



**Commissioner Carlos Moedas**

**15<sup>th</sup> SAM Group of Chief Scientific Advisors Meeting**

**Tuesday, 4 December 2018**

**09:15-17:00**









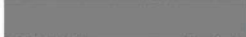


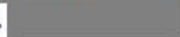
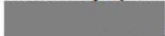



**BERL 09/121**

**And**

**Wednesday, 5 December 2018**

**9:30-11:45**

**ORBN 03/067**

<p>Main contact person:  , , , RTD-01 (SAM Secretariat), </p> <p>Contributor(s):  , , , RTD-A3, office   and several members of SAM Secretariat</p>	<p>Cabinet Member: Keith Sequeira</p> <p>RTD colleague at meeting:  , , , RTD-01 (SAM secretariat), </p> <p>Back up (in case of absence):  , , , RTD-01 (SAM secretariat), </p>
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## 0. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

### 1<sup>st</sup> meeting day: 4 December 2018

**1. Welcome and adoption of agenda**

09:15 - 09:30

**2. Preparation of agenda items 3 and 4**

09:30 – 10:30

10:30 – 11:00 *Coffee Break*

**3. Up-date on ongoing and planned topics**

Presence of the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas

11:00 – 11:30

- *Microplastics*
- *Gene editing*

**4. Exchange with Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil Hogan and with Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas**

11:30 – 12:30

- *Brief presentation of published science advice products of relevance to agriculture*
- *Discussion on possible scientific opinion related to Sustainable Food Systems*

12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch with European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas and SAPEA [REDACTED];*

**5. Impact of published scientific opinions: Food from the Oceans – feedback from DG MARE**

*(with Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA) [REDACTED])*

14:00 – 14:45

14:45 – 15:00 *Coffee Break*

**6. Exchange on published, planned and ongoing topics with SAPEA**

*(with Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA) [REDACTED])*

15:00 – 17:00

**- End of first day -**

19:00 *Dinner*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting day: 5 December 2018

**7. Events with participation of Group of Chief Scientific Advisors**

09:30 – 10:15

- *Feedback from INGSA conference 2018*
- *American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) conference, February 2019, and meeting 'G7 Scientific Advice Cooperation on Microplastics Pollution Round Table',*
- *European Science Advisors Forum Meeting, June 2019*
- *World Conference on Science Journalists, July 2019,*

- *Event on gene editing with Re-Imagine Europe,*
- *Other*

**8. Strategy for the identification of own-initiative topics**

*10:15 – 10:45*

*10:45 – 11:00 Coffee Break*

**9. Organisational issues**

*11:00 – 11:30*

**10. Wrap up and AOB**

*11:30 – 11:45*

***- End of Meeting –***

## 1. STEERING BRIEF

### Scene Setter

This briefing concerns the Scientific Advice Mechanism Group of Chief Scientific Advisors' 15<sup>th</sup> ordinary plenary meeting.

Six advisors will be present. [REDACTED] informed you that [REDACTED] cannot participate due to personal reasons.

You will join them on the first day of their meeting, 4 December:

- 11:00-11:30, for agenda item 3: 'Up-date on ongoing and planned topics';
- 11:30-12:30, for agenda item 4: 'Exchange with Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development'.
  - It is the first time that Commissioner Hogan meets the Advisors;
  - Jean-Eric Paquet (Director-General DG RTD) and Wolfgang Bartscher (Deputy Director General DG RTD) will be present for items 3 and 4; Marco Valletta (Cabinet Andriukaitis) and Sabine Juelicher (Director of Directorate E Food and Feed Safety, Innovation) will be present for item 4.
- 12:30-14:00, for lunch: 13<sup>th</sup> floor Berlaymont, salon 2, with representatives of the five European Academy Networks which are part of the consortium of the Science Advice for Policy of European Academies (SAPEA).
- You will be accompanied by [REDACTED]. Members of the SAM Unit including [REDACTED] [REDACTED] will be present for the entire meeting.

Under agenda item 3 you will:

- Receive an up-date on the micro-plastics topic, now led by [REDACTED].
- Discuss with the advisors their recently published statement on gene editing (13 November), in particular its reception by the Commission and external stakeholders. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are the leading Advisors for this topic.
- The Advisors will also provide you with their views of the role of SAPEA within SAM in advance of your lunch meeting with the SAPEA [REDACTED].

Under agenda item 4 you will:

- Tell Commissioner Hogan about the Advisors' work to date, in particular, those opinions of relevance to their portfolios (*Authorisation Processes of Plant Protection Products*, the explanatory notes on 'Glyphosate' and 'New Techniques in Agricultural Biotechnology', as well as the statement on 'Gene Editing').
- Invite [REDACTED] to inform Commissioner Hogan about the possible scientific opinion on 'Sustainable Food Systems' ([REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are the leading Advisors for this topic).

- Receive feedback from Commissioner Hogan on this topic; also from Cabinet Andriukaitis and DG SANTE representatives.

The purpose of lunch is threefold:

- A courtesy meeting with the five [redacted] of SAPEA: [redacted] ( [redacted] AE), [redacted] of SAPEA [redacted]; [redacted] ( [redacted] FEAM); [redacted] ( [redacted] ALLEA); [redacted] ( [redacted] EASAC); and [redacted] ( [redacted] Euro-CASE).
- You may wish to provide the participants with a brief up-date on the situation concerning Horizon Europe.
- You will hear from the SAPEA representatives about their priorities for 2019 and about the perception of the Scientific Advice Mechanism in the scientific community.

You most recently met the Advisors for lunch during their 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in Brussels in October. During that meeting, the Advisors agreed to work further on scientific advice on *'Making Sense of Science Under Conditions of Complexity and Uncertainty'*, *'Micro-plastic Pollution'* (in co-operation with the [redacted] Chief Scientific Advisor, [redacted]), and on *'Transforming the Future of Ageing'*. They agreed to write a statement on *'Gene Editing'*, based on their previous explanatory note on *'New Techniques in Agricultural Biotechnology'*, to further examine possible scientific advice on *'Sustainable Food Systems'* and *'Climate Change and Health'*; as well as to monitor the impact of their existing advice.

### **Objective(s)**

#### **Agenda item 3**

- Congratulate the Advisors on their statement on gene editing.
- Discuss possibilities of feeding the statement into a broader reflection on the European GMO legislation, while being aware that DG SANTE has no plans at present to revise the current legislation.
- Receive an up-date from the Advisors on the work regarding the 'micro-plastics' topic.
- Receive and discuss the view of the Advisors of the contribution of SAPEA to SAM.

#### **Agenda item 4**

- Receive feedback from Commissioner Hogan and DG SANTE on the proposed scientific opinion on *'Sustainable Food Systems'*.
- Discuss with Commissioner Hogan the relevance of other SAM science advice products for EU policy in the area of agriculture.

### **Lunch**

- Welcome [redacted] as the [redacted] of the SAPEA [redacted].
- Inform the participants about the state-of-play regarding Horizon Europe.
- Learn from SAPEA about their priorities for 2019.

- Obtain insight into the visibility and the perception of SAM in the scientific community.

### **Line to Take**

#### **Agenda item 3**

- Congratulate the Advisors for their statement on gene editing.
- Underline the relevance of their statement to a broader participatory reflection on the European GMO legislation.
- Note that there are no plans to revise the existing GMO legislation under the present Commission.
- Welcome progress on the micro-plastics topic, including the planned G7 meeting, in co-operation with [REDACTED] Chief Scientific Advisor [REDACTED]. Acknowledge [REDACTED] as the [REDACTED] Advisor [REDACTED].
- Invite the views of the Advisors on the contribution made by SAPEA to SAM

#### **Agenda item 4**

- Invite [REDACTED] to introduce '*Sustainable Food Systems*' as one of the next possible own-initiative topics on which the views of Commissioner Hogan, Cabinet Andriukaitis and DG SANTE are sought.
- Discuss the relevance for policy of one or more of the already published Science Advice products, for example of the gene editing statement, if Commissioner Hogan, Marco Valletta or Sabine Juelicher express specific interest in it.

### **Lunch**

- Appreciate the excellent work of [REDACTED] (not present) as the [REDACTED] of the SAPEA [REDACTED] and look forward to a good cooperation with [REDACTED] as the [REDACTED].
- Inform the participants about key features and priorities of the Commission legislative proposals for Horizon Europe and the state of play of the negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council.
- Invite [REDACTED] to give his view on the main contributions by SAPEA to SAM, to describe the priorities of SAPEA for 2019 and to provide insight into the perception of SAM by the scientific community.

## **2. SPEAKING POINTS**

**Will follow separately**

### 3. BACKGROUND NOTES

#### 3.1 Update on on-going and planned topics

##### *Microplastics*

Since the last meeting of the Group, most of the work of relevance to the planned Opinion has been on the Evidence Review Report being prepared by a SAPEA expert Working Group. This report is expected to be finalised and delivered to the Group as input for its Opinion on 20 Dec 2018. The SAM Unit in this time has finalised a background paper describing the micro-plastics policy context at EU level, internationally and also in some individual countries around the globe. This will also be taken into consideration by the Advisors in working on their opinion. To begin to bridge from the scientific evidence to the Opinion, the Group will conduct an expert workshop on 10-11 Jan in Brussels. Preparations for this are currently underway and are planned to be finalised before the end of November, as far as identification and confirmation of invited participants are concerned.

At the July meeting of the Group which was attended by [REDACTED] – [REDACTED]'s Chief Science Advisor, it was decided to cooperate on this topic. From this, the idea emerged of holding a high-level Roundtable discussion on micro-plastics science advice on the week of the 2019 AAAS annual meeting which the Group will be attending in any case. This idea was endorsed by the Sept 2018 G7 ministerial in Halifax with the hope expressed that all G7 members would participate. At present, contact has been made with all G7 countries though lead invitees (at the time of writing) still have not been identified for Italy and France. The idea is that the Roundtable could adopt a consensus statement and hopefully feed into relevant work under the formal programme of the French 2019 G7 Presidency.

##### *Transforming the Future of Ageing*

By initiative of SAPEA consortium, the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors agreed that SAM should provide science advice to the European Commission on the Future of Ageing.

However, the decision by the Chief Scientific Advisors, under the lead of [REDACTED], whether to issue an Opinion on this topic based on the evidence review to be provided by SAPEA is still pending.

SAPEA has established a Working Group, chaired by [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] at Geneva University and one of the leading experts internationally), with experts nominated by the Academies across Europe. This Group's main responsibility is the preparation of the SAPEA report that reviews the scientific evidence in the field, and also provides policy options.

SAPEA working group had a meeting with external experts on October 23, including a representative of the European Group of Ethics in Science and New Technologies. SAPEA working group had a meeting on October 24 with a view to finalising the Evidence Review Report.

The [REDACTED] of the SAPEA Evidence Review Report, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] had a bilateral meeting on 25 October to clarify the main outcomes of the SAPEA Evidence Review Report.

SAPEA working group will deliver the first draft of the Evidence Review Report on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

A SAPEA Expert Workshop will take place on 7 December 2018 in Brussels. The relevant Commission Services (DG RTD, DG JRC, DG ESTAT, DG EMPL) will also participate in the event as observers.

The delivery of the SAPEA Evidence Review Report is planned for 19 April 2019. There is interest by the Finnish Presidency to organise a major conference on Ageing on 9-10 July 2019 during which results of this report could be presented.

#### *Making Sense of Science under Conditions of Complexity and Uncertainty*

This forthcoming scientific opinion, planned for June 2019, aims to help take science advice in the Commission to the next level by addressing the central question of “How to provide good science advice to EC policymakers, based on available evidence under conditions of scientific complexity and uncertainty?” It is addressed to the architects of the future science advisory systems in the EC, policymakers at various levels in the EC using scientific evidence, specialised advisory bodies, and the Regulatory Scrutiny Board.

The issues addressed in the opinion will include e.g.: (a) the principles, approaches and methods to introduced to EC science advisory processes to ensure their maximum relevance and usefulness while addressing complexity and uncertainty - including e.g. dealing with complex, ambiguous, conflicting, plural or contested evidence, or contested interpretations of the same evidence; (b) the quality framework(s) that can be applied to evidence to ensure that the quality criteria are the most relevant to the different types of evidence needed; (c) good practices in using collective expert knowledge and effective ways of mitigating various types of biases in producing, selecting or interpreting evidence; (d) principles, practical experiences and lessons on science advice that are relevant and applicable to the EC context.

The latest developments include a second meeting on 29 October of the SAPEA Working Group tasked with developing an Evidence Review Report (the first draft of which is planned for mid-December 2018).

An expert sounding board and a stakeholder workshop are planned by the SAM Unit in spring 2019 based on a draft Opinion.

#### *Sustainable Food Systems*

The rapid evidence assessment of major relevant work will be published in January 2019. A scoping paper will be prepared which defines the context and questions of a potential scientific opinion – to be further elaborated at the Advisors’ meeting in January 2019, taking account of the results of the rapid evidence assessment. SAM will continue to involve other services in this process.

Preliminary work carried out during the summer has revealed a wealth of existing authoritative, major reports that seek to inform the establishment of sustainable food systems. These are analysed to produce the rapid evidence assessment.

It will include:

- The key messages of the major reports: the major challenges and opportunities that they highlight
- A description of the scope of each report, for e.g. the sources of food considered
- The different ways in which sustainability is defined and described
- The approaches and assumptions used to forecast future demand and supply that underpin the key messages

Once complete, the rapid evidence assessment will inform further consideration of how the SAM might best contribute to the exploration of this topic, with a view to informing future policy development towards the goal of achieving a sustainable food system for Europe by 2050. These deliberations may benefit from a workshop planned with SAPEA, possibly in early December 2018. Further dialogue will be sought with the relevant Services and at Cabinet level once a clear picture of apparent gaps in scientific advice has been achieved, with the goal of preparing a scoping paper for the advisors' meeting in January.

#### *Climate Change and Health (Meeting on 18 September with DG CLIMA and EASAC)*

The SAM Unit has performed a preliminary screening of the scientific literature in the area of climate change and health identifying the most relevant topics in relation to mitigation, resilience and adaptation. Meetings were organised with several DGs (CLIMA, RTD and SANTE). All the services contacted have expressed interest and the need for a Scientific Opinion in the field of climate change and health.

A meeting was organised with representatives of SAPEA, EASAC, FEAM on 18 September 2018. EASAC has started to examine the range of issues for climate change and human health and will deliver the preliminary draft of a report on this issue in November 2018. The scope of this report is very broad and ambitious and it will provide an overview of the different topics. The EASAC report will be a good input and will be considered for the Scientific Opinion. Therefore, contacts between the SAM Unit and EASAC will continue during the preparation of the scoping paper.

A preliminary draft of the Scoping Paper was discussed in the meeting of 20 November 2018 with the relevant services (DG CLIMA, DG SANTE, DG ENVI, DG GROW, JRC, JRC-ISPRA, JRC-GEEL, JRC-Sevilla, DG RTD- CLIMA, DG RTD- HEALTH). All the services were very positive and confirmed that an Opinion in the area of Climate Change and Health would be extremely relevant and timely.

From the meetings and the information gathered so far, the Scientific Opinion should target the Adaptation part of Climate Change, focus in Europe and vicinity and concentrate on interactions between three major topics: heat and air pollution and vector-borne diseases and the combined effects of these on human health. A new version of the Scoping Paper will be prepared including the comments of the different services.

### **3.2 Published Science Advice Products**

#### *Gene editing*

The statement on gene editing has been published on 13 November.

It builds on the previous explanatory note on 'New Techniques in Agricultural Biotechnology', published in April 2017, which had been requested by Commissioner Andriukaitis. It provides a scientific perspective on the regulatory status of products derived from gene editing, and the implications for the GMO Directive.

This follows the Court of Justice of the European Union's judgement of 25 July 2018 that organisms obtained using new techniques of directed mutagenesis (including those popularly known as 'gene editing techniques') are genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and are subject to the obligations of the corresponding legislation (Directive 2001/18/EC, the 'GMO Directive').

The Advisors conclude that the GMO Directive should be revised to reflect current knowledge and scientific evidence, and as part of a broad dialogue with relevant stakeholders and the public at large.

Before its publication, the statement had been shared with DG SANTE and the JRC for a fact check concerning the policy and legal context.

The statement received a lot of attention in the press and amongst stakeholders. It was well received by the scientific community as well as the biotech and seed industry whereas NGOs which are opposing GMOs reacting with questions and criticism.

### **3.3 SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies)**

The SAM Unit has positively assessed the project's first reporting period (submitted July 2018). The mid-term review report was sent to the SAM unit on 31 October and has been shared with SAPEA. SAPEA, which is also carrying out its own, internal assessment, has until 9 December to react to the comments of the report. [REDACTED] will take over the [REDACTED] of the SAPEA [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) is [REDACTED] as of December 2018.

SAPEA has been providing high quality Evidence Review Reports that inform the Scientific Opinions of the Group. The advice has always been well received, and its relevance has been recognised. The next period is about impact: assessing impact and learning from past experience. This means, ensuring the best possible performance in the next period, up to 2020. The longer term question concerns the future of the Academies' cooperation for scientific advice beyond 2020. The scope of this question is broad: is this model consisting of a partnership of the five European Academy Networks appropriate and (most) effective for delivering scientific advice for SAM, (especially through the evidence reviews)?

The Group of Chief Scientific Advisors met with SAPEA on 20 June in Paris and discussed experience in working together, as well as future directions and needs to adapt the current "business model". The Group has also been consulted on questions such as how to assess the impact of SAPEA and the future cooperation.

### **3.4 ESAF (European Science Advisors Forum)**

ESAF, the independent forum of science advisors of EU member states, aims to contribute to strengthening the evidence base for policy-making and to share best practices in providing science advice for policy the primary focus of ESAF is on science-for-policy advice. ESAF provides a platform and a network for organizations that function in different systems, but share a common ground regarding their ambition to provide the best science-based strategic advice.

The 2019 ESAF meeting (ESAF- 5) will be hosted by Ireland, following the proposal of the [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Scientific Advisor to the [REDACTED] Government, and will take place in Dublin, on 26-27 June. The meeting will build on ESAF-4 on how to deliver science advice for policy-making, aiming to enable deeper peer learning and discussion amongst not only the practitioners but also the recipients of scientific advice. Contacts with INGSA have been made to share parts of the meeting in order to facilitate discussion between ESAF and INGSA on best ways of future cooperation.

ESAF will also elect a new coordinating country for the secretariat to take over from the Netherlands, and a new host country.

ESAF is now having its own on line platform <https://esaforum.eu/>

SAM is linked to ESAF through events and new initiatives that have started to be discussed in 2018.

*Meeting of ESAF and INGSA in Tokyo, during the INGSA Conference, with JRC and SAM:*

ESAF, SAM, JRC and INGSA met at the INGSA Conference in Tokyo at a special meeting set up to discuss the respective roles and positioning of ESAF and of a future European Chapter of INGSA. The meeting was prepared by discussions between SAM and JRC, as well as with the [REDACTED] of ESAF [REDACTED], of which [REDACTED] informed [REDACTED].

[REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and others took part at the meeting. It was decided to go ahead with setting up a European Committee for INGSA. This is not the same as the originally planned Chapter, and will be a light structure that will allow sharing of information. There will be representatives from SAM, JRC, INGSA, ESAF and some academics and others.

SAM will work with ESAF to prepare the next meeting in Dublin, where also INGSA will take part.

### **3.5 Horizon Europe**

State of play in the Council:

The next milestone is the Competitiveness Council of 30 November, when the Austrian Presidency aims to adopt:

- A partial general approach (PGA) on the Framework Programme, including the Rules for Participation but with bracketing horizontal MFF provisions (those related to budget, international cooperation and synergies);
- A progress report on the Specific Programme.

State of play in the EP:

The next milestones are the votes in the ITRE Committee (21 November) and the EP Plenary Sitting on 28-29 November.

EP political groups have concluded discussions on compromise amendments.

### 3.6 Curriculum Vitae



[REDACTED] of AE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

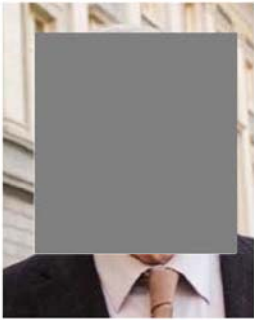
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED] of FEAM

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED] of ALLEA

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED] of Euro-CASE

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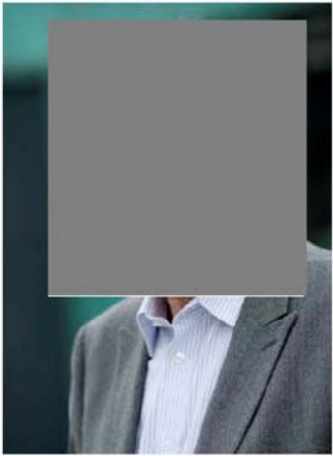
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[REDACTED] of EASAC

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

#### **4. SOCIAL MEDIA**

No social media activity is recommended for this meeting