

# STOA

## Science and Technology Options Assessment

STOA Panel meeting  
Thursday, 30 April 2015, 09:30 > 11:00  
LOW N1.4, Strasbourg

### Minutes

The meeting started at 09:33 with Mr Paul RÜBIG, Chairman of the STOA Panel, in the chair.

#### **1. Adoption of the draft agenda (PE 547.408)**

- The Chair announced that interpretation was available in the following languages: English (EN), German (DE), French (FR), Croatian (HR), Czech (CS) and Bulgarian (BG), and informed Members that the meeting was being web-streamed for those who were interested, but could not be present.
- He further proposed the addition of a new agenda item 7.4 to the agenda entitled '*10th IGF meeting, 10-13 November 2015, João Pessoa, Brazil*'; the proposal was accepted by the Panel.
- The draft agenda was adopted with this modification.

#### **2. Approval of draft minutes - STOA Panel meeting of 12 March 2015 (PE 547.406)**

- The draft minutes were approved without modifications.

#### **3. Presentation by Peter CHURCHILL, Advisor to the Director-General of the JRC<sup>1</sup> for Scientific Development, on '*How could additive manufacturing change the face of European manufacturing?*'**

- The Chair informed Panel members that the STOA Bureau had agreed at its last meeting to invite a high-level scientist from the JRC to speak on activities of mutual interest. As some aspects of the STOA study '*Impact and potential of collaborative Internet and additive manufacturing technologies*' were the subject of JRC research, STOA invited Mr Churchill to speak about that. The Chair added that the STOA study would finish in June 2015, after a presentation to the Panel meeting of that month.
- The Chair welcomed Mr CHURCHILL and gave him the floor for the presentation.
- Mr Churchill:
  - explained that additive manufacturing (AM) was the process of joining materials to make objects from 3D model data, usually layer upon layer, as opposed to subtractive technologies; he pointed out that the main question was how Europe could benefit from this process using 3D technology – facilitating the production of prototypes online very easily;
  - added that major vendors in 3D printing were steadily growing (US, AUS, DE, JP) in a global market estimated at more than 3 billion USD, a compound annual growth rate of nearly 35% in 2014, with projections of doubling in 2017 and reaching 11 billion by 2021;
  - stressed that 3D printing was entering in construction industry, medicine, fashion, art, aeronautics, automotive industry and even in the design and production of 3D guns, posing an ethical issue; he explained the major challenges that confront AM: materials, software, data management, standards and IPR<sup>2</sup>, sustainability etc., and its potential impacts on goods and services, resources, jobs etc.
  - concluded that coordinated research and innovation efforts (in materials, software, data management and speed) were seen as important next steps, along with the development of European standards and improvement of education and skills in this technology.
- The Chair thanked the speaker for his presentation, and opened the floor for discussion.
- Ms Danuta JAZŁOWIECKA, MEP and STOA Panel member, asked whether Europe was fully ready for innovation and if European education systems were prepared to teach children how to use their creativity in an efficient way. Her feeling was that Europe was quite weak in innovation, compared with the rest of the world. She also wanted to know more about the mobility package.

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<sup>1</sup> Joint Research Centre

<sup>2</sup> Intellectual Property Rights

- Mr CHURCHILL replied that Europe was ready in a way for innovation, which could be seen through some good examples (Volkswagen and European aerospace companies), but agreed with Ms JAZŁOWIECKA that Europe was not fully ready. He added that the problem was in transferring the research outcomes from the labs onto industry. On the mobility package, he said that the trends were changing and people were moving towards buying a service rather than a product.
- Mr TOŠENOVSKÝ, MEP and Second STOA Vice-Chair, pointed out that AM made people think about the future and how they would behave, and he wanted to know more about standardisation.
- Mr CHURCHILL explained that standardisation gave confidence to investors, but if one strove for personalisation of products, standardisation might become a real challenge.
- The Chair thanked Mr CHURCHILL for the presentation and for the effort that the JRC was making to tackle technology issues in-depth rather than in a superficial way.

#### **4. Approval of the STOA Annual Report 2014**

- The Chair informed Members that the Annual Report 2014 was ready. As there were no objections, he declared it approved by the Panel and announced that it would be submitted to the EP President for consideration by the EP Bureau in one of its next meetings. He also suggested that the Annual Report be sent to all Committee Chairs, and the Presidents of the European Commission and the Council.

#### **5. Update on STOA projects**

##### 5.1. Update on ongoing projects

- The Chair gave the floor to Mr Theodoros KARAPIPERIS, Head of the Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA), to elaborate on the on-going projects; he reminded Members of the projects that were still on-going according to the relevant table in the dossier and drew Members' attention to the final versions of the study, the Layman's Summary and the Options Brief of the STOA project '*Learning and teaching technology options*' which was presented to the Panel during its last meeting. He also:
  - informed Members that a successful event, chaired by first STOA Vice-Chair Eva KAILI, had taken place, with interesting presentations and a very fruitful discussion, on the EPRS publication '*Ten technologies which could change our lives*' on 17 March 2015 in the EP Library Reading Room;
  - informed the Members that the STOA project on Mass Surveillance had been presented by the authors of the study in a regular meeting of the LIBE Committee on 23 April 2015.
- The Chair noted that the Scientific Foresight (SF) project '*Ethical aspects of cyber physical systems*', as approved by the Panel in March, would soon be launched, to underpin the activities of the Working Group (WG) on Robotics of the JURI Committee. Ms Lieve VAN WOENSEL, Head of the Scientific Foresight Service, was a member of the legislative project team, which held its first meeting on 23 April 2015, mainly focussing on a presentation on the SF methodology and a discussion on what could be expected from the project. The new methodology raised great interest among WG members.

##### 5.2. MEP-Scientist Pairing Scheme, incl. launch event with the JRC, 15 September 2015, Brussels

- The Chair informed Members that the STOA Bureau had examined the project description, which outlined the structure and milestones, as well as the selection criteria to be applied for choosing the participating scientists, and was recommending its approval by the Panel. He announced that, as there were no objections, the project description was approved and the Secretariat would proceed with the publication on the STOA website of an invitation for scientists to participate in the scheme.
- He also reminded Members that the scheme would be officially launched on 15 September 2015, in combination with the JRC's *Science meets Parliaments* initiative.

##### 5.3. Update on new projects proposals

- The Chair gave the floor to Mr PATAKI, Head of the STOA Secretariat, to elaborate on new projects. Mr PATAKI informed Members that 42 project proposals had been received from committees, members of the STOA Panel and other Members; they were of a great variety in terms of field of expertise, type of requested product, completeness and relevance.
- He further announced that the Secretariat had grouped the proposals according to type (*Technology Assessment, Scientific Foresight, Workshop*), field of expertise and relevance for STOA and Parliament. The Secretariat was investigating the availability of recent studies in order to avoid duplication and

ensure best value for money. The grouped proposals were listed as 'Potential Projects' in order of priority, based on internal discussions within the Secretariat.

- He reminded Members that, due to the urgency and high quality of it, Potential Project No. 1 was approved as a STOA project already during the Panel meeting in March; and announced that, after being processed by the Secretariat, the proposals had been further be examined by the STOA Bureau, which would recommend to the Panel for approval the most advanced and urgent proposals.
- The Chair, on a recommendation of the STOA Bureau (Nos. 2 and 3) and the STOA Secretariat (No. 4), proposed that Potential Projects No. 2, 3 and 4 be approved as STOA projects: No. 2: '*Precision agriculture for future farming in Europe*'; No. 3: '*Integrated management of waste waters and solid wastes*', combined with '*Protection of Black Sea waters and ecosystems*'; No. 4: '*Assisting technologies for the inclusion of people with disabilities in society, education and employment*'.
- He further announced that the STOA Bureau would examine Potential Projects No. 5 to 10 at its meeting later that day, with a view to recommending them for approval as STOA projects at the next Panel meeting; the rest of the proposals, after further investigation by the Secretariat and examination by the STOA Bureau, would be submitted Panel for approval later in 2015.
- The Chair gave the floor to Members for questions/comments regarding project proposals, and as there were no objections, declared the Potential Projects No. 2, 3 and 4 approved as STOA projects, and asked the Secretariat to act along these lines.
- In relation to Potential Project No. 4, the Chair proposed, on a recommendation of the Secretariat, that the launch of the project be preceded by a STOA workshop on '*Technologies assisting people with disabilities in society, education and jobs*', on 23 June 2015 in Brussels. He further explained that this event would serve as an exploratory workshop in the preparation of the SF project on the same subject; it would bring together a wide range of stakeholders and focus on technologies for three groups of disabilities: deaf and hard of hearing, blind and visually impaired, people with autism. He announced that, as there were no objections, the Secretariat would proceed with the organisation of the workshop.

#### 6.2. STOA workshop 'How could technology change the way we teach and learn?', 6 May 2015

- The Chair informed Members that this workshop was related to a recently published STOA study on '*Learning and teaching technology options*', presented to the Panel during its meeting in March, and was intended to discuss the issues covered by the study in more detail.
- He informed Members that he would chair the event, which would be advertised, according to the established practice, via the EPRS blog. He further proposed that the event be preceded by a sandwich lunch for the participants; as there were no objections, he declared the proposal adopted.

#### 6.3. STOA workshop 'Graphene in Europe', 2 June 2015, Brussels

- The Chair gave the floor to Mr KARAPIPERIS who informed Panel members that ITRE Chair Jerzy BUZEK had accepted to make an introductory statement. He further explained that experts would be present from the European Commission (Graphene Flagship), University of Cambridge, Airbus, Alcatel-Lucent, CNRS<sup>3</sup> and University of Trieste; the moderator would be Jackie DAVIES.
- Then the Chair informed Members that the European Commission would organise an exhibition at the European Parliament on the day of the workshop, as well as a drink reception after the meeting.
- The Chair gave the floor to interested Panel members for comments/discussion and announced that, as there were no objections, the Secretariat would continue the preparations along these lines.

#### 6.4. STOA workshop on Health Literacy in Europe, 1 July 2015, Brussels

- The Chair explained that the STOA Bureau had examined the proposal and considered that the event should take place on Wednesday, 1 July 2015, 14:30-17:30. He further informed Members that that the workshop would include presentations by high-level officials and scientists, who would present the health literacy concept and progress in e-health as a means of improving health literacy in Europe.
- The Chair then gave the floor to interested Panel members for comments/discussion and announced that, as there are no objections, the Secretariat would continue the preparations along these lines.

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<sup>3</sup> Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, the French National Centre for Scientific Research (<http://www.cnrs.fr/>)

## 6. Visits / External activities

### 7.1. STS Forum Council meeting, 23-24 April 2015, Berlin

- The Chair debriefed Members about a successful preparatory meeting for the STS *forum*, to be held on 4-6 October 2015 in Kyoto. Due to the overlap with the concurrent plenary session, the Conference of Presidents had authorised only one Panel member (the Chair) to attend that meeting.

### 7.2. STOA participation in EXPO 2015, Milan

- The Chair informed Members that a STOA delegation consisting of Vice-President McGuinness, Ms Petir and himself would visit the World Exhibition EXPO 2015 in Milan on 8 and 9 May. On 8 May the delegation would attend the all-day conference of the EU Scientific Steering Committee on a research agenda for global food and nutrition security, where the Vice-President and he would be speakers; on 9 May he and Ms Petir would attend the celebration of 'Europe Day' at the EXPO site.

### 7.3. ESOF 2016, 22-27 July 2016, Manchester – Call for scientific session proposals

- The Chair gave the floor to Mr PATAKI who informed Members that, with the approval of the STOA Bureau, the Secretariat had started preparations for submitting joint proposals with Policy Department B and the JRC respectively, for scientific sessions in response to the ESOF Call for Scientific Session Proposals (submission deadline: 1 June 2015). These sessions would probably have a traditional panel discussion format, but with some innovative additions, e.g. use of social media. The joint proposal with Policy Department B would draw upon a recent STOA study on Science Metrics, and a project on university quality indicators, managed by Policy Department B. Two other potential proposals would be submitted jointly with the JRC: one on 'Science for policy and policy for science' and one on 'The growing importance of futures and foresight methods' (tentative titles).
- The Chair announced that, as there were no objections, the Secretariat would proceed with the preparation of the proposals as described above.

### 7.4. 10th IGF meeting, 10-13 November 2015, João Pessoa, Brazil

- The Chair informed Members that the ITRE, JURI and CULT Committees and STOA were entitled to participate in an *ad hoc* joint delegation to this meeting. STOA was entitled to one Member.
- He then asked the Panel for a mandate to co-sign with the three Committee Chairs a letter to the President requesting authorisation of this delegation. The Panel agreed to proceed with the letter.

## 7. Any other business

- The Chair informed Members about the changes in the composition of the STOA Panel endorsed by the Conference of Committee Chairs and submitted for approval to the EP Bureau. This practically meant that the number of STOA Members would increase from 15 to 24 (six from ITRE; three each from EMPL, ENVI, IMCO, TRAN and AGRI; one each from JURI and CULT).

## 8. Date of next meeting

- The Chair announced that the next Panel meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 30 April 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in Room LOW N1.4 in Strasbourg. The meeting would feature a presentation on '*Lessons learnt from the PACITA<sup>4</sup> project*' by the project coordinators.

The meeting ended at 10:55.

Brussels, 13 May 2015

## ANNEX

### List of participants

#### STOA Panel members:

Mr Rübig, Ms Kaili, Mr Tošenovský, Mr Coelho, Ms Jazłowiecka, Mr Liberadzki, Ms Petir, Ms Schmidt.

#### Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA):

Mr Karapiperis, Mr Pataki, Ms Van Woensel, Mr Plese.

#### Other participants:

Mr Dunne (DG EPRS), Ms Laperrouze (Assistant to Mr Girauta), Mr Schichl (Assistant to Ms Schmidt), Mr Adam (Assistant to Mr Kósa), Ms Grahmer (Assistant to Mr Rübig), Mr Churchill (JRC), Ms Grahek (JRC), Ms Frühwirth, Ms Maier, Ms Kieft.

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<sup>4</sup> Parliaments and Civil Society in Technology Assessment (<http://www.pacitaproject.eu/>)