



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SEII Secretariat

Brussels, 5 May 2011

4th SEII-TEAM meeting

Wednesday 4th May 2011

Venue: Centre A. Borschette, Rue Froissart 36, Brussels - Room AB-3A

Summary of the discussion and action items

1. Introduction

The meeting was chaired by Bruno Schmitz (BS; European Commission) who welcomed the participants.

BS welcomed the appointment of a new Secretary General of EPIA, Mr Reinhold Buttgerit, who took office on 1 May 2011. The related press release was distributed to the participants (see Annex 1).

The minutes of the third SEII Team meeting of 9 February 2011 were adopted without modifications.

The minutes of the SEII Team meeting for Member States representatives of 1 April 2011 were adopted without modifications.

The agenda of the current meeting was adopted with the addition of one item as the penultimate point before "any other business": information on the SET Plan financing workshop due in June.

2. Solar ERA-NET action

BS welcomed the industry project ideas presented at the last meeting and the interest they generated. He pointed out that what was needed to proceed with concrete cooperation between the Member States was a structured plan and resources for the administrative effort involved. To this effect, it has been agreed within the Commission and discussed with the FP7 Energy Programme Committee to include an ERANET action in the Work Programme 2012 to start realising the Implementation Plans for the SEII in both PV and CSP through joint calls between the Member States.

Discussions with the Member States had already been initiated at a dedicated meeting on 1 April 2011. Responses to a request for preliminary expressions of interest in starting negotiations for launching an ERANET proposal had been received as follows¹:

Countries interested at this stage (7): Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Switzerland, Turkey, UK.

Confirmation pending (4): Austria, France, Greece, Portugal.

Not ready at this stage (2): Italy, Spain.

Italy stated that there would be a meeting on 5 May to discuss the issue further and that their position could change as a result.

Matti Farkkila (MF; European Commission) gave a brief presentation on the ERANET concept, to outline it for those who were not present at the meeting for Member States on 1 April. Please refer to the presentation attached (Annex 2) for details.

In brief, the ERA-NET process would be as follows:

1.) Member States prepare a proposal for the Commission ERA-NET call, presenting a plan for organising joint calls for proposals to fund SEII projects. The consortium members are either managers of national funding programmes (funding agencies) or owners of these programmes (ministries). The successful consortium then has the EC contribution of €2 million at its disposal for coordination and administration to organise joint calls in order to fund transnational projects. The EC funding can also be used for other relevant coordinating actions (such as enhanced information exchange on national activities), but not to fund the projects themselves.

2.) The Member States then launch joint calls for proposals to fund projects in the priority areas as stemming from the discussions in the SEII team. However, the final say on the budget and the topics remains with the participating Member States. The successful consortia will be funded by the Member States participating in the ERANET. There is a lot of flexibility for the participating Member States to define the exact modality of funding, but in general and in the simplest form, each Member State funds its own participants. If desired, there may be a small "common pot" to be used as a "top-up" funding and a pooled reserve budget in cases where a national budget is exhausted due to a larger number of successful candidates than expected.

BS highlighted that there was a lot of flexibility in the ERANET scheme and that the exact parameters of the calls for proposals would be essentially for the participating Member States to define. Therefore the division of the budget between CSP and PV technologies could be decided according to the needs of the participants as calls for proposals are defined. Similarly, the final budget of calls would be up to the participating MS. However, for the effort of organising the action and launching calls to be worthwhile, it would be advisable to have a sizeable enough budget to launch projects that have real added value. Also, the definition of topics would in the final instance be for

¹ Final commitment in all cases depending on the development of the concrete details of the action to be defined in negotiations for launching the proposal.

the MS to decide. However, they should be planned together with the SEII team and be in line with the Implementation Plans. In terms of types of possible projects, only "flagship" type demos would be out of the scope of this action, as the instrument, based on joint calls, is not well-suited for realising these.

As regards the drafting of the initial proposal, it should be led by a participating MS (the coordinator). There is no legal instrument to grant funding for consultancy on this. However, the Commission offers to coach proposers on the specificities of the ERA-NET instrument in the preparation of the proposal. EC staff specialised in the instrument are available for advice and to participate in preparatory meetings. Logistical support, such as the Circa information depository and meeting rooms in Brussels can also be made available. In addition, a manual of best practices for organising calls is available under the [Learning Platform of the NETWATCH ERA-NETs platform](#).

ESTELA and EPIA expressed their support for the scheme, highlighting that the flexibility is an important advantage. They indicated they would be happy to start working on defining possible topics with the MS as soon as possible.

BS presented the topic description to be included in the Commission's Work Programme 2012 for the solar ERANET action. The description was well-received by the Team without specific comments.

3. Adoption of the structure of the SEII Team

BS recapped the content of the draft document outlining the mission, structure and working modalities of the SEII Team for adoption.

In the discussion on the document, the issue of research community's representation in the Team was raised. It was agreed that the size of the Team needed to be workable, so adding further members from the research community was not desirable. However, the industry representation (8) should include members of the research community working with the industry through the Technology Platforms and the sectoral organisations, EPIA and ESTELA.

It was agreed that the names of the official representatives (of all MS and other stakeholders in the Team) should be communicated to the Commission together with their full contact details. In addition, an official alternate should be nominated. Other representatives may participate in the meetings without specific restrictions to give support on particular topics (without a voting right). Their participation should be made known to the Commission in advance of each meeting.

The MS are free to nominate the representative of their choice in the SEII Team. By contrast, for the ERANET action, the participants should represent funding programme owners. If these are not the same as in the Team, proper communication between the two should be ensured.

Finally, some minor changes were made to the wording of the document for clarity.

The document "SEII Team – Structure and working modalities" was adopted with the modifications indicated in "track changes" in Annex 3. Please find the final document in Annex 4.

The following six persons were nominated to the Coordination Group of the SEII Team:

<i>Coordination Group of the SEII Team as nominated on 4 May 2011:</i>		
<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
<i>EC</i>	Piero DE BONIS	Piero.De-Bonis@ec.europa.eu
<i>EC</i>	Maria GETSIOU	Maria.Getsiou@ec.europa.eu
<i>MS (Belgium)</i>	Jef POORTMANS	Jef.Poortmans@imec.be
<i>MS (Italy)</i>	Fabrizio FABRIZI	Fabrizio.Fabrizi@ENEA.IT
<i>Industry (EPIA)</i>	Eleni DESPOTOU	E.Despotou@EPIA.org
<i>Industry (ESTELA)</i>	Mariàngels PEREZ LATORRE	mpl@estelasolar.eu

4. Key Performance Indicators

Nigel Taylor (NT; European Commission, JRC) and Mr. Pieterjan Vanbuggenhout (PV; EPIA) presented the results of the work done on Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for the solar technologies. BS pointed out that while the work was not final yet, the solar sector's KPIs were more advanced than those of other technologies. Please see the document in Annex 5 and the presentations in Annex 6 and Annex 7 for details.

NT emphasised that these were primarily intended as a tool for SEII projects to evaluate their progress. Each consortium will identify the KPIs relevant to their project at the planning stage and set targets accordingly in each of these. The progress of the project will then be followed by these parameters. The 'umbrella' KPI, levelised cost of electricity, will allow for comparisons between the technologies and is the overarching KPI in all SET Plan initiatives.

While it might be difficult to follow up the development of the entire sector in terms of KPIs due to confidentiality of company data, it should be feasible to apply the KPIs for their main purpose, monitoring of progress in SEII projects. A requirement to define procedures for verifying progress against KPIs in projects in practice, including in demos where appropriate, could be included in the KPI document.

The target of 10% cost reduction in CSP was questioned as lacking ambition. ESTELA assured that it was realistic, although still subject to fine tuning. It was also confirmed by ESTELA that the reference plant size of 50MW was appropriate for the

current purpose of monitoring progress in SEII, since there are no larger scale plants in existence or in the pipeline in Europe. A footnote was agreed to be added on the application to other plant sizes.

The chapter "Reporting" will be finalised in the near future. Feedback is expected from other EIIs as reporting is intended to be harmonised between all of them. For this reason, the chapter is likely to remain quite general.

Follow-up actions and timeline:

- MS should deliver their comments on the KPI document to Nigel Taylor (Nigel.Taylor@ec.europa.eu) by **13 May 2011**, with other Team members in copy. They should also indicate any items where further consultation is considered necessary before the document is finalised.
- The document will be revised accordingly by the KPI working group (EC/JRC, EPIA ESTELA);
- The KPIs will be presented to the SET Plan Steering Group at its meeting of 24 May, indicating the areas where further feedback is still indicated to be forthcoming by the MS representatives in the Team.

5. Mapping Questionnaire on Projects in Member States

Fabio Belloni (FB) introduced the item, indicating that an open discussion was called for on the bottlenecks in collecting the data on Member State level projects. The Team members had been requested to gather the data with a questionnaire originally for February, with a prolongation of the deadline till April; nevertheless only very few filled-in questionnaires had reached the Commission so far.

The Greek representative, who had handed in a project questionnaire, indicated that it was not very cumbersome to fill in as such. The Spanish representative had also handed in one questionnaire, but indicated that it was difficult to have the project owners fill in the data. Belgium reported having provided project data to the Steering Group representative. BS said the EC would follow this up, as it had not reached the EC representatives present in the meeting yet.

The key problems in collecting data in this way evoked by the MS were as follows:

- Lack of incentives and/or resources for project owners to provide the data;
- Lack of clarity in the request, e.g. are FP7 projects to be included;
- No clear information on the use of the collected data, making project owners reluctant to participate;
- Unpractical format of the questionnaire;

- Small size of projects; it may be more practical to gather info at programme level, thematically.

Follow-up for improving the situation:

- JRC to look into the work done by the existing PV ERANET for project information it has gathered and consider the formatting of the same;
- JRC to consider the feedback above on the problems encountered;
- MS representatives in the SEII Team, who have not already done so, to provide the data on at least the most representative projects in both PV and CSP; responses will be distributed along by the EC to Team members unless otherwise requested for confidentiality reasons.
- Item to be discussed again at the next Team meeting.

6. Workshop on SET Plan Financing 20-21 June 2011

BS informed the Team about a workshop on SET Plan financing, scheduled for 20-21 June 2011. The agenda will feature a presentation of different funding instruments (including notably EIB loan facilities) and presentations from each technology sector on the particular funding needs and specific problems encountered. Please see the draft agenda in Annex 8.

A presentation is requested to be delivered jointly by 3 representatives of each technology, PV and CSP (6 in total). The presenters are requested to be persons knowledgeable of the funding issues with the technologies.

Follow-up actions:

- MS representatives to send their proposals for speakers directly to EPIA (e.despotou@epia.org) and ESTELA (mpl@estelasolar.eu) with a copy to the SEII Team secretariat (Piero.de-Bonis@ec.europa.eu) by **20 May**.
- Both associations will send 6 names to the EC for consideration (Set-plan-secretariat@ec.europa.eu; copy SEII Team secretariat), of which the SET Plan Secretariat will select the final 3 speakers for each technology by **31 May**.
- The nominees will be requested to fill in a template for a presentation by 10 June.

7. Any Other Business

Proceeding with project proposals presented at the meeting of 9 February: BS informed the Team that one of the topics proposed by the PV industry and distributed to members following the 3rd Team meeting would most likely be included in the Work Programme 2012 in the FP7 "Energy" call for proposals, namely a topic on system management tools. Other topics in the WP included CSP dish technologies and CSP hybridisation.

Next SEII Team meetings: It was agreed that three more Team meetings would be held in 2011 on the following dates:

- 20 July;
- 20 October;
- 7 December.

In addition, a dedicated meeting for preparing the proposal for the ERANET call may be organised with a date to be confirmed.

Annexes:

- 1. Press release on the appointment of the new Secretary General for EPIA**
- 2. Presentation on Solar ERANET**
- 3. SEII Team Structure and working modalities – "track changes"**
- 4. SEII Team structure and working modalities – final adopted version**
- 5. Key Performance Indicators for the Solar Europe Industrial Initiative**
- 6. Presentation on KPIs by Nigel Taylor**
- 7. Presentation on KPIs by Pieterjan Vanbuggenhout**
- 8. Draft agenda for the workshop on SET Plan Financing 20-21 June 2011**

List of MS/Industry/EERA attendees

Surname	Name	Member State	PV Industry	CSP Industry	EERA
Bergauer-Culver	Bettina	AT			
Eckhoff	Stefan			SOLAR MILLENNIUM	
Etchebehere	Evelyn	FR			
Fabrizi	Fabrizio	IT			
Herrero Rueda	Jose	ES			
Hunnekes	Christoph	DE			
Klein	Florian			ABENGOA SOLAR	
Kollmeier	Susanne			SOLAR MILLENNIUM	
Malbranche	Philippe				EERA-PV
Martínez-Fresneda	José			ESTELA	
Oberholzer	Stefan	CH			
Pearsall	Nicola	UK			
Pérez Latorre	Mariángels			ESTELA	
Pitz-Paal	Robert				EERA-CSP
Polain	Laurence	BE			
Poortmans	Jef	BE			
Rekininger	Manuel		EPIA		
Steinberg-Hines	Brigitte			ESTELA	
Tselepis	Stathis	GR			
Vanbuggenhout	Pieterjan		EPIA		
Vones	Gerald	AT			
Wikman	Karin	FI			

List of EC attendees

Bruno Schmitz, RTD, K3
Nigel Taylor, JRC
Pietro Menna, DG ENER
Piero De Bonis, RTD, K3
Fabio Belloni, RTD, K3
Maria Getsiou, RTD, K3
Matti Farkkila, RTD, K3