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Short summary report of the meeting of the H2020-ICT National Experts' Group

Held in Brussels, 23 September 2013

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted with the following points under AOB:

- ICT 2013 Event, Vilnius, 6-8 November 2013: Presentation
- Future meetings

2. SHORT SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF 5 SEPTEMBER 2013

The short summary report of the previous meeting was approved, subject to a few textual changes requested by the French delegation (concerning its interventions on HPC, PCP and the risk financing facility).

Following up on the short summary report and at the request of the Spanish delegation Mr Rouhana gave additional clarifications on the governance of the future PPPs. He explained that they will result in contractual arrangements between the European Commission and associations representing industry and academia. The Chair committed to provide an explanatory document on the governance of contractual PPPs. The issue will also further be discussed at the meeting on 5 November in Vilnius.

3. HORIZON 2020 LEIT-ICT WORK PROGRAMME 2014-2015 – SECOND DRAFT VERSION

The Chair reported on the comments that had been received on the first version of the Draft Horizon 2020 LEIT-ICT Work Programme 2014-2015. He especially highlighted the delegations' comments on the foreseen time schedule and on the overall strategy of the Work Programme.

The Chair thereafter opened the floor for a "tour de table" in which each delegation could individually express its views on the second version of the Draft Horizon 2020 LEIT-ICT Work Programme 2014-2015. He clarified that delegations would after the meeting still have the chance to send their written comments on this version to the H2020-ICTC Secretariat until 1 October. By 15 October the European Commission will provide a final draft of the Work Programme, on which the H2020-ICT National Experts' Group's agreement will be sought at its meeting of 22 October.

During the "tour de table" the following issues on the overall Horizon 2020 LEIT-ICT Work Programme 2014-2015, its strategies and its position within Horizon 2020 were raised:

- Many delegations stressed the need for an overview of the ICT parts in the three pillars of Horizon 2020. This overview should also indicate possibilities for interdisciplinary approaches (Austrian, Belgian, Bulgarian, Cypriot, Dutch, Estonian, French, German, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Maltese, Portuguese, Slovenian and Spanish delegations). Also a budget table with what is available for the different pillars and areas within them is needed (Austrian, Croatian, Irish and Swedish delegations). It was stressed that it is also important to provide the same information to the NCPs.
- The Irish delegation also asked if it could be indicated which DG CONNECT units will be involved in the different areas.
- It was remarked that the foreseen time schedule for adopting the Horizon 2020 LEIT-ICT Work Programme 2014-2015 is too ambitious and leaves only very little time for consultation on the national level (Austrian, Cypriot, German, Italian and Maltese delegations).
- Two delegations also asked if an overview document including all delegations' comments on the second version of the Work Programme could be provided (Austrian and Spanish delegations).
- Several delegations also expressed the need for more information, clear definitions and an overview of the various instruments as well as their evaluation criteria. It was further remarked that it is not clear which budgets will correspond to the different instruments (Austrian, Croatian, Czech Republic, Cypriot, Estonian, French, German, Italian, Hungarian, Maltese and Portuguese delegations).
- Especially a better description of the SME instrument is required (Bulgarian and Spanish delegations). Further, there is also a need for more information on the expected time-to-grant and the practical implementation of this instrument (German, Portuguese and United Kingdom delegations).
- The difference between innovation actions and R&I actions should be clarified (Austrian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Cypriot, Finnish, Irish and Slovenian delegations).
- More information on the size of projects is needed (French and Irish delegations).
- More room for innovation and for multi-disciplinary aspects that can influence innovation building is required (Italian, Spanish and United Kingdom delegations).
- An overview of what will be addressed in the various PPPs is required (German delegation). It was further remarked that in view of countries that are less represented in ETPs a different approach on the PPPs will be needed (Hungarian delegation) and that also integration between different platforms should be included in the Work Programme (Italian delegation).
- Better guidance should be given to industry and SMEs in particular to get them involved in the Work Programme (Croatian, Italian and Swedish delegations).
- A clear strategy on international cooperation is needed (Austrian, German, Italian, Portuguese and United Kingdom delegations).
- The French delegation asked the Commission if the text of the proposed work program presented at this meeting was fully in line with the wishes expressed by MEPs Madurel, Ehler and Carvallot during the development of the compromise between the Council and Parliament.
- It was asked if the H2020-ICT National Experts' Group can give a formal opinion on the Horizon 2020 LEIT-ICT Work Programme 2014-2015 (Spanish delegation).

Note was taken of all comments and questions. European Commission staff provided the following answers:

- It was stressed that the H2020-ICT National Experts' Group should primarily focus on the Horizon 2020 LEIT-ICT Work Programme 2014-2015. Precisely to avoid confusion amongst stakeholders it is important reaching a quick decision on the Work Programme. However, in order to have a full picture of ICT in Horizon 2020, the Chair committed to provide a general overview of ICT in the three pillars.
- An overview of budgets could as well be provided, but it was remarked that almost all the budgets already figured in the second version of the Work Programme, which had been circulated to the H2020-ICT National Experts' Group on 9 September. The budgets put forward had been based on the strategic programming.
- In order to ensure a smooth transition from FP7 to Horizon 2020, implementation aspects should for the time being be left out of the discussion. Therefore the European Commission could at this stage not provide information on the responsibilities of each of the DG CONNECT units.
- It was clarified that the final decision on the Annex I of the Horizon 2020 LEIT-ICT Work Programme 2014-2015 - which includes the description of the various instruments and the evaluation criteria and other implementation information – is to be taken by the Horizontal Committee. An overview of the different instruments could be given during the meeting of 5 November in Vilnius.
- The Chair committed to give at one of the next meetings a presentation on the SME instrument. With regard to the time-to-grant it was clarified that this should be shorter than what is legally binding. A two-step approach is being envisaged.
- The type of action (R&I grant, Innovation grant, CSA etc.) is predefined for each topic/subtopic in the Work Programme. All kinds of activities are possible in the innovation actions as well as in the R&I actions. For reasons of clarity the two instruments could be renamed. The European Commission will ensure that the different possibilities are clearly explained and will also give guidance on the size of the projects.
- The strategy for international cooperation is still being developed. On the basis of FP7 and the ISTAG recommendations coordinated calls have at this stage been foreseen with Japan and Brazil. The cooperation with Russia is temporarily not being continued. There is also pressure from other third countries (e.g. South-Korea or Mexico) to cooperate.
- As the H2020-ICT National Experts' Group is an informal shadow committee its opinion on the Horizon 2020 LEIT-ICT Work Programme 2014-2015 will later be formalised by the official Horizon 2020 ICT Committee.

During the "tour de table" also the following issues on the content of the Horizon 2020 LEIT-ICT Work Programme 2014-2015 were raised:

- The position of HPC was questioned. Delegations regretted that it had moved away from LEIT and was now also being addressed in the Excellence pillar (French, Polish, Portuguese and United Kingdom delegations).
- Several questions on the 5G PPP were raised. Firstly it was asked why it is being given so much weight, especially taking into account the rather poor results so far in the PPP on Future Internet. Delegations asked a detailed explanation about the rationale for this (Austrian and Polish delegations). The Polish delegation even indicated that it would not be able to vote positively on the Horizon 2020 LEIT-ICT Work Programme 2014-2015 without such additional explanation. Further, it was remarked that more clarity in the objective description and the budget allocation is required (Finnish delegation) and that more emphasis should be put

on satellite communication (Luxemburg delegation). Finally, the Swedish delegation supported the rationale for involving international competitors.

- More focused and detailed KPIs and contributions to standardisation are required (German, Polish and Portuguese delegations).
- More focus should be put on software developments (Italian, Slovenian and United Kingdom delegations). Especially the position of cyber-security was questioned. This is now being addressed in the Societal Challenge 7, but an overall horizontal approach throughout the complete LEIT ICT Work Programme should be required (Bulgarian, French, German, Hungarian and Norwegian delegations).
- More information is needed on the idea behind the call on web-entrepreneurship and on its practical implementation (Croatian, French, Portuguese and Spanish delegations).
- More details are also required on robotics. The difference between the two calls on robotics is not very clear (Bulgarian, Estonian, Hungarian, Slovenian, Spanish and United Kingdom delegations).
- A justification for the areas that have been chosen for PCP needs to be given (Bulgarian, French, German and Irish delegations).
- It should be specified which parts of nano-electronics will be addressed in the ECSEL JTI and which parts in the LEIT ICT Work Programme (Czech Republic and German delegations). The Dutch delegation further remarked that also industrial involvement needs to be ensured in nano-electronics.
- A detailed plan on how cross-cutting KETs will be addressed is needed (Czech Republic and German delegations).
- More emphasis should be put on 3D-imaging (Maltese delegation).
- A rewording of the part on the use of risk capital was advised (Spanish delegation).
- More information is needed on the budgets which are foreseen for conferences and studies (Irish delegation).
- It was remarked that the two planned call deadlines are close to holiday periods (Irish delegation).
- It was asked if Value Added Tax will be reimbursed (Hungarian delegation).

Note was taken of all comments and questions. European Commission staff provided the following answers:

- The European Commission has a strategy for HPC in each of the Horizon 2020 pillars. These strategies will be connected to each other. In LEIT there will be a focus on low-power computing and on enabling tools (including security aspects).
- The idea behind the 5G PPP is to get all network operators, SMEs and manufacturers together to decide on an integrated infrastructure for the future telecommunication networks. This is in line with the recommendations from the CAF in its plea for a flagship achievement by 2020 and also Commissioner Kroes is supporting the idea.
- The Horizon 2020 LEIT-ICT Work Programme 2014-2015 will contain clear KPIs on 5G. Also a new ETP integrating the current ETPs Net!Works and Integrated Satellite Initiative addressing both terrestrial and satellite communication will be created. The budget devoted to the complete area of telecommunication will be lower than in FP7.
- Initiatives to establish 5G are already on-going in Asia. To put Europe again in pole position the whole European industry wants to cooperate with the

international competitors. In that way a worldwide open market could be created. Users will equally benefit from common global standards.

- The governance of the 5G PPP will follow the same rules as the other contractual PPPs under Horizon 2020. This means that the European Commission will sign a contractual agreement with the association involved. The governance model of the association ensures full openness in terms of membership and democratic elections for the Steering Board, which will have a balanced composition, including also SMEs and research institutions.
- With regard to software the European Commission has decided to concentrate the efforts on the cloud. One of the priorities in the cloud is security.
- Although there is only a limited budget available, there is a drive to get web-entrepreneurs on board. Platforms will be created in order to involve SMEs.
- In order to make the strategy on robotics and the differences between the two calls clearer, modifications will be made to the next version of the Work Programme.
- Because of positive experiences with PCP in robotics for elderly people and in photonics, the European Commission is now coming back to PCP in these areas. Academia and industry support this approach, which is also avoiding the creation of silos under the Societal Challenges.
- The ECSEL JTI will focus on the higher end of the TRLs. Smaller size actions will be called for in the LEIT ICT Work Programme.
- The Commission will check if Value Added Tax will be reimbursed or not.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.a. Horizon 2020 national launch events

The ICT 2013 Event in Vilnius will be the main launch event for ICT under Horizon 2020. Mr Barbagli gave a short presentation on this event.

The following issues were further raised and discussed:

- The timing of the meeting of the H2020-ICT National Experts' Group just before the event (Dutch and Spanish delegations). The Chair said that the meeting day had already been communicated at the previous meeting. However, the European Commission will try to take as much as possible delegations' preferences for the starting time into account.
- The question if the full text of the Horizon 2020 LEIT-ICT Work Programme 2014-2015 will be available and presented at the ICT 2013 Event (German and United Kingdom delegations). The Chair said that two sessions where the Work Programme will be presented are foreseen. In parallel, networking sessions will be organised. The full text of the Work Programme will be available, but not in a paper version.

4.b. Future meetings of the H2020-ICT National Experts' Group

Meeting of 22 October 2013:

Final discussion and agreement on the Horizon 2020 LEIT-ICT Work Programme 2014-2015. Delegations can send their comments on the Work Programme until 1 October. A final draft of the Work Programme will be provided no later than 15 October.

6 to 8 November 2013:

ICT Event in Vilnius. The H2020-ICT National Experts' Group will meet on 5 November in Vilnius, just before the ICT 2013 Event, to discuss the practical implementation of the LEIT-ICT Work Programme 2014-2015.

Annex 1 - List of participants at the H2020-ICT National Experts' Group Meeting of 23 September 2013

Austria (AT):	Mr Walter PRINZ Mr Thomas ZERGOÏ
Belgium (BE):	Mr Karel GOOSSENS Mr Martin ERPICUM
Bulgaria (BG):	Ms Totka CHERNAEVA Mr. Vladimir POULKOV
Croatia (HR):	Mr Mario KOVAČ
Cyprus (CY):	Mr. Sophocles HADJISOPHOCLEOUS
Czech Republic (CZ):	Mr Jiri KADLEC
Denmark (DK):	Ms. Ea Elisabeth BAUCHY
Estonia (EE):	Ms. Merle LUST
Finland (FI):	Mr. Jouko HAUTAMÄKI Mr. Juha LATIKKA Mr Timo TASKINEN
France (FR):	Mr Frédéric LAURENT Mr. Patrick SCHOULLER
Germany (DE):	Mr Rubén CANTERO-ÁLVAREZ Ms Andrea KÖNDGEN
Greece (EL):	Prof. Constantine STEPHANIDIS
Hungary (HU):	Mr Sándor BOTTKA Mr Ferenc KNEISZ Ms Edina NEMETH
Iceland (IS):	Mr Sigurdur BJÖRNSSON
Ireland (IE):	Mr Stephen O'REILLY
Italy (IT):	Ms Paola INVERARDI
Latvia (LV):	Absent
Liechtenstein (LI):	Absent
Lithuania (LT):	Absent
Luxembourg (LU):	Mr Jean-Paul HENGEN
Malta (MT):	Ms Marie Claire TONNA
Netherlands (NL):	Mr Wolfgang TOSTMANN

Norway (NO): Ms Kim DAVIS
Mr Pal GRETLAND

Poland (PL): Mr Andrzej GALIK
Mr Piotr KĘPSKI

Portugal (PT): Ms Elisabete PIREs
Mr Carlos SALEMA

Romania (RO): Absent

Slovak Republic (SK): Mr Martin KLIMO

Slovenia (SI): Ms Andreja UMEK VENTURINI

Spain (ES): Mr Fernando MARTIN GALENDE
Mr Fernando RICO RÍOS

Sweden (SE): Ms Hanna BERGDALL
Mr Bogumil HAUSMAN

United Kingdom (UK): Mr Pete WALTERS
Ms Zoe WEBSTER

Commission

<p>Mr Zoran STANCIC (Chair)</p> <p>Ms Annalisa BOGLIOLO Mr Thierry BOULANGE Mr Tom CLAUSEN Mr Jorge GASOS Mr Philippe GELIN Mr Max LEMKE Mr Pierre MARRO Mr Luis RODRIGUEZ-ROSELLO Mr Khalil ROUHANA Mr Fabrizio SESTINI Mr Thomas SKORDAS Mr Tsarchopoulos PANAGIOTIS Ms Isabel VERGARA</p>	<p>Mr Alessandro BARBAGLI (ICTC Secretary) Mr Eric CASTEELS (short summary report) Ms Gerda COLLING (secretary) Ms Catherine HODJEFF (secretary) Ms Carine MATHY (secretary)</p>
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