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Directorate I – Climate Action and Resource Efficiency
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**4th Meeting of the Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 5
“Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials”
Advisory Group
13 March, 2014**

Operational minutes

The main objective of the fourth meeting of the Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 5 “Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials” (SC5) Advisory Group (AG) was to finalise the H2020 SC5 road maps and to discuss the 1st H2020 SC5 AG report, to be finalised by the end of April. The meeting was chaired by Laura Burke.

In the morning, the AG worked in 4 sub-groups:

- Working group 1 – Systemic eco-innovation
- Working group 2 – Climate services
- Working group 3 – Nature-based solutions
- Working group 4 – Sustainable supply of raw materials.

The groups discussed the road maps, as well as provided inputs to the AG report with regard to whether the Commission is on track to deliver a solutions oriented programme with Horizon 2020 (see annex 1).

In the afternoon, the Commission (Alison Imrie, DG RTD Directorate I – Climate action and resource efficiency) briefly explained the context of the future consultation with H2020 Advisory Groups (see slides in annex 2).

In addition, Director Kurt Vandenberghe (DG RTD Directorate I) noted that Horizon 2020 can make a difference in transforming pressing global societal challenge into innovation opportunities and contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. He pointed out that the challenge is so big that it requires the mobilisation across Horizon 2020. The core text of the AG report should focus on strategic orientations that would allow Horizon 2020 to make a real difference in economy and society. At the same time, specific actions listed in road maps will also be of great interest and will be added to the report as annexes.

Director Vandenberghe further noted that the report should be drafted keeping in mind that that it will be read by policy makers, the Commissioner, other Commission services, the SC5 Programme Committee and broader stakeholder community. The report will be published on the web and the Commission will use it extensively for further open debate and mobilisation of all relevant players.

Once the 1st AG report is finalised, there will be another meeting in May of the AG to discuss how to translate the report (as well as additional inputs, such as outcomes of foresight exercises) into strategic priorities. It is expected that by the end of June this discussion will result in another AG deliverable to be fed into the 2016-17 strategic programming process.

The AG Chair Laura Burke emphasised that the AG report will be an important tool to ensure that not only the work of the SC5 AG but also the importance of issues addressed by the whole Societal Challenge 5 is fully recognised. To do so, the report needs to clearly show that it will not be business as usual and it should outline how to achieve systemic change.

Following the introduction, rapporteurs (WG 1 – Erja Turunen, WG 2 – Kirsten Halsnæs, WG 3 – Saskia van den Muijsenberg and WG 4 – Corina Hebestreit) from each working group presented the outcomes of the group discussions (Annexes 3-7: presentations of WG2 and WG4, as well as draft road maps from all working groups, are uploaded in CIRCABC under the folders of the respective groups).

The debriefs were followed by an inspiring AG discussion. Some of the points raised included:

- It is important to keep a broader narrative which aims at creating not only economic, but also societal value.
- A systemic approach is needed; this will require increased trans-disciplinary cooperation.
- Inter- and trans-disciplinarity will need sufficient incentives (an example – an annual award for the most integrated trans-disciplinary research collaboration).
- There is a challenge in promoting long term approaches such as eco-innovation when business and society tends to be driven by short term challenges.
- Solutions should not be only technological: social innovation plays an important role, including in uptake and social acceptability of solutions.
- Potential risks associated with the envisaged innovations should be addressed in order to allow the society to make informed decisions.
- Innovation should be considered also in research funding, particularly the speed and flexibility of R&I funding instruments
- It is important to work with the variety and creativity in Europe at both national and sub-national level. There is not just one correct solution, there may be 10 different solutions which work in different parts of Europe.
- The novelty of the approach requires capacity building, networking and engagement of many different actors and stakeholders. Demonstration projects could be one way to catalyse such capacity building and networking, and help scale up solutions across a diverse Europe.
- Sufficient attention will need to be paid to education to ensure that the required skills are available.
- There is a need to leverage the bottom-up innovation capacity, while monitoring regulatory and other obstacles that innovators face.
- Cross-cutting issues, such as environment and health; foresight and horizon scanning of emerging issues; operating within planetary boundaries need to be addressed.
- There continues to be a need for basic science, improving the understanding of the impact of global environmental change.

- The role and potential of cultural heritage should not be forgotten.

For information:

The Commission informed the AG that a workshop ‘Towards a European Market of Climate Services’ takes place on 18 March and the Greek Presidency conference "Renaturing Cities: Addressing Environmental Challenges and the Effects of the Economic Crisis through Nature-Based Solutions" is scheduled for 13-14 May 2014 in Brussels.

Conclusions/Action points:

1. AG members to provide short comments in writing to the rapporteur, Prof. Anil Markandya, at their earliest convenience.
2. Sub-groups to finalise and submit road maps to the Commission and Prof. Anil Markandya by 24 March 2014.
3. Prof. Anil Markandya to prepare the second draft of the report in the first week of April and circulate to the AG for final comments. The report will be finalised and submitted to the Commission by the end of April.

Next meeting:

AG members will be asked to fill in a Doodle poll indicating availability for a meeting in May (a link to the Doodle poll to be sent separately).

Annex 1 – Questions for subgroups

Annex 2 – Next consultations with AGs

Annex 3-4 – Debriefs from working groups 2 and 4

Annex 5-7 – Draft road maps