



## Minutes of the Sherpa Group Meeting High level group on Key Enabling Technologies (HLEG KET) 10 October 2013

### **1. Introduction: objectives of the meeting by M. Crean (Vice President of CEA Technologies, Chairman of the Sherpa Group)**

M. Crean welcomed the Sherpa Group. He firstly stressed the importance of the KETs High Level Group (HLG) workshops on the four test cases of next 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of October. He stated that the four multi-KETs pilot line test cases, identified by the KETs HLG, in the embedded energy, smart structure, high performance production and innovative bio processes thematic areas, could build on the JTI ENIAC successful experience on KETs pilot line projects. These test cases, presented in recommendation 2 of the *Status Implementation Report* on the multi-KETs pilot line test cases (July 2013) have been endorsed by Vice-President Tajani in his closing speech at the latest KETs HLG meeting. In this context, M. Crean reminded all that the workshop should deliver very clear messages:

- Urgent industrial need for pilot lines / demonstrators in the four thematic & strategic areas identified;
- European industry is ready to invest in such pilot lines in Europe (with appropriate support from Member States, regions, Commission...)
- Synthesis of the potential scope of projects in that thematic area (potential identified pilot lines / demonstrators, financial envelope, number of potential project consortia ....)
- Enable the KETs HLG to elaborate a document scoping the potential European actions on pilot lines across the four thematic areas that would allow their initiation and support of the implementation using the appropriate innovation programmes.

Regarding the KETs HLG interim report, he stated that it will be presented to the EC at the next KETs HLG KET meeting which will take place end of January. M. Crean explained that this HLG report would be published in an important political context where industry will be at the top of the European agenda with the European Summit on industrial competitiveness planned for February 2014. M. Crean stressed that the KETs HLG interim report should deliver clear political messages to relevant European stakeholders.

### **2. Welcome and introduction by the European Commission Representatives:**

#### **M. Catinat (Head of unit KETs, DG ENTR)**

M. Catinat welcomed the Sherpa Group and provided an overview of the current KETs agenda at a European level. He confirmed that this agenda was progressing and accelerating, in particular, in the context of the coming European Council on industrial competitiveness. He explained that an EC Communication on industrial policy would be prepared in this context. The objective of this communication would be to provide proposals to the European Council. Three priorities have been identified by DG ENTR in the KETs domain:

- Launching test cases in the four thematic domains identified by the KETs HLG as “Important Projects of Common European Interest” (IPCEI) with the objective to manufacture in Europe;
- Facilitating pan-European access of SMEs to KETs Technology Platforms by improving the supply side dimension;
- Developing KETs’ skills, through the launching of the KIC on KETs-enabled manufacturing (EIT initiative), to be launched in 2016, as agreed by the Council and the European Parliament: the objective will be to work on trans-disciplinary skills with training institutions and to adapt the curricula.

He then provided feedback on the organisation of a workshop on KETs, in Emilia-Romania, stressing that many representatives of European regions were present. The objective was to raise the awareness of these regions regarding KETs in the context of finalisation of their “smart specialisation strategies”.

#### **M. Bon Bose (Director Industrial technologies, DG RTD)**

M. Von Bose firstly expressed his support to the work of the KETs HLG. He stated it was important for the Sherpa Group to keep a holistic view of their work including for instance their analysis of European regional funds, R&D, trade and State Aid policies. Regarding the Research and Innovation area, he stated that the rules were set by the Council and the European Parliament, in application of the co-decision procedure. Advisory structures, and more general advisory groups and the European public-private partnerships’ (PPPs) Associations will be active in Horizon 2020. However, a clear distinction of responsibilities can be observed. In this respect, the KETs HLG should provide guidance on the thematic areas of strategic interest for the European industry.

M. Crean thanked the DG RTD representatives, M. Von Bose and Mrs Schroeker (Head of unit, Horizontal issues) for their support. The discussion then focused on the critical issues still not resolved in the context of the coming implementation of Horizon 2020, scheduled for December 2013, such as for instance:

- Combined funding mechanisms between Structural Funds and Horizon 2020: the Sherpa Group agreed that article 55 was not enough; concrete and workable solutions are required, better clarity and legal certainty are needed for industry as *legal, procedural and financial* rules are different between H2020 and ESIF; this should be solved rapidly as regions are finalizing their smart specialisation strategies by the end of the year, and industry need to plan long-term to invest in R&D.
- Linking KETs and societal challenges is far from being reflected into reality (European Innovation Partnership on “smart cities” does not consider KETs for example).

The EC (M. Von Bose) confirmed that indeed some issues were not solved, but that the EC was working on it, and had a clear political will to go into this direction. He acknowledged that more experience was needed to implement these new processes.

### 3. KETs HLG Workshops: Status update on the "Test Cases Workshop" Sessions

The Chairmen of thematic sessions “embedded energy”, “smart structures”, “High Performance Production” and “innovative industrial processes” presented the content, objective and list of speakers of each session.

M. Crean briefly reminded all that the objective of this workshop was to deliver clear and simple messages to European stakeholders.

Beyond the thematic aspects, *common issues* were raised by the Sherpas, to be discussed during the workshop, such as: the calls of procedure (terms of references), funding mechanisms (combined funding mechanisms, financial engineering), the management of Intellectual Property Rights, as well as the multi-KETs dimension.

### 4. Presentation by Working Group Chairmen incl. scope, objectives, work programme, etc. - 15 min per WG –

The following main issues were discussed:

- **Public procurement:** market pull could boost innovation; a statement on public procurement and KETs was discussed;
- **Combined funding mechanisms:** the Sherpa members were asked to provide relevant examples of large-scale projects based on combined funding mechanisms.
- **KETs and societal challenges:** it was agreed that more efforts will be needed to have better integration between KETs and the Horizon 2020 “societal challenges” work programmes. Representatives of European public-private partnerships (PPPs) confirmed that societal challenges do not necessarily the technology side into account. Member States should be made aware of the need to establish links between KETs and societal challenges.
- **Illustration of KETs contribution to societal challenges:** the Sherpa Group discussed the possibility to organize an exhibition on KETs for the next European Council on Industry.
- **KETs and European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs):** related to the issue of societal challenges, the Sherpa Group suggested to invite the Innovation Policy unit of DG RTD to a Sherpa meeting in order to better link KETs and EIPs.
- **Selection criteria and evaluation panels for innovation actions:** the Sherpa Group unanimously highlighted the critical importance to adapt the selection criteria and evaluation panels of Horizon 2020 for innovation actions.
- **KETs and smart specialisation:** the Sherpa Group agreed on the need for additional communication efforts to highlight the opportunities offered by the KETs policy for regions. A list of regional contact points is available on the smart specialization platform website.
- **Study on the innovation ecosystems:** the EC (M. Catinat) reminded all that the Commission is collecting data to demonstrate the importance of regional industrial ecosystems for the innovation process, as well as for economic growth and job creation. In particular, he insisted on the strong synergies between large companies and SMEs in industrial ecosystems. It was agreed that the Sherpas would send available data, figures and best practice examples of regional innovation ecosystems to the EC.

### 5. Preliminary discussion on the content and format of the HLG KET Interim report

M. Crean reminded the group that the next interim report should be delivered by the KETs HLG at the next HLG meeting planned for end of January. He added that both the interim report and the HLG meeting would be important in

the context of the *European Council on Industrial competitiveness*. In this context the KETs HLG interim report should contain clear political messages to European stakeholders. The Sherpa Group agreed that this report should be short and focusing on key political issues.

## 6. Open discussion on the new ESIF regulation & synergies between funding instruments

This issue was discussed in detail in the morning session (introduction and open discussion session).

## 7. Presentation on the Multi-KETs pilot lines tender, by TNO

The presentation is available on CIRCA.

## 8. Open discussion on the content and format of the KETs HLG Memorandum of Understanding

The EC (M. Catinat) explained the expectations from the Commission with regard to the content of a MoU to be signed by the HLG Industry in support to the European KETs' strategy. In the following discussion, Sherpa members asked to replace the title ("Commitment") by the term "engagement" in order to avoid validation by the companies' legal departments. It was also stated that a list of engagements would be difficult to accept. Finally, it was agreed that a Sherpa team would agree on the architecture of the report.

### APPENDIX : AGENDA



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
Service Industries  
Key Enabling Technologies and Digital Economy

#### AGENDA OF HLG KET SHERPA GROUP MEETING, 10th OF OCTOBER 2013, DG ENTREPRISE, BRUSSELS - ROOM 5A

10:00		<b>Welcome</b>
	10 min	Introduction on the objectives of the meeting , by Mr. Gabriel Crean, Vice President of CEA Technologies, CEA, Chairman of the Sherpa Group
	10 min	Introduction by Mr Michel Catinat, Head of Unit Key Enabling Technologies and Digital Economy, DG
10:20	50min	HLG KET Workshops : Status update by chairmen of the "Test Cases Workshop" Sessions (M. Mijlemans, M. Cartuyvels, M. Geerts, Ms Burel) and by the chairman of the "KETs Global Competitiveness workshop" (M. Hoffmann) - 10 minutes per chairman -
11:10	110 min	High Level Group on KETs Working Groups: Presentation and animation of open discussion by Working Group Chairmen incl. scope, objectives, work programme, etc. - 15 min per WG -
13:00	60min	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00	30 min	Presentation and animation of open discussion by Working Group Chairmen incl. scope, objectives, work programme, etc. (continuation)
	40 min	Presentation on the Multi-KETs pilot lines study, by G. Murgia and TNO
	20 min	Preliminary discussion on the content and format of the HLG KET Interim report
	15 min	Open discussion on the new ESIF regulation on synergy of fundings
	15 min	Open discussion on the content and format of the HLG KET Memorandum of Understanding
	15 min	Any other business
16:30		End of meeting