



Minutes of the Sherpa Group Meeting High Level Group on Key Enabling Technologies (HLG KET) 16 May 2013

1. Introductory remarks by M. Crean (Vice President of CEA Technologies, Chairman of the Sherpa Group)

M. Crean informed the Sherpa Group of the urgent request from Vice-President Tajani to the High Level Group on KETs, to deliver a Status Implementation Report on the 16th of July. He then referred to the ongoing discussions on the Multi-annual financial framework (MFF), as well as on the Community State aid Framework for Research Development and Innovation, the revision of the regional aid guidelines and on the future Horizon 2020 and ESIF.

2. Feedback from M. Catinat (Head of unit KETs and Digital Economy, DG ENTR), on the European Commission / Member States Group on KETs meeting

M. Catinat (DG ENTR) underlined the importance of the meetings between the Sherpa Group, the European Commission (EC) and the Member States (MS). The bilateral meeting between the EC and the MS which took place the previous day was to brief member states on to the current status of the European KETs policy.

Regarding the organisation of meetings between the MS and the Sherpa Group, M. Catinat explained that some Member States were member of the first KETs High-Level Group (KETs HLG), which is not anymore the case now with the second KETs HLG. As the mandate of the new KETs HLG is focused on the implementation of the European KETs strategy, it was not possible to include all 27/28 MS as full HLG KET Members. However, cooperation between both groups is needed, and synergies should be created between those groups.

He then invited Sherpas to contact directly their MS Group member, as well as their respective regional authorities in order to make MS and regions aware of the importance of KETs as regions are preparing their "smart specialisation strategies". The role of MS is to ensure that those regional strategies are consistent and coherent.

Regarding the present Sherpa Group meeting, he recalled that the KETs HLG recommendations should cover the six KETs, be ambitious and above all, implementable.

3. Feedback from M. Crean (Vice President of CEA Technologies, Chairman of the Sherpa Group) on the Sherpa Group / Member States Group on KETs meeting

M. Crean stated that the KETs HLG has to be ambitious, and push boundaries, in this context of economic crisis. During the first KETs HLG, United Kingdom, Germany and France were members of the HLG KET. Now, whilst the situation is different, it is important to remain in close contact with each of the Member States, in order to ensure the endorsement of the KETs HLG recommendations.

M. Crean finally shared with the Sherpa Group the strong support and positive messages conveyed by several Member States during the meeting with the member states group.

4. Status of "Working Groups" work by Chairmen / Rapporteurs

Working Group chairmen and rapporteurs presented their recommendations.

Discussion focused on the following key points:

- **Working Group 1 (Multi-KETs approach) :**

Main issues discussed:

- The responses to the WG 1 questionnaire, confirmed that all PPPs are open to business from TRL 1 to 8. Moreover, PPPs were confirmed as the most efficient tool identified for this type of activities.
- It was agreed that in general, pilot lines would be open to suppliers and value chain stakeholders (vertical cooperation along the value chain), but not to competitors.
- On the issue of the relevance of the TRL scale, the Sherpas highlighted the importance of a single, clear and simple message on TRLs and KETs.

- **Working Group 2 (KETs value chain) :**

- The working group discussed on the identified test cases and will add a Biotechnology test-case which will be provided by the Biotechnology representatives within the Sherpa Group.
- It was stated that joint calls from PPPs would be of utmost importance to address multi-KETs projects. Representatives of the Energy Efficient Buildings and Green Vehicles were invited to provide examples of such potential KETs R&D&I projects.
- The working group discussed on the need to foresee a “value chain correctness” criterion, in the selection process of projects funded by the EU.

- **Working Group 3 (KETs financial engineering):**

- Discussion focused on the importance to ensure synchronization between the various funding sources (Horizon 2020, ERDF, or national funding).
- The EIB can act as a guarantee provider in the case of highly risky projects.

- **Working group 4 (Promotion of KETs in EU at national and regional levels)**

- The Sherpa Group was informed of the organisation of a workshop with Member States, on the promotion of KETs at national and regional level taking place in October 2013 (Open Days).

The European Commission invited the Sherpa Group to inform their HLG Members on the need to make regional authorities aware, in the frame of their smart specialisation strategies, of the opportunities offered by KETs and pinpointed the need for the HLG to provide examples of KETs projects at regional level.

- **Working Group 5 (KETs globalisation and state aids) :**

The WG was informed that the level of investment aid in the US was significantly better than that in Asia and Europe, whilst still being in line with WTO rules. Similarly, the level of public support to Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) is better in the US than in Asia and Europe, whilst at the same time allowed by the WTO rules. This situation confirms the need to adapt the Community State Aid framework on RDI and regional aid, in order to ensure a global level playing field for the European industry.

In addition, M. Crean mentioned the importance of the reciprocity dimension, to be addressed in the context of future Free Trade Agreements and other bilateral agreements negotiated by the EU with third countries.

- **Working group 6 (KETs human capital, skills and technological research infrastructures):**

RTOs (Research and Technology Organisations) confirmed their interest in the establishment of a list of European KETs Technology platforms. The European Commission (M. Catinat, DG ENTR) confirmed the intention to further support cooperation between RTOs on KETs Technology Platforms.

Sherpas also stressed the importance to start early on education by addressing youngsters as well. In this domain, it was stated that the Member States had a particular responsibility to act on same. The issue of long-life learning was also underlined as a key point in order to overcome the KETs' skills shortage in Europe.

- **Working group 7 (KETs and societal challenges)**

The Sherpa Group agreed on the importance that European KETs solutions should be used to respond to societal challenges.

The European Commission (DG Energy) confirmed that in the case of the energy challenge, and in particular, the SET Plan initiative, the roadmaps were elaborated by Industry, but the Advisory Groups include a broader spectrum of stakeholders allowing combining market pull and technology push aspects.