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Directorate I - Environment
I.1 - Horizontal aspects

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**1st Meeting of the Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 5
“Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials”
Advisory Group
4 October, 2013, 10:00 - 16:30**

Operational minutes

This first meeting of the Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 5 “Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials” (SC5) Advisory Group (AG) was aimed at getting to know everyone involved in the SC5 AG process, provide a brief overview of Horizon 2020 (H2020) and the Societal Challenge 5, clarify working modalities and get first AG inputs on SC5 strategic priorities. Additionally, sustainability and climate action in H2020 were discussed.

Director Kurt Vandenberghe (Directorate I - Environment, Directorate General on Research and Innovation,) chaired the first meeting. 25 AG members out of 31 attended (regrets received from Almut Arneth, David Bresch, Michal Marek, Katherine Richardson and Shearer West).

1. Tour de table

Members of this AG have remarkably rich and diverse backgrounds and affiliations, including researchers, academics, representatives of industry groups, business owners, local authorities and other stakeholders, covering the whole spectrum of R&I domains relevant to H2020 SC5. Many AG members are newcomers to the AG process and some also to EU research and innovation programmes. The group is looking for ambitious, exciting ways to contribute to EU priority setting.

The AG list is included in the Annex 3. To provide additional information and promote transparency, short CVs of AG members (1 page with a photo) will be compiled and made publicly available.

2. Scene setter: general overview of Horizon 2020 and Societal Challenge 5 “Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials”.

The Commission staff briefly introduced the new EU R&I funding programme, Horizon 2020, as well as provided further details on H2020 SC5 (see attached slides for details).

3. Tasks and working modalities of the Advisory Group

The objectives, expectations and working methods for SC5 AG are described in Annex 1, slides x-x.

The first concrete task of the AG will be to draft a short high quality report on strategic priorities for SC5 which would provide input to the next strategic programming cycle, and could be presented to the Commissioner. The report should be ready by April 2014.

The Commission suggested postponing the elections of the Chair, Vice-chair and rapporteur until the next meeting in order to give the AG members an opportunity to make more informed decisions. For more information on the role of each of these positions and the profiles of potential candidates, please see the attached presentation (Annex 1, slides 24-25).

4. Discussion on strategic priority setting for H2020 Societal Challenge 5 “Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials”

Director Kurt Vandenberghe (Directorate General on Research and Innovation, Directorate I - Environment) introduced the discussion, noting that for the EU research and innovation programme to make a difference, it should not simply fund research supporting other policies, but rather co-develop and co-fund policies tackling societal challenges. We should not only identify problems but become part of the solution. The mission of the SC5 programme should be to develop and implement an EU research and innovation policy for a smart green economy that contributes to sustainable development. The Commission staff has started identifying key priorities for SC5 (the preliminary list was distributed at the meeting - see Annex 4).

The AG experts provided first feedback on the priorities presented, notably on the structure of the document and the need for horizon scanning activities.

As part of this agenda point, the FP7 RECREATE project on forward-looking analysis was presented by its coordinator Robbert Fisher. Some of RECREATE activities could provide inputs to and synergies with the work of this AG (see slides in Annex 2).

5. Sustainable development and climate action in H2020

The AG experts were asked to provide quick feedback on the suggested method of tracking sustainability and climate action expenditure in H2020 (see slides 7 and 29, and annex 5). Experts acknowledged the complexity of the task, but noted that the simplest tools, like the one suggested, have the highest chance of success for such an exercise.

6. AOB: Next meetings

Three meetings are suggested in 2013 – first half of 2014: 1) before Christmas holidays, 2) at the beginning of February and 3) the end of March. The Doodle tool will be used to determine dates which would suit the largest number of AG members.

Action points:

1. AG members are encouraged to send suggestions regarding candidates (either themselves or other AG members) for the AG Chair, Vice-chair and rapporteur **by 18 October 2013**.
2. Reflections (short e-mails) on the documents circulated at the meeting are welcome.
3. AG members are asked to provide a short (1 page) text summarising their CV and a photo before the next meeting.
4. The attached list of AG members will be made public once the H2020 AG web page is created. Any corrections should be communicated to the SC5 AG secretariat before the next meeting.
5. Doodle polls regarding the dates of the next 3 meetings will be set up shortly. Instructions will be sent in a separate e-mail.
6. To facilitate communications, please send all electronic correspondence regarding AG matters to the AG mailbox (RTD-ENV-ADVISORY-GROUP@ec.europa.eu).

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Annex 1 – H2020 SC5 AG – 4 October 2013 meeting presentation
Annex 2 – FP7 project RECREATE
Annex 3 – List of H2020 SC5 AG members
Annex 4 – Preliminary list of SC5 strategic priorities
Annex 5 – Climate and sustainable development in Horizon 2020