

24th FTP Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday 6 July 2011, 10:30 - 15:00h

**The European Forestry House,
66 rue du Luxembourg, 1000 Brussels**

MINUTES

Participants list (Annex 1)

AGENDA:

1. Welcome & approval of the agenda
2. Round-table presentation of ongoing activities in the different NSGs
3. Proposed topics for the Work Programme of 2013 (FP7): Advisory Committee recommendations to FTP Management
4. News about the preparations of the Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation (FP8)
5. SRA update and Vision Manifest: Advisory Committee recommendations to FTP Management
6. Information about the next FTP conference in Warsaw, September 26 – 27
7. AOB
8. Next AC meeting

MINUTES

1. Welcome and approval of the agenda

- The Chairman approved the Minutes of the last meeting.

2. Round-table presentation of ongoing activities in the different NSGs

- Firstly, the FTP Manager presented recent activities of FTP:
 - Star-COLIBRI Project
 - The European Expert Forum on Biorefineries had taken place in Budapest on 11-13 April.
 - Now in the last quarter of the project, efforts were focused on dissemination of results.
 - A European Joint Strategic Research Roadmap for 2020 was being put together.
 - The Mid-Term Review meeting with the EC had taken place, with the Commission entirely satisfied with the project's progress.
 - A High-Level Policy Maker Conference was planned for October; to be hosted by MEP Lena Ek and would include the participation of the Danish Presidency, as well as industry leaders.
 - New projects:

FTP had in the last quarter period entered into 2 new projects:

 - PROsumer.NET – Coordinated by the Textiles ETP.
 - BUILDING UP (launched as part of Energy Efficient Buildings PPP)
 - BECOTEPS Project

Final report submitted to the EC and project now closed.
 - Munich Partnering Event – 1 June 2011

Successful partnering event hosted by the German NSG; very well received with around 70 participants.
 - Input to 2013 Work Programme (FP7)

A great deal of activity had taken place to provide input for call topics for the last call under FP7, led by the FP7 Task Force. The three main value-chains had met in Brussels on 17 & 18 May to discuss topic proposals. The list of proposals had been sent out for stakeholder comments on 15 June, via the FTP website.
 - FTP Conference

Preparations for the 7th FTP conference were well under way (to be discussed under item 6).
 - New FTP website

Work was nearing completion on a new FTP website to give the platform, now in its 7th year, a new look. It was hoped the new website would go online before the summer break.

- SRA Revision
The revision of the FTP SRA was still under discussion (to be discussed under item 5).
- Horizon 2020 (FP8)
 - FTP had recently participating in three public consultations published by the Commission: "Bio-based economy for Europe", "Possible Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials" and "Future Common Strategic Framework on Research and Innovation". The input to these consultations would be a significant contribution to the way that the future Common Strategic Framework (2014-2020) would be structured.
 - JE confirmed that the Commission had announced their budget proposal for Horizon 2020 last week.
 - As part of efforts to ensure the forest-based sector's inclusion in the upcoming research framework programme, JE would attend a KBBE workshop on 13 July, organised by DG RTD.
- Secondly, there was a tour de table of NSGs who presented updates on their country activities:
 - **Austria** – a succesful workshop had been organised to which the relevant ministeries (x4) and funding organisations dealing with research, had been invited.
 - The NSG was working hard to influence the ministeries with regards the 2012 Work Programme which would be published on 20 July (ERA.NET Plus).
 - **Sweden** – the NSG had recently been re-organised with Jan Lagerström taking up position of Chairman.
 - Like Austria, there were also 4 relevant ministeries with which they needed to stay in contact: Agriculture, Environment, Education and Industry; of these Agriculture had given the best response for support. The state-financed programmes would end this year or next and a new R&D Bill was expected to be published in the Autumn.
 - Involved in work on the CEPI Roadmap 2050.
 - Sweden would participate in the ERA.NET Plus.
 - **Germany** – momentum of FTP was dwindling and there was no visible support from the ministeries; the German ministry did not plan to participate in the ERA.NET Plus and communication with the ministry was difficult.
 - NSG had had public financing for past 5 years; it was now necessary to seek industry support. An amount of Euros 200,000 per year had been secured for the next couple of years but it would be important to build up the relationship with donors.
 - **Switzerland** – FTP's SRA would lead to a national research programme which was substantial; they had started with a budget of CHF 80 million.
 - The NSG was more interested in Swiss affairs, rather than European, and was considering a re-structure.
 - The ministry was disinterested in the NSG.
 - **Russia** (ETP) – had been a request for a united technology platform, to combine forestry, bio-technology and food: "Bio-industry and Bio-resources". This had been approved in April and would be financed from both public and private sources.
 - **France** – the NSG would have its next meeting on 19 July and some internal changes were expected. The industrial sector had decided to regroup into one organisation to form the FPIE (Forest Wood Industry Advisers). The aim was to try to identify common areas of interest, from a strategy perspective.

- A study had been launched by the Ministry of Agriculture, at the beginning of the year, to reveal opportunities for the wood industry. The study would go beyond 2020 and would cover all areas of the wood industry, except energy.
 - In relation to Horizon 2020, JG said that there would need to be a push to connect the study more to European programmes; the government had already carved out Euros 15 billion for research, aiming mainly at academic institutions, but also some industrial applications. Funding would cover specific strategic areas.
 - No information on the French government's position on the ERA.NET Plus.
 - **Norway** – a mapping project founded by the Ministry of Agriculture was underway; this would document the forestry sector within the Norwegian economy; recognition that the forest sector had an important role in a low-carbon economy.
 - The aim was to raise awareness on practical research issues. A workshop for innovative methods of wood treatment was planned for October; it was important to raise the activity level within the research community.
 - The national strategy for bio-technology had been lacking forestry; lobbying efforts with the ministry were underway to reverse this.
 - Bi-lateral cooperation with the UK (UK Strategy Board) was taking place. PAS remarked on the lack of UK presence within the AC.
 - **Finland** – the small NSG was tackling many issues: last year they had been involved in FP8 activities, lobbying ministries and working with programme committee members.
 - Due to national elections this spring many contacts within the ministry had been lost. The emerging national forest programme of the new government was confused.
 - Working towards bio-economy with the idea of transformation of forest industries.
 - Expressed need for better dissemination of information coming from FTP and EU.
 - Contributing to CEPI 2050 Roadmap.
- Thirdly, the other participants of the meeting gave brief updates:
 - **European Commission** (Maria Gafo) – the EC was working on a new forestry strategy, which would finish end 2012. A workshop had taken place in April 2011 and a Working Group (WG) had been set up which consisted of 22 member states and 6 stakeholders: BdG (CEPI), Martin Lindell (Eustafor), Janne Narakka (CEPF), Werner Forster (PTS), Marc Palahi (EFI) + one other; the group would next meet in September.
 - **CEPI** – confirmed that work on the 2050 Roadmap was ongoing and would continue over the summer. A meeting would take place on 1 September which would be the last meeting, to confirm the final outline; the aim was to complete the Roadmap by Paper Week (16-18 November).
 - The CEPI Research Group had been dissolved and an Innovation Committee had been set up, to discuss ways of moving towards a green / bio-economy. They would next meet in mid-September.
 - **CEPF** – announced that their new Secretary General, Aljoscha Requardt, would take up his position on 1 August.
 - **EFI** – the EFI Board had taken a decision to open an office in Barcelona; meanwhile there would be an EFI Liaison Office in Brussels, with some staff permanently based in EFH.
 - A review of the Forest Action Plan was to take place.
 - There was interest in strengthening the presence of forestry in COST; through FORESIGHT and through profitability of the forest sector and forest management.

- **InnovaWood** – informed they had had a new President in place since March - Ewa Ratajczak, from the Wood Technology Institute in Poznan.
- They had been involved in sourcing call topic proposals for WP 2013, as well as being involved in the revision of the FTP SRA.
- A Researchers' Forum was being organised to coincide with the FTP conference in September, in Warsaw. The Forum would be financed by COST.
- ERA.NET Plus – based on discussions it was agreed that more countries needed to show commitment to this initiative (not just the Nordic countries). MG suggested that efforts could be shared between Austria, Germany and Switzerland. Need for FTP to stimulate interest in more countries, to encourage participation. Norway confirmed that they would probably join; PAS to confirm.
- ✓ **Action: AC should recommend to the HLG that its Chairman send a letter to different countries' ministries, to encourage their participation. JE would draft a letter immediately and request signature from Michal Jarczynski (HLG Chair).**

3. **Proposed topics for the Work Programme 2013 (FP7): Advisory Committee recommendations to FTP Management (Martin Greimel)**

- Meetings of the 3 value-chains had taken place in May to brainstorm on proposed call topics:
 - 17 May – organised by EFPRO / CEPI - P&P topics. 14 participants. Mainly industry and research.
 - 18 May – organised by EFI - forestry topics. 18 participants + 2 Commission observers.
 - 18 May – organised by CEI-Bois - woodworking topics. 7 participants.
 - The outcome of these sessions had been a short-list of proposed topics for each area, which were posted on the FTP website in mid-June; NSGs and stakeholders had been invited to comment.
 - Topics had been available for stakeholder input on FTP web page. As well as discussed in the AC meeting.
 - The topics would be presented to the ExCo and then submitted to the relevant EC Services by the end of July.
- **Timeline for the publication of the 2013 Work Programme by the EC:**
 - September / October 2011 – Programme Committee (PC) delegates to provide input.
 - October / November 2011 – first draft from EC; to be discussed by PC and external Advisory Committee.
 - January / February 2012 – second draft.
 - July 2012 – final publication by EC.
- **The 3 value-chains presented their list of topics:**
 - Paper and Pulp – 16 proposals currently selected. Some links acknowledged with projects: PROsumer.NET and Factories of the Future.
 - Forestry – 14 proposals. Topics had been split into 4 key areas: sustainability, tools, socio-economic issues, governance.

- Wood – 8 topics selected; a mix of horizontal and vertical issues.
- ✓ **Action: the AC recommended considering the following criteria when selecting proposals:**
 1. Has the topic been tried before?
 2. Is the Commission looking for specific areas to support?
 3. Ensure there is a horizontal and vertical approach amongst topics.
 4. Ensure balance between value-chain areas.
 5. What topics have been successful in the past?
 6. Is there industrial interest in participation and financing?

4. **FTP News about the preparations of the Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation (FP8)**

- At the meeting JE circulated a briefing note (attached) on the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) which detailed FTP's expectations and a possible scenario for the EC's approach to the new framework programme, based on information gathered to date.
- The CSF would be termed "Horizon 2002" and the Commission was to allocate €80 billion to it.
- Research and innovation funding would be split into 3 main blocks, but the distribution of funds was not yet known.
- 2 DGs would be responsible for R&D funding, as opposed to the current 1 DG. DG RTD would re-structure in 2012.
- Much of the work would be outsourced to agencies (e.g. enabling technologies, tackling societal challenges) meaning that a reduction in infrastructure in this area from within the EC was inevitable.
- The forest-based sector's place within the new funding structure was unclear – there was some potential in the proposed EIP for raw materials.
- ✓ Agreed that FTP needed to seek to influence via a number of different avenues, to ensure parallel initiatives were approached and all bases were covered
- ✓ **Actions that the NSGs could carry out to improve the future situation for the forest-based sector research in the coming research budget and stop the way that the forest-based sector is underplayed in the preparations of Horizon 2020:**
 - ✓ NSG members should sign up as expert evaluators for evaluation of call topics.
 - ✓ Inform and lobby national funding organisations, permanent EU representations and ministries.
 - ✓ Communicate with and influence Programme Committee representatives.
 - ✓ Continue to submit input to public consultations as well as to advisory groups or other influential bodies.
- ✓ **Action:**
 1. FTP should send clear instructions to NSGs on specific actions that could be taken.
 2. BdG to circulate list of participants in Commission WG for EU forestry strategy. NSGs to contact appropriate national experts.

5. **SRA update and Vision Manifest: Advisory Committee recommendations to FTP Management**

- **JE set out his recommendations for the revision of the SRA which were approved by the group:**

- The key documents would be comprised of: Vision (2030) that needed to be clear and succinct so possibly half the length of the current Vision; a revised SRA split into 2 parts – introduction to the revised SRA and an SRA Annex.
- The proposed process would take 1 year to complete.
- The revision process would start with a proposal from the writing team and be followed by discussions in the value-chain groups and in consultations with FTP sponsor companies and NSGs.

- **Comments from members of the AC group:**

- General agreement that the "Vision" should be short, perhaps only 1 – 2 pages; important for policy makers to be able to focus on the key points.
- Important to establish purpose of revision before starting to write. Where are we going?
- Bear in mind structure and challenges of new framework programme (FP8) to structure document appropriately.
- Establish target readership e.g. decision makers, industry MDs, researchers.
- Need to offer "holistic" approach to the SRA to include all areas but without overtly splitting it between the value-chains.
- Need to move away from focus on raw materials and consider solutions / results that the sector could offer.
- Consider what the sector could offer society; match it with the expectations of Horizon 2020.
- Include details on past achievements of the forest-based sector.
- Aim to have concrete framework to show at the FTP conference (September 2011).

- **Vision Manifest**

- Consider synergies with other platforms and sectors.
- Use "positives" such e.g. increasing biodiversity, multi-functionality etc.
- Document should not exceed 1 page.

- ✓ **Action: all to submit comments on Vision Manifest text by mid-August.**

- ✓ JE to send copy of the Vision Manifest and request for comments to all AC members, to include those not present in meeting.

- ✓ New consultation in early September.

6. Information about the next FTP conference in Warsaw, September 26-27

- Announcement that COST have will the Researchers' Forum event. Formal decision still pending.
- NL commented that Russia would have liked to make a presentation at the conference. JE advised that this would only be possible if a slot was freed in the current programme.
- The conference website was now online and registration would start in the next days.

7. AOB

- No points were raised.

8. Next FTP Advisory Committee meeting

- The next FTP AC meeting will take place on Tuesday 22 November at 10:30h. Venue to be confirmed as EFH not available. Proposed venues: CEPI, CEI-Bois.