



Brussels, 10 October 2013
H1/RZ

Summary conclusions of the Meeting on the Transport national expert group – 26 September 2013

1. Opening of the meeting

In welcoming the 28 Member State experts and the representatives of the EEA countries nominated for Transport, the Chair explained that, till the adoption of the Horizon 2020 legislative package, the Transport configuration will meet informally, in the form of “national expert group”.

As agreed with the high representatives of Member States, three informal meetings are scheduled for Transport (26/09; 22/10; 11/11/2013) with the aim of pushing forward the implementation of H2020 and meet the objective of publishing the first work programme and calls by mid-December.

The Transport Challenge is implemented jointly by DG RTD (directorate H) and DG MOVE (Directorate C). IT-related topics are implemented in strict coordination with DG CONECT.

2. Horizon 2020 work programme

The Transport expert group received the first draft of the Transport work programme on 17/09.

In opening this point the Chair reminded the delegates about the new approach for H2020, i.e.:

- A strong challenge-based approach, allowing applicants to have considerable freedom to come up with innovative solutions
- Simplified list of possible types of action (e.g. research and innovation -100%; innovation actions - 70%,...)
- Less prescription, strong emphasis on expected impact
- Broader topics
- Cross-cutting issues mainstreamed (e.g. social sciences, gender, international...).

The Commission explained the process that led to the first draft of the transport work programme and provided an overview of the topics proposed. Slides have been sent by e-mail.

Issues relating to budget and call deadlines were not addressed as still under internal discussion.

In general terms, the challenge-based approach and the structure of the first draft of the Transport work programme were well perceived and welcome.

All Member States had the opportunity to take the floor and express their views. The points raised that deserve further discussions are as follows:

- balance between modal and cross-modal priorities;
- emphasis to the socio-economic dimension of Transport;

- links with other initiatives, the JTIs in particular;
- topics description: level of granularity and prescriptiveness;
- two-year WP;
- two-stage evaluation and deadlines.

Concerning specific topics, detailed comments in writing were pre-announced.

As far as aviation is concerned, concerns were expressed about the technology readiness levels not addressing the whole research and innovation cycle as well as on the number and content of topics proposed for aviation.

Due to the very tight timing for the adoption of the first H2020 work programmes, the second round of detailed comments in writing is expected by the 8th October. A revised draft will be sent to the delegates a few days before the second meeting.

3. Horizon 2020 national information activities: launch events; National Contact Points

The Commission presented the list of the H2020 launch events that will take place in the Member States as well as an update about the nominations of NCPs.

The next meeting of the Transport national expert group is scheduled on the 22 October 2013.

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