Fourth meeting of the High Level Group on maximising the impact of EU research and innovation programmes

Meeting report

6 and 7 June 2017, Brussels

1. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non-public.

2. Approval of the agenda

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming the participants. The agenda of the meeting was adopted without changes.

3. Discussion with external stakeholder organisations

At the request of the High Level Group (HLG), a dedicated discussion session was held with a group of invited external and EU institutional stakeholder organisations. These were:

- European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities
- European Regions Research and Innovation Network
- European Industrial Research Management Association
- European Climate Foundation's Industrial Innovation for Competitiveness Initiative
- European Network of Innovation Agencies
- European Start-up Network
- European Trade Union Confederation

The session was structured around four questions prepared and communicated to the stakeholder organisations in advance:

- 1). How could the impact of future EU R&I programmes be maximised?
- 2). How could the EU funding landscape for R&I be rationalised?
- 3). What would be your top three priorities for the next Framework Programme?

1 Published in the Register of Commission Expert Groups and Other Similar Entities, code number E03484.
4). How could the societal relevance of EU R&I programmes be boosted?

Questions posed by High Level Group members in response to stakeholders’ statements included:

- In supporting research and innovation undertaken in Europe, how can the programmes best cater for multinational companies which may be headquartered in different parts of the world?
- Which practical measures could the EU put in place to increase the number of unicorns (companies valued at over $1 billion)?
- How could EU support for R&I best be used to enable high-tech companies to scale up?
- How could the EU best support the connection of high-quality knowledge and innovators?
- What level of alignment should there be between national and EU R&I programmes, also in respect of regional programmes?
- Within Structural Funds support for R&I, what should be the balance between top-down and bottom-up approaches?
- How to practically incentivise project consortia to integrate social sciences and humanities researchers from the outset?
- What are particularly successful examples of EU-funded projects that feature strong input from social sciences and humanities?

4. Working dinner with Commissioner Hogan

A working dinner took place with the participation of Phil Hogan, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, and Commissioner Moedas. The discussion focused on how to maximise EU-level agricultural R&I and to increase leverage, and on the opportunities for working together between agriculture and R&I.

5. HLG meeting – discussion on draft report and next steps

A detailed discussion was held on the content of the HLG report, based on a draft circulated to Group members in advance of the meeting which summarised the prior contributions from members.

Guenther Oettinger (Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources) and Commissioner Moedas briefly joined the meeting in the afternoon.

6. List of participants

HLG members present: Pascal Lamy (Chair), Martin Brudermüller, Mark Ferguson, Lykke Friis, Cristina Garmendia, Iain Gray, Jan Gulliksen, Harri Kulmala, Nevenka Maher, Maya Plentz Fagundes, Lucyna Woźniak, Milena Žic Fuchs.