



**Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the
High Level Steering Board of the European Innovation Partnership
“Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability”**

11 July 2013 in Brussels

1. Welcome by Commissioners Dacian Cioloș and Máire Geoghegan-Quinn

The 2nd meeting of the High Level Steering Board (HLSB) of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) “Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability” took place on 11 July in Brussels to deal with three agenda items: the “Strategic Implementing Plan (SIP)” of the EIP, the future role of the HLSB, and the potential of Horizon 2020 to foster the implementation of the EIP.

In her introduction, Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn stressed that different EIPs can learn from each other while each EIP has its specific structures, implementing mechanisms, and objectives. The High Level Steering Group is a common feature of all EIPs but its working methods and long-term role is to be decided by the group itself. Furthermore, she confirmed her support for the EIPs, also via the implementation mechanisms of Horizon 2020.

Commissioner Cioloș recalled that there are now political agreements on both the CAP and Horizon 2020. Consequently, the implementation phase approaches. The Strategic Implementation Plan can give political input for this implementation phase. The High Level Steering Board encompasses a wide ranging diversity of views and perspectives which is also reflected in the text of the SIP. What makes the SIP outstanding is the strong convergence of views as regards the key challenges to be addressed and the willingness to join forces in tackling those challenges.

2. Presentation of the Draft Strategic Implementation Plan

The approach towards establishing the draft SIP and its content was presented by the chair of the HLSB Sherpa Group, Martin Scheele (DG Agriculture and Rural Development): Following the conclusions of the 1st meeting of the High Level Steering Board meeting, the outline of the SIP was structured along the main challenges to be addressed. The Sherpa Group formed drafting groups for each of the chapters. The introductory sections, describing the overall context of the EIP, were drafted by the Commission. A plenary meeting of the Sherpa Group discussed the text chapter by chapter and invited the Commission to compile the full text and to write the conclusions.

The draft Strategic Implementation Plan is structured along the following key challenges: valorising diversity; enhancing resource efficiency; ensuring the provision of public goods; fostering a sustainable consumption and supply chain;

establishing an enabling innovation culture. Built on different visions, interests and needs, the conclusions of the SIP underline the commitment of all HLSB members to contribute to the implementation of the EIP in the different working contexts and policy areas.

3. Discussion and Adoption

The draft Strategic Implementation Plan was discussed chapter by chapter. During this discussion, the text was adapted to accommodate the remarks made by the members of the Steering Board and slightly amended in several places so as to minimise change to the compromise text. A particularly sensitive matter of discussion was the need for finding a meaningful balance between advancing productivity in a sustainable manner and the sufficiency narrative which emphasizes sustainable consumption.

The revised text of the SIP was distributed to the members of the Steering Board before the end of the meeting. The High Level Steering Group adopted the text as attached in annex.

4. Horizon 2020 and its Contributions to the Implementation of the EIP

Hans-Joerg Lutzeyer (DG Research and Innovation) presented the architecture and implementing mechanisms of the Union Research and Innovation Framework “Horizon 2020”. Furthermore, he elaborated the different links and contributions of Horizon 2020 to the implementation of the agricultural EIP.

5. Future Role of the High Level Steering Board

HLSB member expressed their wish to continue with annual meeting of the HLSB in order to take stock of the outcomes of the EIP and to give feedback and advice concerning further developments of the EIP and its implementing mechanisms. Commissioner Ciolos̄ underlined his willingness to continue working with the High Level Steering Board. He confirmed that strong interest of the HLSB to be informed on activities and progress of the agricultural EIP. Accordingly, the HLSB will meet once a year to take stock and to continue discussions on the implementation. The HLSB members will be consulted about agenda points well in advance of each meeting.

6. Conclusions

Replacing Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn, her Cabinet member, Keith Sequeira, stressed that the Commission will take into account the needs of the EIPs in Horizon 2020 and the need to have a greater role for practitioners in the research policy in order to achieve a stronger impact of research outcomes.

Commissioner Ciolos̄ congratulated the HLSB members to the excellent work done and thanked all contributors, in particular the HLSB Sherpas. The next High Level Steering Group meeting will take place in 2014.