

STOA

Panel for the Future of Science and Technology

STOA Panel Meeting
Thursday, 18 January 2023, 9:30 – 11:00
Room WEISS R5.1, Strasbourg, and remotely via Interactio

Minutes

- The meeting started at 9:37 with the Christian EHLER (EPP, Germany) in the chair.
- 1. Adoption of the draft agenda**
 - The agenda was adopted.
- 2. Approval of the draft minutes STOA Panel meeting of 14 December 2023**
 - The draft minutes of the Panel meeting of 14 December 2023 were approved.
- 3. STOA draft guidelines for conducting and publishing studies**
 - ANGEL (S&D, LU) took the floor and provided a summary of the development process and outcomes of the STOA draft guidelines.
 - The Panel discussed open questions regarding the draft guidelines of GÁLVEZ MUÑOZ (S&D, ES)
 - The Panel endorsed the STOA draft guidelines for conducting and publishing studies
- 4. STOA projects and workshops**
 - The proposal by Patricia TOIA (S&D, IT) for a foresight study on “Evolution or disruption? Which way to follow to design the next Framework Programme for research and innovation?” was discussed and approved by the Panel.
 - Forthcoming event:
 - STOA Annual Lecture 2024 ‘Making democracy work for everyone’, 24 January 2024, 15:00-17:00, EP Library room
 - STOA end of mandate exhibition, 2-5 April 2024: Due to the unfavourable date for the exhibition in the week after Eastern the Panel decided to ask instead the STOA Secretariat and specifically the ESMH team to produce some videos looking back at the highlights of the past mandate. These videos shall be uploaded on the STOA and ESMH website, and promoted via STOA’s social media channels.
 - Updates on the European Science Media Hub (ESMH):
 - An interview with a Nobel Prize winner on academic freedom, and an interview with an expert on edible insects in the context of our upcoming STOA alternative protein study was published.
 - On Tuesday, 9 January 2024, the ESMH held the 9th meeting of its Inter-Institutional Advisory board, online, with the participation of Mirko Bischofberger, Expert in Science and Communication, University of Zurich (AI and science communication).
- 5. Exchange of views with Mr Stephen Quest, Director-General of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC)**
 - EHLER introduced Stephen QUEST, Director-General of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). QUEST presented the ongoing transformation processes in the JRC work program, the science for policy ecosystems, and potential areas for further cooperation between STOA and the JRC.

- GÁLVEZ MUÑOZ inquired about potential avenues for enhancing cooperation and information-sharing between STOA and JRC.
 - QUEST emphasized the necessity for information to be easily accessible, for example, through newsletters.
- ANGEL inquired about strategies to enhance cooperation with like-minded partners, such as NATO.
 - QUEST emphasized that the JRC already collaborates with international partners, such as the OECD.
- IJABS (Renew, LV) inquired about points of connection for potential collaboration between the JRC and the defence sector. Additionally, he asked about how the strategic cooperation among EU institutions will evolve in terms of combating cancer.
 - QUEST mentioned that the JRC deals only marginally with defence issues. The JRC has improved the transparency and visibility of its knowledge regarding cancer, for example, through registers. However, further efforts are needed to enhance this in the next mandate.
- HLAVÁČEK (Renew, CZ) took the floor and inquired about the extent to which a JRC evaluation consists of identifying areas that have been least considered in JRC research. He also asked to what extent the JRC can evaluate political decisions made in the last legislative term to assess how much they are based on scientific findings.
 - QUEST elaborated on tools to identify and address knowledge gaps. Although the JRC could not conduct the study itself, it would be increasingly involved in regulatory scrutiny processes within the European Commission.
- EHLER inquired about the extent to which the JRC has adjusted its foresight methodology to align with international partners, such as the USA, who have had more effective foresight in the past, especially concerning evolving technologies classified by the Commission as strategic technologies.
 - QUEST referred to numerous projects, tools, and the JRC Competence Centre on Foresight to illustrate the adjusted methodological approach of the JRC.
- EHLER and QUEST asked the STOA Secretariat, together with JRC, to develop one or two formats to enhance cooperation in the next term.

6. Any other business

- None.

7. Date and place of the next meeting:

- The next Panel meeting will take place on **Thursday, Thursday, 8 February 2024**, 9:00-11:00, in Strasbourg, room WEISS R5.1 and remotely via Interactio. The study 'Health consequences of prolonged exposure to multiple industrial air pollutants' and 'Addressing challenges to European multi-country collaboration models for rare diseases' will be presented.
- The meeting ended at 11:07.

List of participants

STOA Panel members

Angel, Ehler, Ijabs, Weiss, Leitao-Marques, Gálvez Muñoz, Toia, Hlaváček, Rope, Walsmann.

Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA)

Scheuren (HoU), Tanova-Ecke, Armanovica, Guedes Ferreira, Hiller (Director), Kuljanic, Garcia Higuera, Manirambona, Hubar.

Other participants

Quest (JRC), Kurant (European Parliament), Ulrich (JRC), McAleavey (JRC), Herbowska (European Commission), Henzler (JRC), Exenberger (APA to Thaler), Seghi (European Parliament) Vraadal (APA to Weiss), Gúr (APA to Angel), Bašová (APA to Hlaváček).