

## **Key Enabling Technologies (KETs):**

### **General working methods of the high-level Commission expert group (HLG)**

#### **1. GENERAL REMARKS ON THE HIGH-LEVEL GROUP**

Following the recommendations of the first High Level Group on Key Enabling Technologies (launched in July 2010 with a mandate of one year), the Commission worked out a single and comprehensive strategy on KETs to promote the deployment of Key Enabling Technologies in Europe, which has been adopted by the Commission on 26 June 2012. To forge the implementation of the European Strategy for KETs and as foreseen in the Communication of June 2012, an external KETs Issues Group, namely the KETs High Level Group, is set up to advise the European Commission and to monitor progress in the development and deployment of KETs for a competitive Europe. The High Level Group will allow the Commission to consult the main stakeholders on a regular basis in order to constantly interact and receive feedback on the development and implementation of the EU KETs policy.

The aim of the High Level Group is:

- (1) To discuss and advise the Commission on any KETs-related policy issues;
- (2) To follow up the implementation of the European Strategy for Key Enabling Technologies adopted by the Commission on 26 June 2012;
- (3) To promote the development of KETs policies by the Member States.

The HLG is expected to deliver solid results. The members are appointed by the Commission from key actors along the whole Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) value chain. The following key organisations are represented: (1) technology representatives for each of the six KET (micro-/nanoelectronics, industrial biotechnology, photonics, nanotechnologies, advanced materials, advanced manufacturing) and for multi-KETs (as most innovative products are a combination of different KETs); (2) down-stream industry users as the aim of the KETs Strategy is to boost the production of KETs-based products; (3) cross-cutting KETs representatives and civil society representatives: the European Investment Bank, the Research Community, the Skills and SME Community as well as other relevant stakeholders from civil society (as trade union association, environmental NGO, movement involving local and regional authorities); and (4) the relevant Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs) are represented in order to ensure coherence and create synergies. In doing so, the European Commission sought to achieve a balanced overall composition, based on broad representation and expertise of the members while keeping the size of the HLG to a manageable level.

The HLG will ensure that the positions of all the different stakeholders are duly taken into account and work towards a consensus around a supportive environment for KETs.

The High Level Group is an expert group within the meaning of the Communication from the President to the Commission [C(2010) 7649 final]. The Chair (President) of the High Level Group is appointed by the

Commission services. Commission officials with an interest in the proceedings may attend the meetings of the Group or the sub-groups. Experts or observers with specific competence on a subject on the agenda may be invited to participate in the Group's or its sub-group's deliberations.

The names of the member organisations are published in the Register of Commission expert groups, as well as the names of the individuals representing their organisation in the High Level Group and the Sherpa Group.

## **2. TASKS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL GROUP**

The KETs High Level Group will give advice to the Commission on the implementation of European Strategy for KETs, as outlined in the Communication of June 2012. The group will assist the Commission in enabling discussion with Member States/regions and private stakeholders on the implementation of that strategy. Areas covered by the communication include

- (a) The financial engineering of KETs projects;
- (b) The synergy between EU instruments and between different KETs;
- (c) The mobilisation of trade instruments to ensure fair competition and a level international playing field for KETs;
- (d) State aid related issues in view of the existing state-aid framework and ongoing reviews;
- (e) The identification of potential projects of common European interest;
- (f) The identification of regulatory impediments to the commercialisation and market uptake of KETs and the free circulation (internal market) of KETs based products;
- (g) The integration of KETs development with member state economies to allow member states/regions to leverage the particular strength of their local economy;
- (h) The commitment of private stakeholders in support of the EU KETs policy;
- (i) The supply of skilled labour in KETs-related areas;
- (j) The follow-up of the market evolution and policy measures with regard to KETs, in the EU and abroad.

## **3. WORKING METHODS AND STRUCTURES**

### **3.1. The High Level Group**

The HLG will hold its meetings in Brussels. The meetings will be opened by the European Commissioner responsible for Enterprise & Industry in cooperation with the Commissioners in charge of the Digital Agenda, Research & Innovation and Regional Policy. Other Commissioners will be invited to participate to the debate according to the agenda.

At least up to three meetings are anticipated – kick-off, mid-term and final.

The HLG will deliver a mid-term report one year after its first meeting. A final report will be delivered to the Commission by the end of 2014.

The detailed working arrangements and the creation of ad hoc sub-groups will be prepared by a Sherpa Group and decided by the HLG itself. The Commission staff will provide the secretariat and logistical support as appropriate.

### **3.2. The Sherpa Group**

Each member of the HLG will nominate a personal representative to the Sherpa Group.

Representatives are expected to be of a high level, able to represent their organisation. Acting under the HLG's strategic direction and the overall coordination of its own Chairman, the Sherpa Group will focus on the effective preparation of the tasks of the High Level Group.

This includes agreeing on the operational mandate of the HLG, drawing up a Work Programme and ensuring the set-up and the proper functioning of the working groups.

The Sherpa Group will meet as frequently as necessary. Participation will be reserved to one Sherpa nominated by its organisation. Only in exceptional cases, the Sherpa can be represented by another member of its organisation; prior approval by the Chair will be requested.

### **3.3. The Working Groups**

Working groups could be set-up on specific themes in support to the Sherpa Group activities. They will be composed of members of the Sherpa Group. According to the content of each thematic group, experts will be invited to participate to the working group discussions.

The working groups will launch consultations of the relevant European stakeholders through for example the organization of workshops.

Taking into account the importance of Member States in the implementation of the European KETs Strategy, a Member States Group on Key Enabling Technologies will be set up. It is foreseen to hold joint meetings with the Sherpa Group of the KETs High Level Group. The aim of these joint meetings is to allow for exchange of views between the Member States and the members of this group.

## **4. THE SCOPE OF WORK OF THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP**

The HLG is expected to provide advice, proposals and policy recommendations on the conditions for further industrial deployment of KETs in the EU (recommendations for short term implementation as well as recommendations of a more long term nature, for new activities as well as reinforcing existing initiatives) and to undertake concrete actions and trigger concrete actions by private stakeholders for further enabling the wide deployment of KETs in Europe.

The Commission is interested in proposals and recommendations for Commission, Member States and the private sector as well as in a full-range of enabling and concrete actions related to the implementation of the European Strategy for KETs as outlined in the Communication of June 2012.

It is expected that the HLG contributes to the successful implementation of the European Strategy for KETs, notably by triggering necessary actions to support its implementation.

### ANNEX – Organisational structure of the HLG

