

D4.12 REPORT OF THE FINAL CONFERENCE

(SCAR CONFERENCE 2019)

August 2019



EUROPEAN UNION

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The overall objective of CASA, a Coordination and Support Action (CSA), is a **consolidated common agricultural and wider bioeconomy research agenda** within the European Research Area.

CASA will achieve this by bringing the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR), which has already contributed significantly to this objective in the past, to the next level of performance as a research policy think tank. CASA will efficiently strengthen the strengths and compensate for the insufficiencies of SCAR and thus help it evolve further into “SCAR plus”.

Table of contents

Abbreviations	2
Introduction	3
Contribution of CASA CSA to organising the conference	3
Running the conference	4
Agenda of the conference	6
Keynote presentation No.1: SCAR achievements and having a glance at the future by Barna Kovacs, Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture.	7
Keynote speech N°2: Challenges for SCAR in Addressing the Challenges of the Bioeconomy by Professor Gerry Boyle, Director Teagasc	17
Participatory session - Outcomes of Topic 1	22
Participatory session - Outcomes of Topic 2	23
Participatory session - Outcomes of Topic 3	25
General conclusion of SCAR conference	26

Abbreviations

CWG:	Collaborative Working Group
H2020:	Horizon 2020
SCAR:	Standing Committee on Agricultural Research
SC2:	Societal Challenge 2
SG:	Steering Group
SWG:	Strategic Working Group
WG:	Working Group-generic term including strategic and collaborative working groups
IPBES:	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Introduction

In order to conclude support to SCAR by the CASA CSA, a final conference for SCAR was planned involving the MS representatives, the co-chairs and experts of SWG and CWG, as well as relevant stakeholders for the work of SCAR.

In order to propose to the SCAR a relevant conference, a taskforce, which included members of the SCAR SG, representatives of the EC (DG RTD and DG AGRI) with CASA CSA members, was established.

After discussion with the EC, an agenda was drafted and subsequently approved during the SCAR SG meeting in May 2019.

The aim of the conference was to address the question on how SCAR could contribute to shape the future.

Contribution of CASA CSA to organising the conference

Prior to the conference, CASA CSA drafted support short papers which aimed at feeding the discussion on the agenda during the SCAR SG meeting.

The CASAS CSA members organised and carried out all logistic activities related to a smooth running of the conference, as well as organising the catering, looking for the room for the venue.

The CASA MG helped identifying and contacting the speakers and provided support during the participatory sessions.

Running the conference

The SCAR Conference brought together SCAR delegates, SCAR Steering Group members, SCAR Strategic and Collaborative Working Groups' Chairs and Co-chairs and members, and JPI representatives, and European Commission officials. The conference was held at the premises of the VLEVA in Brussels, Belgium and took place before the SCAR Plenary meeting which was held on 13th June 2019.

The objective of the conference was to reflect on SCAR's functioning in the coming years, reflect on the role and impact of SCAR in the EU's future Horizon Europe Programme, identify synergies with CAP and policies on research and innovation, identify how SCAR could assist in speeding up R&I impact at EU and national level, as well as to discuss possible working groups addressing new challenges.

85 persons attended the event.

The conference was organised in three main parts:

- Firstly, after an introduction by the European Commission on the main aims of SCAR and the expected impact, as well as two keynotes speeches aimed at setting up the scene and at initiating the discussion.
- The second part was run as parallel participatory sessions at which all participants were invited to share their views on several questions concerning the SCAR. Prior to the conference, the three plenary sessions had been jointly prepared by CASA members with experienced SCAR experts and an EC representative. At the start of the parallel sessions, this core group introduced the topic and opened for discussion. All inputs were gathered and summarized. All the inputs of these brainstorming (post it, sheets) sessions were given to the moderator of each session.
- The last part consisted in sharing the outcomes of every session and to conclude on proposals to present to the SCAR plenary meeting.

After closing the conference of work, the participants were free to continue their discussions and exchanges during an informal networking event.

The agenda of the conference, the supports of the keynotes speeches, the slides summarizing the outcomes of the 3 participatory sessions and the verbatim of the general conclusion are annexed to this report in the following pages.

Agenda of the conference



SCAR Conference 2019

Wednesday, 12 June 2019, 09:30 – 16:25

Venue: Liaison agency Flanders-Europe (VLEVA), Kortenbergplein 71, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Objective: Identification of the role and impact of SCAR in the future Horizon Europe Programmes, synergies with CAP and policies on research and innovation:

- What relevance has SCAR at the national and EU level?
- How can SCAR accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral and resource-efficient sustainable Europe while maintaining sustainable agricultural and wider bioeconomy activity?

DRAFT AGENDA

08:45 – 09:30	Registration and welcome coffee
Moderator of plenary sessions: Peter Koets, former SCAR delegate, Netherlands	
09:30 – 09:45	Introductory speech
By Nathalie Sautz-Vandevyver, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission	
MORNING SESSION	
09:45 – 10:15	Keynote speeches
15 min	1 st Keynote: Looking at the past - SCAR achievements and having a glance at the future
By Barna Kovacs, SCAR representative, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary	
15 min	2 nd Keynote: Challenges in the future bioeconomy, agriculture and agri-food and the contribution of SCAR
By Gerry Boyle, TEAGASC, Ireland	
10:15 – 10:55	Discussion with plenum (on the keynotes and statements made)
Panel: Barna Kovacs, Gerry Boyle, Nathalie Sautz-Vandevyver, Waldemar Kiltz (DG RTD, European Commission)	
10:55 – 11:25	Coffee break
11:25 – 12:10	1 st Participatory session in 3 groups*
12:10 – 13:10	Lunch Break
13:10 – 13:40	Roll-up session

SCAR Secretariat, DG RTD, European Commission



RTD-SCAR@ec.europa.eu



AFTERNOON SESSION

13:40 – 14:25	2 nd Participatory session in 3 groups*
14:25 – 15:10	3 rd Participatory session in 3 groups*
15:10 – 15:40	Coffee break
15:40 – 15:55	Conclusion of participatory sessions*
Mike Collins, SCAR Representative, DEFRA, United Kingdom	
Jorge Van Oort, DG AGRI, European Commission	
15:55 – 16:10	Discussion and reflection with plenum
16:10 – 16:25	General conclusion – etc
16:25	End of programme

* Participatory Sessions:

Plenum will be divided in 3 groups to discuss on

- Topic 1: Future possible SCAR Working Groups in view of the challenges ahead
- Topic 2: SCAR role in speeding up R&I impact at EU and national level
- Topic 3: SCAR functioning

Note: On 11th June 2019, a closed side-event will take place only for mentors and mentees of the SCAR Mentoring Programme.

The SCAR Conference is co-organised with the H2020 CSA Q&A Project and has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No 737486



Keynote presentation No.1: SCAR achievements and having a glance at the future by Barna Kovacs, Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture.



School strike(s) for the climate



How much cowbell is too much cowbell?



Modern Times



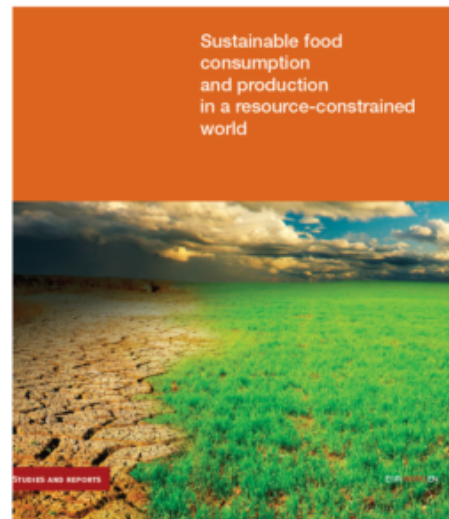
Clash of generations

Born after:

- 2000 –
- 1975 –
- 1945 –

1. How one understand **the role** of agri-food sector **was challenged** during the past 2 decades...
2. **Subjective** explanations are given...
3. We are still living in a **transition period**...

EUROPEAN COMMISSION / Research & Innovation / Food, Agriculture & Fisheries & Biotechnology



Outline of the “new” SCAR (from 2004)

FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY





Steps towards the renewed SCAR

- **1974:** Council Regulation N° 1728/74 establishing SCAR
- **1974-1999:** DG AGRI responsible for agricultural research and management of SCAR
- **1999:** DG RTD responsible for agricultural research at the start of FP5
- **July 2004:** SCAR management transferred from DG AGRI to DG RTD
- **22 November 2004:** Dutch Presidency report calling for a high-level decision platform: a new role for SCAR
- **End November 2004:** MS Permanent Representations to nominate two high-level representatives
- **2-3 February 2005:** First “new” SCAR meeting

FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY



SCAR tasks

Main role for SCAR:

Support the Commission and MS towards better coordination of agricultural research across the ERA

This will involve:

- Strategic discussions on the agricultural research agenda in Europe based on existing and possible future coordination fora (e.g. Prefarn group, EURAGRI, ERA-Nets, NoE)
- Enhanced cooperation between MS (joint research programmes, common infrastructures)
- Research agenda in scientific support to the CAP

FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY





SCAR reporting

Article 11 Council Regulation N° 1728/74

“ At regular intervals the Commission shall present to the **European Parliament** and to the **Council** a report on the coordination of agricultural research:

- information on the national organisation of agricultural research;
- an overall picture of developments in agricultural research within the Community;
- a progress report on the measures adopted under this Regulation;
- a forward study of developments which would be desirable in agricultural research in the Member States and in the coordination of that research at Community level, with reference to the aims of the common agricultural policy.”

FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY



SCAR organisation & operation

SCAR meeting - SCAR members

- High-level decision forum
- Set up and monitor working group(s)
- Consider proposals for action

Working group(s) - Nominated ad hoc staff

- Standing « oversight working group » with flexible « specific sub-groups »
- Preparation of discussion papers on specific topics

Secretariat - Commission

- Preparation of and follow-up from plenary meetings
- Assistance to working group(s)

FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY



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FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY

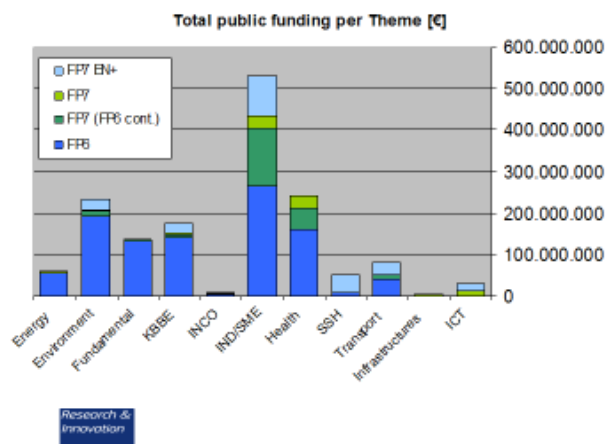


Update from 2010



ERA-NET landscape: from FP6 to FP7

- The total public funding per Theme reaches € 526 Million for Industrial Technologies and SMEs (of which approximately € 100 Million result from horizontal ERA-NETs) and around € 200 Million for the Themes Environment, KBBE and Health.
- Social Sciences benefit particularly from the ERA-NET Plus activities.
- The Themes in which new FP7 ERA-NETs had the strongest impact are Industrial Technologies, Health and ICT.



Update from 2012			
SCAR Collaborative Working Groups Towards common research agendas			
ON-GOING CWGs	Coordinator	SCAR countries	Kick-off meeting
Fisheries & Aquaculture NEW	DK	18	14/06/2012
Integrated pest management for the reduction of pesticide risks and use – IPM	FR	18	13/05/2011
Eur. transnat. Research Coop. Forest value chain in the light of climate change – ERCF	AT-DE	12	3-4/05/2011
Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems - AKIS	FR-NL	16	4/05/2010
Risk Research on GMOs	AT	15	13/10/2009
Development of Sustainable Agriculture in the Baltic Sea Region	PL	8	17/11/2006
CWGs leading to ERA-NETs	Coordinator	SCAR countries	Kick-off meeting
Sust. food production for wealth, welfare and health ERA-NET "SUSFOOD"	DK	17	6/05/2010
Coordinated research agenda for EU rural policy ERA-NET "RURAGR"	SE - NL	7	23/11/2006
Agriculture and Sustainable Development ERA-NET "RURAGR"	FR	11	6/12/2005
ICT and Robotics in Agro-Food Industries ERA-NET "ICT-AGRI"	DK	11	1/09/2005
Relevant issues for Mediterranean Agriculture ERA-NET "ARIMNet"	FR	12	2/12/2005
Animal Health and Welfare ERA-NET "ANHWA" ("EMDA II")	UK	21	8/12/2005
Animal Health ERA-NET "EMDA"	UK	21	8/12/2005
STAND-BY or FINISHED CWGs	Coordinator	SCAR countries	Kick-off meeting
Shared Infrastructures in the field of Agricultural Research	FR	15	25/09/2008
Climate Change and Agriculture included in the JPI "FACCE"	ES	21	23/11/2006
Agriculture and Energy supported by CSA "AGREE"	DE	20	24/06/2008
Ecology for Ecosystems & Natural Resources Sustainable Management	FR	8	16/05/2006
Adaptation of Human Nutrition to Environment Evolution	FR	10	28/05/2006
Advanced Technologies for Climatic Control of Greenhouses and Livestock Housing	IL	14	14/03/2006
Renewable Raw Materials and their Applications in Non-Food Industry	DE	18	27/09/2005
Sustainable Livestock Production from Grasslands	IE	21	1/12/2005



Do the member states coped with ERA?

EU R&I common budget for agri-food, natural resources and bioeconomy and oceans:

- FP6: 0,75bn Euro
- FP7: 1,85bn Euro
- H2020: 3,8bn Euro
- HE: 10bn(?) Euro

Managing the increasing common pot

1. It was a challenge for the EC.
2. It was a challenge for the MSs. and resulted a continuous adaptation of the programs

BUT

also adaptation of the MSs' R&I administration!

The EC administration was splitting (DG RTD and AGRI)!

Do the European Commission coped with ERA?

The member states R&I individual budgets for agri-food, natural resources and bioeconomy and oceans is 85-90% of the whole EU R&I budget:

- Relatively small amount of it mobilized for joint programming exercises

Managing the big societal challenges

1. The EC R&I program is a driving force.
2. It is a challenge for the MSs' ministries and structural reform programs.

The role of the SCAR, the ministries and ultimately the member states

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How one understand the role of agri-food sector was challenged during the past 2 decades. 2. Subjective explanations are given. 3. We are still living in a transition period. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advisory role to link: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thematic - Technological - Sustainability agendas 2. Advocacy role to link: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generations: Greta, Bavaria, Innovation - Geographical: fragmented agendas east-west 3. Co-creation and system approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We need the thematic discussion at European level to be able to set national level priorities. - Strategic planning with the input of SCAR |
|---|---|

EC – SCAR – PC

1. Alignment of coordination fora, joint structures:
 - one umbrella for member states led and financed initiatives
 - single entry point to the Commission
2. Breaking the silos:
 - the role of coordinated thematic discussion in the context of strategic planning of the next programming period
 - 10 bn and wide scope for one research ministry/MS is „mission impossible”
3. Linking back to the society with the „Healthy Planet” programme
 - reporting for AGRI/Fish and ENVI Council meetings and COMPET Council meetings
 - one credible voice for society on the role of agri-food and possible future scenarios

Its time to (re)take the „Manure Management”



We need to tackle the hard questions:

1. Will the SCAR remain at officer level or will be shifted back to the directors level.
2. Europe is not ready for the systems approach, there is a need for advocacy and co-creation.
3. We cannot run ahead with „excellence”, and we cannot afford to leave anybody behind
4. The EC will need more than ever the help of SCAR
5. The Agri-Fish/(ENV) Council will need one voice of advice in research and innovation.



Thank you for your attention!

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Secretary General



Keynote speech N°2: Challenges for SCAR in Addressing the Challenges of the Bioeconomy by Professor Gerry Boyle, Director Teagasc

I would like to thank the organisers for inviting me to participate in this session. I'm wearing two hats. First, as Director of Teagasc we are co-participants in SCAR along with our colleagues in the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Second, I'm currently the President of Euragri and I'd like to think that while we share many of the challenges of SCAR in regards to purpose and functioning, our activities strongly complement the central deliberations of SCAR. Working closely with the Commission SCAR is very much about scoping out a forward looking and dynamic research agenda for the European bioeconomy while Euragri is focused primarily on implementing that agenda.

Teagasc is the Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority and has operational autonomy of the Ministry with a responsibility for research in agriculture and food, farm advisory and vocational education services. We operate mainly at between 6-8 on the TRL scale. We also manage a large Ph.D. fellowship programme (about 300 fellows at present) with university partnerships within and outside of Europe. Our annual budget is about €195 m. (70% via a core State grant) and we've a staff of about 1300.

The challenges facing the bioeconomy have been well rehearsed in several fora in recent years. As John Bennington has put it so well "we are facing a perfect storm" principally in terms of ensuring food and nutrition security while addressing climate change and at the same time ensuring that actors (primary producers, processors, etc.) can make a sustainable income (from the processing of biomass) producing food.

Horizon Europe, the successor to Horizon 2020, with an anticipated budget of €10 billion to be allocated to the broad area of "food" research and which will run from 2021 to 2027, will play a pivotal role in addressing these challenges. But the new CAP which is expected to embed the principles of sustainability in a manner that has never before been achieved will also be hugely important. Member States though regulatory and fiscal measures are also gearing up to guide the bioeconomy in its transition towards a low-carbon-low-emissions future. Under the "EU Effort Sharing Agreement" many MS agricultural sectors, and in particular those with large livestock sectors, will be severely challenged to achieve the ambitious targets likely to be set for the mitigation and sequestration of GHGs and Ammonia. Apart from the challenges faced by GHGs and Ammonia we are also acutely conscious of the related issues concerning water quality and biodiversity.

As I see it the major challenge for SCAR is to ensure that it contributes to the maximum extent possible to the European effort to address the challenges of the bioeconomy.

The need to constantly interrogate the research agenda for the European bioeconomy has always been one of the great benefits of both the Commission and SCAR's work. The development of that agenda from a narrow agricultural commodity focus to an emphasis on systems, the wider bioeconomy and, more recently, the circular bioeconomy, in my view simply would not have happened, as quickly at any rate, without, in the first instance, a big intellectual push by the Commission. But the deliberative process within SCAR has helped to sell these ideas at MS level.

The previous speaker Dr Kovacs has rightly set out the achievements of SCAR to date. Many of these centre on the role of SCAR in attempting to align member states' R&I funding towards addressing our common challenges. SCAR has been successful in this respect as exemplified by initiatives such as FACCE JPI which originated in SCAR and the many ERA-NETs that have arisen from the SCAR Collaborative and Strategic Working Groups.

But we need to do more. For the future, the major contribution from SCAR will continue to be in the alignment of national research systems. Despite the huge budget for Horizon 2020, the research funded by the EU budget is only ~10% of the total publicly funded research in the EU (the other 90% is from national governments). But you can only mobilise the alignment of agendas after the mobilisation of ideas has occurred.

SCAR has the key strength of permitting the interface between the "bottom up" perspective of the MS – the collaborative working groups (CWGs) and strategic working groups (SWGs) of SCAR are proposed by the Member States and resourced in the main by Member States – and the "top down" perspective of the Commission. (As an aside it's my own view that one of the unsung benefits of being a member of the EU is that it has encouraged this type of interface across a whole spectrum of policy areas).

The Working Groups identify the strengths and weaknesses of national research landscapes and, most importantly, the research gaps that need to be addressed. In this way, they establish an evidence base to drive the alignment of national research systems, frequently through the production of a strategic research agenda and/or

development of joint calls or through the establishment of ERA-NETs which run the joint calls.

This evidence-based approach, built on a “bottom-up” system for selecting topics is important in ensuring national support for alignment activities. Alignment won’t happen for the sake of alignment – we all can tend to think at times that our problems are unique – it will only happen when Member States are convinced of the value of it, and in general, when the topic areas have been selected by the Member States. In other words SCAR has to be able to answer that annoying but perfectly reasonable question coming from the Member States – “what’s in it for us”

There are proposals under Horizon Europe for new partnership models (including between Member States and the Commission) and new structures for deciding on partnership areas. It is vitally important that SCAR retain an advisory role in these deliberations. A “top-down” approach from the Commission that neglects the preparatory work that is currently performed by SCAR’s Working Groups would be unlikely to be as successful in retaining Member State support. In any case, an approach that ignores the interfacing role of SCAR will absolutely result in poorer outcomes.

SCAR also faces challenges in how it organises itself and how it stays relevant to both the Commission and to Member States. SCAR has broadened its remit to encompass the whole bioeconomy sector including food production and processing, non-food biomass for industrial products and forestry, fisheries and aquaculture production. But, given that its historical legacy was very much focused on agriculture, reflecting the structures in several Member States, we must always strive to ensure that we are adequately representing those other sectors. All structures have their inherent complexities and the R&I landscape across Europe is especially complex. In some countries responsibility for the entire scope of bioeconomy research lies within a single ministry – in that case representation is clear. But where those sectors are managed or influenced by different ministries, all members have a responsibility to ensure that we provide representation across the full spectrum of the bioeconomy.

It’s an open question if SCAR truly represents the 37 different countries that it aims to, ranging from EU Member States to Candidate and Associated Countries. Like similar fora, there are some very active members and some that are much less active. There is a joint responsibility on the active members to try to understand the drivers that would encourage the other members to be more active and on the less active members

to engage with the active members to shape the activity of SCAR so that it meets their needs.

Communication about SCAR's role is key and this conference is a great example of good communication. Just now, we have heard from Barna Kovacs about all of the achievements of SCAR. Do we talk enough about these achievements, especially in the Member States? Not all SCAR deliberations will be of interest to its stakeholders but I think the deliberations of the outstanding work on Foresight and the Working Groups (e.g. the AKIS) merit much greater visibility in all of the Member States. A suggestion: when the current Foresight exercise that's underway is published, it would do much for the visibility of SCAR if a workshop/conference were organised to promote its findings in each Member State.

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Resourcing is also vital to the work of SCAR. As with every organisation and forum, we have to strike a balance between ambition and feasibility. SCAR must be ambitious in performing its role, advising the Commission and driving alignment between national systems. But we must also ensure that we have the resources to perform our work to the necessary standard.

To date, the activities of the Working Groups have all been delivered through the free commitment of staff resources by the member state representative organisations. There is a great discipline in this, as it ensures that new activities only commence when Member States are truly committed to them. However, there is also likelihood that important work will not be undertaken because the membership of the groups are very busy with their "day jobs".

In recent years, the CASA project has provided much needed support for the CWGs and SWGs. As this comes to an end, it is important that we consider how best we can resource and support the activities of the Working Groups.

I mentioned at the outset that I'm at present the President of Euragri. Euragri overlaps in membership that of SCAR but our primary membership is comprised of Research Performing Organisations (RPOs). We like to think that we're a learning network for RPOs operating in the bioeconomy space. Our main interest is on implementing in the most effective way possible the research agendas as determined at Member State and European Union levels. Sometimes the implementation challenges of Europe's RPOs get insufficient attention. Like SCAR's membership, most RPOs in Europe come from

an agricultural base. The transition, in terms of investing in new scientific skills and overcoming conservative attitudes to embrace the bioeconomy, and especially the concept of the sustainable circular bioeconomy, cannot, in my opinion, be overstated. Our mode of working needs to change utterly if it's to capture the potential richness of the AKIS (or BKIS) approach. Transdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches are recognised as key to addressing the "grand challenges" but terribly difficult to implement successfully. We're challenged like SCAR to be visible and to demonstrate value for public investment. And like SCAR we also lack a sustainable financial base and our country and sector representation is also skewed. We yearn for more diverse representation and a greater commitment to what I believe is really important work.

As I utter these words I feel as if the beginnings of a strategic alliance are about to be formed!

In conclusion I want to return to the issue of SCAR.

Reflecting deeply on SCAR as I've had to do in preparation for this talk, I must address the moat that's in my own eye. I'm going to set a challenge to myself and to the other senior management in SCAR Member States. We are all conscious of the important work of SCAR but sometimes we neglect to prioritise it; to ensure that we commit key staff to the activities of SCAR and to ensure that our representatives at the different levels of SCAR connect back to all of the relevant stakeholders in our countries. It may be that by working so effectively, with limited resources, SCAR is a victim of its own success. SCAR has been the backbone of European cooperation in agricultural research (and subsequently the bioeconomy) research since its inception 45 years ago, and particularly in the last 15 years. If we value it, which we should, we need to ensure that we give it the priority it deserves so that it can continue with this success for the next 15 years.

Thank you for your attention!

Participatory session - Outcomes of Topic 1

Topic 1 „working groups and ideas“

Potential new working groups

- Agro-ecology/Soils
- Socio-economic impact/dimensions of R&I
- Digitisation
- Proteins
- Zero'Net emissions
- Plant Health/Zero pesticides/Genetic resources
- Consumer issues
- Microbiome
- New technologies, e.g. nano-tech in food
- Communication

Topic 1 „other ideas“

- No new working groups
- No differentiation between SWGs and CWGs
- Better resourced Steering Group
- More focused mandate (and time bound)
- Better coordination across the WGs
- More aware of what is going on elsewhere –umbrella for activities
- Role in comparative analysis across countries and their activities
- Strengthening of the Foresight activities (more people involved?)
- **Next step: email Rolf S/Mike C with following up on the detail if there has been further thinking on concrete objectives**

Participatory session - Outcomes of Topic 2

SCAR Role in speeding up R&I impact at national & EU level and accelerating the transition to sustainable Europe

SCAR ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 12 JUNE 2019, BRUSSELS

TOPIC 2 - MODERATOR INGE VAN OOST – DG AGRI - UNIT R&I

Question 1/F

- How can SCAR contribute to enhanced research impact for sustainable agriculture and wider bioeconomy at national and EU level?
 - *Put in ex ante selection impact criteria in the calls, pushing a multi-actor environment; look to R&I ecosystem to speed up transition*
 - *Need to include professional communicators (horizontally or project-wise) and the right effective channels*
 - *Impact assessment and communication from the start!*
 - *Use the structure of SCAR: work of WGs experts to advise the SCAR SG*
 - *Capacity development in soft skills is key, embed this eg in Framework Programme (also facilitating research environment in Eastern European countries)*

Question 2/F

Which concrete incentives can help to ensure research results are sufficiently **transformed into concrete solutions as well as taken up by end-users** ? How to mobilise quicker involvement by end-users to speed up the practical implementation? Which critical factors play a role?

- *SCAR has an advisory role, defines the strategic agenda and gives recommendations and can motivate MS to use the recommendations of the SWGs (role for NRNs?)*
- *Education is important for farm regeneration renewal: enhancing attractiveness of the sector; demonstration should be promoted; Erasmus for farmers*
- *Consistency of messaging is important: communication of the steps to facilitate the transition across the value chain*
- *Co-creation demands flexibility*

Question 3/F

Overall, how can SCAR have more impact at the EU and national levels to assist the take-up of research results which help to speed up the transition to more sustainable agriculture and wider bioeconomy?

- *Monitoring and impact evaluation is needed, are the funders doing it the right way*
- *Resources are needed to communicate and disseminate (including anticipative)*
- *Raise awareness about SCAR at national level: SCAR mirror groups (with participation of funding agencies and high level regional authorities) to disseminate more (also in advance)*
- *Increase visibility: enlarge target audience (!), including society, take advantage of environmental challenges, grab opportunities at events that are of concern to eg SWGs*
- *How to measure impact of SCAR, a reflection inside SG is needed to push SCAR forward*

Participatory session - Outcomes of Topic 3

Topic 3 - SCAR functioning: on the role of SCAR Member States and the European Commission in co-creation and advocacy of common policy advice

Redefining an appropriate co-creation process in the SCAR

Operational level

- One voice in SCAR requires one voice at home
- “Consultation”, interaction with
- We can’t afford to leave countries behind
- Put more emphasis on making results known
- Good preparation of SG /plenary meetings
- Resources

Strategic level

- Bring back common work with PC...
- Take into account evolvement of societal challenges
- New deal needed between COM and SCAR members
- One voice of SCAR to be effective

Topic 3 - SCAR functioning: on the role of SCAR Member States and the European Commission in co-creation and advocacy of common policy advice

Redefining the advisory and advocacy process in the SCAR

Operational level

- Make priorities, focus on priorities
- Learn from each other
- Timeliness of meetings and processes
- Policy papers
- Strategic information system for SCAR

→ Prepare policy advice is an interplay between WG and SG

Strategic level

- SCAR as sounding board
- SCAR common position and reports to be under attention of director’s level and Council
- Steering Group start steering again
- New deal needed between COM and SCAR members

General conclusion of SCAR conference

There after the verbatim of the conclusion.

“Dear SCAR Colleagues,

It has been a very rich day and I have the difficult task to conclude it.

Before underlining what I consider as important “take home messages” from the discussions we had today, I would like to take the opportunity to thanks the people who made this conference possible. I hope I will not forget anybody, avec please forgive me if I do so:

Many thanks to:

- *The EC representatives (Nathalie Sauze-Vandevyver, Waldemar Kütt, the SCAR secretariat Liutauras Guobys and Petra Goyens, Inge van Oost), for their constructive contributions for setting up the agenda and their assistance in inviting us all today.*
- *The CASA CSA team, who also discussed the agenda and cared for all the back office of the conference.*
- *VLEVA, who kindly hosted the conference, and the VLEVA staff who has been taking care of the logistics before and during the whole conference.*
- *Our moderator Peter Keet for his smooth moderation and time keeping.*
- *All speakers for steering, initiating, inspiring the discussion. The exercises of setting up the scene were both a challenge and a success.*
- *The Chairs, co-chairs and all the members of the SCAR Strategic working groups, Collaborative working groups and Foresight, who are active in producing SCAR outputs and also actively contributed to the debate.*
- *All participants for their commitment in making this event a success.*

Now let's go back to the conclusions of this conference in relation with its objectives which were to identify the role and impact of SCAR in the future of Horizon Europe Programme, synergies with CAP and policies on research and innovation.

For this I would like to use a few familiar letters:

- *S which stands for Support. Today we heard expressions of support to SCAR by the Commission, by the Member states, by the Chairs and Co-chairs of the SCAR working groups, who believe in what SCAR can achieve. And we also took note of all the support SCAR brought to EU and national policies through what it delivered and all its potential for supporting EU policies like Horizon Europe, CAP, the EU Bioeconomy strategy as well as their articulation with national policies. I take the opportunity to thank Nathalie Sauze again for highlighting this dimension. And last, we are fully aware of the importance of the support brought by CASA and of continuing such a support to SCAR activities.*
- *C which stands for Commitment. And here I would like to stress the commitment of all member states. The issue of inclusiveness has been extensively addressed over the last years. Now all the member states are able to share their views in an atmosphere of mutual listening. I here would like to underline the speech from Barna for his very constructive and relevant speech*

and to all contributors of the mentor / mentees initiative. This commitment is also a commitment to align views and hereby contribute to strengthening Europe.

- *And C which also stands for Challenges. Gerry Boyle has underlined some of them this morning, others came out during the discussions in the participatory session. Agriculture is facing major challenges. The recent IPBES report, endorsed at the international level is very clear about the emergency in transforming our agricultural and food sectors.*
- *That brings me to the A, which stands for Advice. Advice is what SCAR was set up for, and facing those challenges calls for scientific and expert advice. It calls for advice on how to set existing knowledge and innovations into action: that's what WG like the AKIS WG are investigating in relation with the CAP. It calls for advice on how to better align our efforts at the EU level, taking into account national and regional contexts, in order to foster innovations in a concerted effort. That's what SCAR is achieving through WG like the BSW or by facilitating the set-up of relevant partnerships. And it also calls for being able to keep one step ahead. That is why the foresight activities are so important.*
- *And last but not least, here comes the R. There are several dimensions to this R. First, the discussions we had advocate for a Renewal of SCAR together with the renewal in the contexts: because we are facing new challenges, because we have gone one step forward in our reflections, because the new framework programme offers new instruments and new opportunities. The creation of a WG on how to achieve structural changes in agriculture like growing food without chemical pesticides has been mentioned. An also the fact that in order to tackle very systemic issues, SCAR should pay attention not to be too scattered but to develop relevant interfaces between the SCAR WG and also with other groups.*
- *And to achieve this renewal, we can rely on the Richness of the SCAR, which is my second R: the richness of our profiles, of our skills, of our experiences, of our national expertise and the richness and added-value in bringing them together.*

Unfortunately in SCAR there is no "I" (but then there would be a risk that it becomes scary ;-)) but I still will stress the importance of paying attention to impact and being connected to the research groups that design and implement methods in order to assess impact ex-ante in order to design and set up the most relevant and the most effective research activities.

Well, that's it. Thanks again to all of you, and I am looking forward to discuss it again with the SCAR Delegates tomorrow during the SCAR Plenary in order to shape the future of SCAR."

