

STOA

Science and Technology Options Assessment

STOA Panel meeting
Thursday, 9 July 2015, 09:30 > 11:00
LOW N1.4, Strasbourg

Minutes

The meeting started at 09:36 with Mr Paul RÜBIG, MEP and Chairman of the STOA Panel, in the chair.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda (PE 547.426)

- The Chair informed Members that interpretation was available in Bulgarian (BG), English (EN), French (FR), German (DE), Hungarian (HU) and Italian (IT), and that the meeting was being web-streamed.
- He then welcomed the Members appointed to the STOA Panel since the last Panel meeting, following the Bureau decision to increase the number of Panel members: Ms Clare MOODY (S&D, UK) and Mr Dario TAMBURRANO (EFDD, IT), both from the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), Mr Andrew LEWER (ECR, UK), from the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT), and Ms Tiziana BEGHIN (EFDD, IT), from the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL).
- The Chair reminded Panel members that Mr Andrzej GRZYB (EPP, PL), Ms Renata BRIANO (S&D, IT) and Ms Kay SWINBURNE (ECR, UK), all three from the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), Ms Vicky FORD (ECR, UK), Chair of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO), Ms Mady DELVAUX (S&D, LU), from the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI), and Ms Anthea McINTYRE (ECR, UK), from the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) had been appointed previously by their respective committees.
- The draft agenda was adopted without modifications.

2. Approval of draft minutes - STOA Panel meeting of 11 June 2015 (PE 547.422)

- The draft minutes were approved without modifications.

3. Welcoming new Panel members: Discussion on STOA priorities and new projects

- The Chair recalled the strong interest expressed by several parliamentary committees from the beginning of the 8th legislative period to increase or establish for the first time their representation on the STOA Panel; as a result of the ensuing discussions, the Parliament's Bureau approved a proposal of the Conference of Committee Chairs to increase of the number of Panel members by a total of nine, from 15 to 24 members.
- He reminded Members that the nine new Panel members were from the ITRE Committee (+2), the EMPL, ENVI, IMCO, AGRI and TRAN Committees (+ 1 each), as well as, for the first time, from the JURI and CULT Committees (one member each). He also noted that the increase in Panel membership made the Panel more representative by increasing the range of political groups represented and helped optimise the participation of parliamentary committees, by allowing them to have their various competence areas better represented by specific Members, thus better and closer linking STOA work to concrete committee work.
- He introduced the video clip on STOA activities during the 7th parliamentary term, recalling that STOA had carried out 24 projects and organised more than 60 events, among which 21 workshops linked to projects, 36 *ad hoc* workshops and 5 Annual Lectures; STOA had welcomed more than 6,000 participants to its events, while 13 Members were paired with scientists in STOA's MEP-Scientist Pairing Scheme.
- The Chair pointed out that in the 8th legislative term the STOA priority areas were, as set in the 7th legislative term: eco-efficient transport and mobility; sustainable management of natural resources and modern energy solutions; potential and challenges of the Internet; health and new technologies in the life sciences; science policy, communication and global networking.
- He then drew Members' attention to the list of new projects [in the dossier] approved by the STOA Panel in the first months of 2015; preparations for the launch of these projects were ongoing under the responsibility of the Secretariat; he also explained that, according to standard practice, the Panel would appoint, for each project, a Lead Panel Member, who was to provide guidance to ensure the political relevance of the products and to chair workshops organised as part of project execution.

- He also stressed that information about STOA activities was regularly communicated via the EPRS blog available on 'epthinktank.eu', as well as via the Twitter account 'EP_ThinkTank' and the EPRS LinkedIn page, and encouraged Members to follow and engage with EPRS on the social media; he finally informed Members that all video clips produced by STOA were available on the YouTube channel 'MySTOA'.
- The Chair then gave the floor to the Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA), as part of the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services (DG EPRS), for a short introduction, so as to familiarise new Panel members with the work of the unit and EPRS; Mr Theo KARAPIPERIS, Head of the Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA), Mr Zsolt PATAKI, Head of Service responsible for the STOA Secretariat, and Ms Lieve VAN WOENSEL, Head of the Scientific Foresight Service, briefly presented themselves.
- The Chair invited also the new Members to briefly present themselves, their interests and their expectations from their membership in the Panel, and to submit their project proposals to the Secretariat by filling out the form that would be sent to them by e-mail; he explained that any projects approved by the Panel on the basis of the new proposals – after due processing by the Secretariat and following a recommendation of the STOA Bureau – would be launched as soon as possible after the projects currently being launched, making use of this or next year's budget, depending on the availability of appropriations.
- Ms MOODY mentioned that she had governmental experience in the UK and was very engaged in emerging technologies and employment opportunities related to these.
- Mr TAMBURRANO said he had a background in medicine and argued that expert advice was necessary for politicians to make the right policy decisions in relation to scientific and technological issues.
- Ms BEGHIN explained that she had a background in economics and had been providing advice to small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in technology-related areas; she also underlined the importance of technology for improving the well-being of citizens.
- Ms BRIANO introduced herself by saying that she had a background in the natural sciences; she further stressed that, as a Member of both the Environment and the Fisheries Committees, she had a strong interest in evaluating the political options available in matters related to science and technology.
- Ms SWINBURNE noted that she had a BSc in biochemistry and a PhD in medical research; she expressed her enthusiasm for being part of the STOA Panel and for the Panel's potential to make a major difference in European Union (EU) scientific policy, particularly in relation to biotechnology; she also said that her experience in finance could be used to evaluate the economic impact of scientific policies.
- Mr Ádám KÓSA, MEP, substituting for Panel member Danuta JAZŁOWIECKA, introduced himself by saying that he had a background in law and that it was an honour to be with such honourable colleagues.

4. Update on STOA projects

4.1. Update on ongoing projects

- The Chair reminded Members of the projects that were still ongoing according to the table, and asked if any Member was interested in being Lead Panel Member for one of the projects entitled '*ICT and developing countries*' and '*Technological innovation strategies in substance use disorders*'.

4.2. MEP-Scientist Pairing Scheme - Update

- The Chair gave the floor to Mr PATAKI, who explained that the STOA Secretariat had launched the 2015 edition of the MEP-Scientist Pairing Scheme on 1 June 2015, with a deadline for applications by 31 July 2015. He further informed Members that 36 scientists had already applied; they had diverse backgrounds and scientific disciplines, covering widely the STOA policy areas; the Secretariat has started a preliminary screening of the applicants; the final list of scientists would be sent to Members soon after the deadline.
- Mr PATAKI reminded Members that the event '*Science meets Parliaments*', co-organised with the Joint Research Centre (JRC), would take place on 15 September 2015 at the European Parliament in Brussels, and the Secretariat's intention was to have at least some MEP-scientist pairs established by that time.
- The Chair announced that, as there were no objections, the Secretariat would carry on with the implementation of the scheme as described.

5. STOA Annual Lecture, 9 December 2015

- The Chair gave the floor to Mr PATAKI, who explained that Professor Serge HAROCHE, administrator of the Collège de France, laureate of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2012 had informally accepted to be

keynote speaker at this year's Annual Lecture; his office had acknowledged receipt of the official invitation sent to him by the STOA Chairman, and he would soon send an official reply.

- Mr PATAKI further informed Members that the event would be structured in a similar way as in recent years; it would have the form of a 3 to 4-hour afternoon session, with a keynote speech, possibly coupled with the projection of a video clip and talks by other relevant scientists; a 'Questions and Answers' session would close the event; the event would be web-streamed, and social media would be extensively used.
- Ms Mady DELVAUX, Panel member, wanted to ensure that the Annual Lecture would be comprehensible to an audience without a scientific background.
- Mr Georgi PIRINSKI, Panel member, pointed out that, in his view, some descriptions of STOA projects were already inaccessible to non-professionals.
- Mr KÓSA stressed the importance of ensuring access to the Annual Lecture also to people with disabilities through, for instance, subtitling.
- The Chair assured Members that the aim of the Annual Lecture was to be understandable to the large public. Mr KARAPIPERIS stressed that the event agenda was still open to comments and requests.

6. STOA workshops and joint activities with external organisations

6.1. STOA workshop 'Robots: enabling the disabled or disabling the abled?' 23 June 2015, Brussels

- The Chair informed Members that the workshop entitled 'Robots: Enabling the disabled or disabling the abled?' had taken place on 23 June 2015 and conveyed his own impressions from the event; he further informed the Panel that the hashtag '#STOAbility' created for the event was extensively used, and that the tweets made by the EPRS Social Media team were seen almost 18,000 times. Mr KÓSA, who had chaired the workshop, expressed his satisfaction with the successful organisation of the event.

6.2. High-level breakfast with Commissioner Carlos MOEDAS, 30 June 2015, Brussels

- The Chair informed Members that a successful working breakfast of Panel members with Mr Carlos MOEDAS, Commissioner for Science, Research and Innovation, had taken place on 30 June 2015.

6.3. STOA workshop 'Health literacy in Europe', 1 July 2015, Brussels

- The Chair reported that the workshop on 'Health Literacy in Europe' had provided an opportunity for the health literacy concept to be presented and for e-health advancements to be explained.
- He then provided his feedback from the event, which he had chaired; the event had proved to be very popular, with some 40,000 views of the EPRS posts on Twitter, using the hashtag '#eHealthSTOA'.

6.4. STOA workshop 'Transition towards sustainable and liveable urban futures', 29 September 2015, Brussels

- The Chair explained that the objective of the workshop [approved by the Panel in March 2015] was to present the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the Joint Programme Initiative (JPI) Urban Europe, and to allow mayors and deputy mayors from cities across Europe to share their experiences with managing their cities. The Panel agreed that the Secretariat should continue with the preparations.

6.5. Proposal for a workshop on innovative ICT for healthcare, 1 December 2015, Brussels

- The Chair explained that the aim of this workshop, proposed by first STOA Vice-Chair Eva KAILI and recommended by the STOA Bureau for approval, would be to let healthcare delivery organisations report on lessons learned concerning the utilisation of new technologies, such as eHealth, mHealth and teleHealth, which could provide value for citizens, healthcare providers and payers by improving access to services, reducing costs and increasing quality. The Panel agreed to hold the workshop as proposed.

7. Visits / External activities

7.1. EPTA Conference, 23-24 September, Paris

- The Chair reported that Mr LE DÉAUT, Member of the Assemblée nationale and Chairman of OPECST (Parliamentary Office for Scientific and Technological Options Assessment, STOA's French counterpart) had written to Vice-President McGUINNESS, on behalf of Mr BARTOLONE, President of the French Assemblée nationale, asking her to appoint one Panel member to attend a conference organised by OPECST, in the context of the 2015 French Presidency of EPTA, on 24 September 2015 at the Assemblée nationale in Paris, to explore how technological innovation could be used to mitigate climate change.

- The Chair informed Members that he would represent STOA at the EPTA Council meeting and the subsequent conference, in both of which one additional Panel member had been authorised to participate.
- Ms DELVAUX and Ms BRIANO expressed their interest in taking part in the conference; it was agreed that Ms DELVAUX would participate in the delegation.

7.2. 10th IGF meeting, 10-13 November 2015, João Pessoa, Brazil

- The Chair informed the Panel that, on 2 July 2015, the Conference of Presidents had authorised an ITRE/CULT/JURI/STOA *ad hoc* delegation of 7 Members to the IGF meeting on an exceptional basis (the dates of the meeting coincide partly with days for parliamentary committee activities, a mini-part session in Brussels and political groups activities), on the understanding that the programme would not exceed three days. The Panel accepted the Bureau's recommendation that Ms KAILI should represent STOA.

8. Any other business

8.1. STOA participation in the World Science Forum, 4-7 November 2015, Budapest

- The Chair informed Members that the Secretariat was in contact with the World Science Forum (WSF) organisers, who had offered STOA the possibility of taking part in a side event on parliamentary science advice and foresight; the Secretariat kept on exploring with the organisers additional possibilities for STOA's participation in WSF, including participation with a speaker in the parallel thematic session '*Enabling science through parliamentary governance*', to be held on Thursday, 5 November.
- In the absence of any objections, the Chair announced that he would write to the President requesting the authorisation of the Parliament's Bureau for him to attend the forum.

8.2. Request for the nomination of candidates for the Tang Prize in Sustainable Development

- The Chair announced that he had received a letter from Academia Sinica and the Tang Prize Selection Committee requesting nominations of scholars eligible to receive the Tang Prize in Sustainable Development; he further informed Members that a copy of the letter had been distributed with the dossier, and invited them to make use of it, if they wished to nominate candidates in their individual capacity.

8.3. New Projects

- Mr TAMBURRANO asked if there was the possibility for new Panel members to propose new projects. Mr KARAPIPERIS replied that proposals could be sent to the Secretariat. The proposals would be examined by the STOA Bureau and submitted for approval as projects by the Panel. Due to the current workload and budget limitations, projects that could not be launched this year would be done so next year.

9. Date of next meeting

- The Chair announced that the next Panel meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 10 September 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in the same room (LOW N1.4) in Strasbourg.
- He further informed the Panel that the Secretariat was working towards a presentation by Mr Dominique RISTORI, Director-General for Energy at the European Commission, at the next Panel meeting.

The meeting ended at 10:58.

Brussels, 28 August 2015

ANNEX **List of participants**

STOA Panel members:

Ms McGuinness, Mr Rübig, Ms Beghin, Ms Briano, Mr Coelho, Ms Delvaux, Ms Ford, Mr Kósa, Mr Lewer, Ms McIntyre, Ms Moody, Mr Nekov, Mr Pirinski, Ms Swinburne.

Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA):

Mr Karapiperis, Mr Pataki, Ms Van Woensel, Mr Evrard. Mr Garrido-Lestache (Trainee), Ms Cagol (Trainee)

Other participants:

Mr Dunne (DG EPRS), Mr Schichl (Assistant to Ms Schmidt), Ms Grahmmer (Assistant to Mr Rübig), Mr Terry (Assistant to Ms McIntyre), Ms Grahek (JRC), Mr Jewis (Assistant to Ms Moody), Mr Braunstein (University of Strasbourg), Mr Tindenmans (EuroScience), Mr Corsi (European Patent Office), Mr Leonardelli, Ms Suardi, Mr Karimli (all Assistants to Mr Tamburrano), Mr Sabev (Assistant to Mr Nekov).