



STOA

Science and Technology Options Assessment

STOA Panel constituent meeting
Wednesday, 22 October 2014, 14:30 - 15:00
WIC200, Strasbourg

Minutes

The meeting started at 14:30 with Ms Mairead McGUINNESS, Vice-President responsible for STOA, in the chair.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda (PE 527.394)

- The Vice-President declared opened the constituent meeting of the STOA Panel, welcomed the Members and made introductory remarks. Then she informed Members that:
 - (i) Mr Juan Carlos GIRAUTA VIDAL was unable to attend the meeting and had sent his apologies, and
 - (ii) Mr Bogusław LIBERADZKI would attend the meeting from 15:00 onwards.
- The Vice-President informed Members that so far five committees had appointed Members to the STOA Panel as stipulated by the STOA Rules and added that, on 13 October 2014, the coordinators of the ENVI Committee had decided to request that the ENVI Committee be represented by four Members (instead of two) and had postponed the decision on the appointment of the ENVI representatives for a later stage.
- She then reminded Members that the purpose of that day's meeting was to establish the STOA Bureau by electing its Chair and Vice-Chairs and the order of election would be: first the Chair, next the first Vice-Chair, and then the second Vice-Chair.

2. Election of Chair

- The Vice-President ensured the establishment of a quorum, allowing the meeting to proceed with the election.
- She then drew Members' attention to Rule of Procedure 208(2) of the European Parliament, according to which: "A committee may validly vote when one quarter of its members are actually present. However, if so requested by one sixth of its members [for the STOA Panel = 3 members] before voting begins, the vote shall be valid only if the majority of the component members of the committee have taken part in it."
- The Vice-President informed Members on the nominations received by her for the position of Chair. She had received one nomination: Mr Paul RÜBIG (EPP, AT), proposed by his group. She asked for his consent, and, as no further nominations were put forward, Mr RÜBIG was elected Chair by acclamation. The Vice-President congratulated him on his election and wished him every success in his work as STOA Chair.

3. Election of the first Vice-Chair

- The Vice-President informed Members on the nominations received by her for the position of first Vice-Chair. Ms Eva KAILI (S&D, EL) had been proposed by her group. As the candidate was not yet present in the room at this point, Mr Georgi PIRINSKI (S&D, BG) confirmed her consent on her behalf. As no further nominations were put forward, the Vice-President declared Ms KAILI, elected as first Vice-Chair by acclamation. Ms KAILI accepted her election, upon her arrival later on in the meeting.

4. Election of the second Vice-Chair

- The Vice-President informed Members on the nominations received by her for the position of second Vice-Chair. Mr Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ (ECR, CZ) had been proposed by his group. She asked for his consent, and, as no further nominations were put forward, the Vice-President declared Mr TOŠENOVSKÝ elected as second Vice-Chair by acclamation, and congratulated him.
- The Vice-President announced that she would communicate to the Bureau of the European Parliament by letter addressed to the President the list of Panel members and the composition of the STOA Bureau.
- She then asked the elected Chair to take the chair and the elected Vice-Chairs to take their seats beside the Chair. Mr RÜBIG chaired the meeting from this point on.

5. Any other business

- Mr RÜBIG, new Chair of STOA, reminded Members that STOA was an advisory body focussing on scientific and policy options and their respective future impacts. He furthermore stressed that the key issue was to have adequate scientific advice on global questions, such as how to manage resource efficiently (food and feed) for 10 billion people by 2050. It would therefore be essential to assess the various future impacts. As priority areas, he stressed, STOA would focus on technological options for the future in the fields of: (i) Eco-efficient transport and modern energy solutions; (ii) Sustainable management of natural resources; (iii) Security of the Internet, including e-Government, cloud computing and social networks; (iv) Health and new technologies in the life sciences; and (v) Science, technology and innovation policy.
- As for organisational matters, Mr RÜBIG suggested that the STOA Panel meetings should take place, as before, on Thursdays of the plenary weeks, from 9:30 to 11:00.
- Then Ms KAILI, first Vice-Chair, briefly introduced herself to Members: being a member of the ITRE and ECON Committees, she saw STOA as a very important body within the EP and identified many key priorities for STOA in the future, such as cloud computing. Ms KAILI also stressed the paramount importance of good communication of STOA activities.
- Mr TOŠENOVSKÝ, second Vice-Chair, briefly introduced himself to Members: being a mathematician and having a strong IT background, he was rapporteur for the Galileo project. He stressed that he was honoured to be member of the STOA Panel, and that he was looking forward to working closely with other Panel members.
- Ms JAZLOWIECKA (EPP, PL) congratulated the previous speakers on their election as Chair and Vice-Chairs. She further notified the Panel that her group had agreed that Mr Ádám KÓSA should be her substitute in the STOA Panel, on behalf of the EMPL Committee. Depending on the agenda, she and Mr KÓSA would coordinate on who would be participating in future meetings.
- The Chair welcomed Mr KÓSA's participation in future meetings.

6. Date and place of next meeting

- The Chair announced that the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 27 November 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in Room SDM S-7 in Strasbourg. The draft agenda would be sent out one week prior to that meeting.
- He then underlined that, before the next Panel meeting, STOA would be organising two high-level public events to which all Panel members were cordially invited:
 - (i) a STOA presentation for policy-makers on *'The climate change challenge - The outcome of the IPCC¹ 5th Assessment Report revealed'* scheduled for 4 November 2014, and
 - (ii) the STOA Annual Lecture 2014: *'Towards understanding the brain: explained by a Nobel Prize winner'* taking place on 18 November 2014 and where Thomas SÜDHOF, 2013 Nobel Prize in Medicine, would be the keynote speaker.

ANNEX

List of participants

STOA Panel members

Ms McGuinness, Mr Rübzig, Ms Kaili, Mr Tošenovský, Mr Coelho, Ms Jazłowiecka, Mr Nekov, Mr Pirinski, Ms Petir, Ms Rozière and Ms Schmidt.

Scientific Foresight (STOA) Unit

Mr Karapiperis, Mr Pataki, Ms Van Woensel, Mr Evrard and Ms Uwizera.

Other participants

Mr Teasdale (DG EPRS), Mr Dunne (DG EPRS), Ms Montano (EPP), Ms Mergulhao (S&D), Ms O'Hea (Assistant to Ms McGuinness), Ms Desislava (Assistant to Mr Nekov), Mr Schichl (Assistant to Ms Schmidt), Mr Vogt (Assistant to Mr Liberadzki), Ms Kassianidou (Assistant to Ms Kaili), Ms Thirion (Assistant to Ms Rozière) and Mr Corsi (EPO²).

¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

² European Patent Office