



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Directorate I - Environment
I.1 - Horizontal aspects

Brussels, 23 December 2013
rtd.ddg3.i.1(2013)4066017

**2nd Meeting of the Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 5
“Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials”
Advisory Group
11 December, 2013, 09:00 - 16:00**

Operational minutes

The main objective of the second meeting of the Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 5 “Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials” (SC5) Advisory Group (AG) was to begin an in-depth discussion on future strategic priorities for H2020 SC5 and start preparing SC5 road maps.

The agenda included election of the Chair, Vice-chair and the Rapporteur, Commission update on H2020 strategic programming (see slides 7-11 in the attached presentation), and debrief from the 10 December DG RTD foresight seminar (foresight workshop supporting documents attached at the AG’s request).

Director Kurt Vandenberghe (Directorate I - Environment, Directorate General on Research and Innovation,) chaired the beginning of the meeting and the new Chair Laura Burke took over after the AG agreement on her nomination. 25 AG members out of 31 attended.

The key point of the agenda was the discussion of AG inputs for the second strategic programming exercise and SC5 road maps. Under this point, Director Vandenberghe noted that the key objective for SC5 is to help realise green economy in harmony with nature. He further pointed out that to achieve this we need to choose priorities where the EU can make a difference; we also need to present research and innovation as part of the solution. Future priority areas should lead to innovation (to achieve growth and jobs, but in a more sustainable way), enable Europe to set the agenda, and to create a reference framework that will unlock the potential for investment by different stakeholders; moreover, our priorities should be aligned with H2020 Specific Programme, and should capitalise on past achievements, as well as leverage actions in other areas/programmes at all levels. The key priority areas identified include systemic eco-innovation, climate services, nature-based solutions, and sustainable supply of raw materials (see slide 13).

Matti Pellegrini (DG Enterprise) briefly presented sustainable raw materials priority, noting in particular that in this area European Innovation Partnership EIP on Raw Materials has already developed clear targets (a type of a road map) to be achieved by 2020. Additional information on the EIP is available here: (<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/raw-materials/en/content/about-sip>). A short video on raw materials was also presented at the meeting and is available here: (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPwVrH3_-O0&feature=youtu.be).

The AG’s first concrete task is to prepare a succinct report (maximum 10 pages) by next April. The AG should serve as a sounding board for the Commission, as well as to prepare actionable recommendations. The group should also advise on integration of cross-cutting issues. Finally, it is hoped that the report will generate excitement for this area of research and innovation.

As the first building blocks to the report, the AG was asked to fill in the suggested templates for road maps (see attached), capturing actions, evidence, expected impacts and indicators. The road maps should cover a 5 year period, with actionable recommendations for 2016-17.

The subsequent discussion highlighted a number of general issues, such as the use of terms 'convergence' vs 'transdisciplinarity' (for additional information on convergence, please refer to Kathrine Richardson's e-mails sent on 11 December), the need to look at existing indicators used to evaluate similar programmes (potentially those used in the framework of Structural Funds), SME involvement, and better integration of Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH). It was also noted that a glossary/common understanding on frequently used terms would be useful. On more practical matters, it was noted that feedback coming to the Commission from other areas, including SSH, and coordination with other AGs need to be considered.

With regard to the priority areas proposed by the Commission, the AG made generally positive comments and suggestions. However, several AG members questioned the logic behind the selection of climate services as one of the priority areas, which was seen as potentially too narrow.

In addition to the main agenda point, the Commission provided the following additional information:

- The new DG RTD organigramme (circulated ahead of the meeting) will take effect from 1 January 2014. The organigramme reflects the move towards a policy DG and new management modes.
- The first H2020 calls launched: [link](#)
- H2020 call for experts : [link](#)

Under AOB, Sybille van den Hove advised of the Volvo Environment Prize (see [link: www.environment-prize.com](http://www.environment-prize.com)). There are many high level scientists among past laureates, but few Europeans. Therefore, the AG was encouraged to nominate European environment scientists

Conclusions/Action points:

1. With the AG agreement, the following experts were appointed as H2020 SC5 AG Chair, Vice-chair and Rapporteur:

- the Chair: Laura Burke,
- the Vice-Chair: Corina Hebestreit
- the Rapporteur: Anil Markandya

In the case of the rapporteur, the duration is only one year due to the time consuming nature of this position.

2. Five sub-groups were established: 4 corresponding to the 4 priority areas and the 5th to discuss SSH in SC5. The sub-groups will hold meetings in the afternoon before the AG meeting (29 January 2014). The AG members present at the 11 December meeting have signed up for the groups (see the attached list). It would be appreciated if the AG members who could not participate in the meeting would indicate their sub-group preferences to the Commission (RTD-ENV-Advisory-Group@ec.europa.eu) at their earliest convenience.

3. Informal rapporteurs for each sub-group should be selected to facilitate work and reporting within the group.

4. Sub-groups should fill out their respective road maps and report back to the next AG meeting

5. The Commission will explore technological support for the work of sub-groups

6. The Commission will explore possibilities to present indicators at a future AG meeting

7. The Commission will present FP7 interim assessment at the next AG meeting

8. Documentation from the Commission foresight seminar will be circulated to members of the AG.

Next AG meetings in 2014: **29-30 January and 13 March**

Annex 1 – H2020 SC5 AG – 11 December 2013 meeting presentation

Annex 2 – H2020 SC5 road map templates

Annex 3 – List of sub-group members

Annex 4 – Supporting documents for 10 December foresight workshop