of the consortia that will be successful in the competitive selection. Given the time delay before such an analysis would be possible, at its June 2011 meeting the SecAG agreed to capture its members impressions on the topics included in the Work Programme 2012.

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[1] "Guidance for the Preparation of the FP7 Security Work Programme 2012 & 2013", appended to the minutes of the 12th meeting of the Security Advisory Group: http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/pdf/advisory-groups/security-twelfth-meeting.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none

4.4. The following is a summary of the reflections made by SecAG members on the WP2012 topics:

4.4.1. Overall the 2012 Work Programme had good balance and its topics addressed priority areas. The programme makes a strong contribution to security, with good exploitation routes.

4.4.2. The programme has good coherence with other FP7 Themes, projects funded under earlier Work Programmes, and is consistent with EU policies. However, members felt a need for greater visibility of the results of projects underway from earlier rounds, especially to appreciate whether follow-on topics should be introduced, or whether more research was needed in areas making limited progress.

4.4.3. Several Sec AG members expressed concern about transition of research to generate impact upon security outcomes, and upon the extent to which topics will enhance the competitiveness of industry. There remains a desire to ensure that the direct needs of users and enhancing competitiveness have close alignment wherever possible. It was felt that the potential user demand and routes to market could have been made more explicit in the topic descriptions, with this lack of transparency of opportunity risking discouraging industry investment.

4.4.4. During the year the SecAG discussed at some length how to increase the engagement of end-users in the research projects. This is seen as an important way to focus research and accelerate its uptake. It is recognised that encouraging user engagement in research will always be a challenge, and several SecAG members would like to see more attention paid to this in future programmes.

4.4.5. The trend towards topics that integrate technological and societal research seen in the previous Work Programmes has continued and several SecAG members felt should receive further emphasis in the future.

4.4.6. Taking the topics overall, there is likely to be a good balance between incremental research and breakthrough science in the resulting projects.

4.4.7. There is a greater inclusion of external security research than in previous Work Programmes, whilst retaining an emphasis on internal security aspects.

4.4.8. In terms of the potential coverage of scientific disciplines in the likely projects stimulated by the Work Programme

- Physics / electronics / engineering sciences has the largest potential share

- Informatics / ICT / mathematics is also well covered

- Good coverage of chemistry/biochemistry/biosciences

- Considerably less coverage for the medical and behavioral science aspects of security, for example those related to crisis management and disaster recovery.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1. The SecAG followed a process that supported ordered construction of the Work Programme for 2012 by the Commission. This process enabled the expertise and experience of the SecAG members to add value to the activities of the Commission, and indirectly support the deliberations of the Programme Committee.

5.2. Throughout the process members were concerned about ways to enhance the impact of research and how to appropriate results in an efficient and timely manner to give a balance of short and long term benefit to end-users, while enhancing the competitiveness of industry. This has to be in the context of the special factors that apply in the Security market, including the dominance of government purchasers, the rapidly changing nature of the security landscape, and the relative immaturity of procurement practices for advanced technology (compared, for example, with defence). With the Security Theme now maturing after its creation in FP7, with earlier projects reaching conclusion, further attention to implementation is expected to be needed to gain maximum benefit from successful research.

APPENDIX 1 – SUMMARY OF FP7 SECURITY RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

A series of **'Thematic Workshops'** were held during 2010 to support the FP7 Security research programme. The SecAG gave advice on these Workshops and SecAG members were key members organising these workshops, which were held under the auspices of a range of host organisations. The individual workshops had a variety of aims, but all were designed to bring users and researchers more closely together, to expose research projects underway and stimulate discussion of strategic issues.

The workshops have been instrumental by promoting in-depth consultations to share progress in current projects, bring end-users together with researchers, aid the preparation of subsequent/future work programmes and to disseminate ideas on future policy and priorities. Furthermore the workshops have been useful for bringing together potential project partners and in making their specific areas of specialty known.

Also, the workshops provided a good opportunity to bring together different DGs of the Commission concerned with the respective topics, those that are dealing with research as well as those dealing with policy matters.

Workshop on Border Control

In Brussels on 12 March 2009
- 130 participants
- Chaired by FRONTEX
- Targeting Demo Phase-2 on European-wide integrated border control
- Main Message: Concentration on Maritime border surveillance, detection of small boats and non-cooperative small vessels
- http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemshortdetail.cfm?item_id=3628

The DG ENTR contact person for the border security domain is Mr. Paolo Salieri (Paolo.Salieri@ec.europa.eu).

Workshop on Mass Transport

In Berlin on 18 March 2009
- 130 participants
- Co-organized with German Ministry for Education and Research
- Targeting Demo Phase-2 – Urban mass Transport Security
- Main message: provided a platform for End-users to understand FP7 Security Research and get in contact with the researchers
- Next workshop with the SECURE-ED project – end 2011 / early 2012
- http://www.bmbf.de/de/13481.php

The DG ENTR contact person for the urban transport security domain is Ms. Sanna Kuuka (Sanna.KUUKKA@ec.europa.eu)

Workshop on Aviation Security

In Berlin on 11 June 2010 at ILA
- 115 participants
- Logistics support from state Berlin + Brandenburg
- Stressing the need for a right mix of projects to be conducted to support many aspects of aviation security

- Main message: Need a comprehensive approach to aviation security encompassing Aircraft, ATM and Airport
- Next workshop – autumn 2011, pref. at the site of a large international trade show
- http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=4264&tpa_id=168

The DG ENTR contact person for the air transport security domain is Mr. Khoen Liem (Tjien-Khoen.Liem@ec.europa.eu)

Workshop on Interoperable communications for Safety and Security

In Ispra on 28+29 June 2010
- 120 participants
- To identify the main challenges in the European Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) services context and describe the research activities to address and resolve such challenges
- The Workshop is to reflect widespread comment that lack of interoperability was limiting the effectiveness of PPDR practitioners in actual operations, and an evident lack of understanding as to whether these limitations arose from technology, operational procedures, gaps in procurement or in research.
- Actions needed relate to policy, process or procurement, whilst there were also important implications for technology research and development, especially to meet perceived requirements in the medium time frame (3-7 years).
- Next action is being considered, to bringing together Europe's experts
- http://sta.jrc.ec.europa.eu/pdf/corsa/Proceedings_interoperable_communications.pdf

The DG ENTR contact person for the domain relevant to Interoperable telecommunication equipment is Mr Laurent Cabirol (Laurent.CABIROL@ec.europa.eu)

Workshop on Societal Security R&D

In Brussels on 01 July 2010
- 120 participants
- To look at the societal dimension of security research, and on how to mainstream these aspects into the security research activities
- Main messages: recommend to include a "*societal impact assessment" in each proposal*, to *promote the "common criteria model" to ensure privacy compliant products*, and to *set up an independent dedicated, interdisciplinary "platform" for social, ethical & security experts*
- *http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=4317*
- **Next workshop – 08 June 2011,** in Oslo, Norway –on **'the way forward'**. -- see: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=5017&lang=en&tpa=0&displayType=calendar&ref=newsbytheme%2Ecfm%3Flang%3Den%26displayType%3Dcalendar%26fosubtype%3D%26tpa%3D0%26period%3Dlatest%26month%3D%26page%3D2

Building up on this, the objectives of the **2nd Workshop** titled "**Security research and Europe's societal challenges: what do citizens' expect?**" which took place on **8 June 2011**, in **Oslo** were:
- Follow-up on the socio-ethical challenges identified in the earlier workshop
- Present and discuss criteria for assessing societal impact
- Engage civil society in the discussions
- Pool MS/AS efforts together with the EU
- Prepare detailed future activities

The DG ENTR contact person for this domain is Ms. Eva-Maria Engdahl (Eva.Engdahl@ec.europa.eu)

Workshop on CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological. Nuclear threats)

In Brussels on 10 November 2010
- 120 participants
- Targeting Demo Phase-2 – CBRNE (call of July 2011)
- The need for a cross borders cluster/platforms is stressed, incl. end users, industry, RTO; CBRN intelligence people should be part of that.
- Main message: Coordination between policy / research is necessary, the importance of End-users to participate in CBRN research
- On the website of the workshop, the papers, presentations etc. can be found: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=4574. A separate final report of the workshop is given here: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/_getdocument.cfm?doc_id=6310
- Next workshop – 07 June 2011, Brussels to present the 2 phase-1 projects and make recommendations for the phase-2 proposal.

The **2nd workshop took place on 7 June 2011** in Brussels. This workshop concentrated on preparing the CBRNE demonstration programme which will be part of the July 2011 call for proposals. At that 2nd workshop, the intermediate finding of the DECOTESSC1 and the CBRNMAP projects were presented. An advisory panel was called; constituting a group of 5-6 people of experts with broad CBRNE knowledge, Policy makers (incl. people from several Commission's services (DGs HOME, MOVE, ECHO), End users (Fire Brigade, Medial first responders + Ambulance, Police, Crisis Management organization, Border control) as well as the Industry.

The DG ENTR contact person for the CBRN domain is Mr. Tristan Simonart (Tristan.SIMONART@ec.europa.eu)

Workshop on information management in law enforcement
In Den Haag on 18 March 2011 at Europol HQ
- 40 participants
- Logistics support from Europol
- Looking at how R&D can contribute in improving information exchange among LCA.
- Main message: confirming the need for LCA / intelligence organisations to shape the research agenda in this field
- Next workshop: not planned
- http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?displayType=calendar&tpa_id=168&item_id=4849

The DG ENTR contact person for this topic is Mr. Laurent Cabirol (Laurent.CABIROL@ec.europa.eu)