

***Clean Aviation States' Representatives Group (SRG)***

***(Physical attendance + Teams MS)***

**Thursday, 17 March 2022 (09.00-12.00)**

**Minutes**

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

**Juan Francisco Reyes (ES)** welcomes the States Representatives Group (SRG), JU members, and EC representatives and chairs the meeting.

The agenda is adopted by the participants. The meeting was attended by 22 countries:

**BE, CY, DE, DK, EE, ES, FR, GE, GR, HU, IL, IT, LT, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SK and TR.**

**2. Approval of minutes of the preceding meeting (13 January 2022)**

*2.1. Review of action points*

**The Chair** reminds the SRG members that there were 5 action points in the last SRG meeting.

- Adoption of the Rules of Procedure. The document was modified to include some members' comments and finally it was adopted by consensus the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February and then was published in the Clean Aviation website. The Chair thanks again the SRG members for their inputs.
- The Call for Expression of Interest (CEI) for synergies with Members States and regions. The SRG members had received the draft with the request to provide comments. The Chair explains that all the comments received were compiled and sent to the CAJU. The CAJU will provide further explanations under the point 5 of the agenda.
- The collaboration with other aviation advisory bodies, such as the SESAR 3 SRG, ACARE MSG. The Chair discussed with the EC and the CAJU which is the most effective approach to establish this collaboration. With ACARE MSG, the best approach should be to organize both meetings together, in the same day, as it has been done in a couple of times in the last period. The Chair and the CAJU will consider the organization of a joint meeting, where the 1<sup>st</sup> part will be dedicated to CA SRG, the 2<sup>nd</sup> part with both bodies for common issues and the 3<sup>rd</sup> part only for ACARE members. This action remains open, due to the ongoing discussion.
- The Work Programme 2022-23 and the rules for submission document. SRG had a period of consultation as well as a videoconference with the CAJU. All comments were sent to the JU together with a formal positive opinion subject to the consideration of several comments and suggestions. The CAJU replied to the SRG members last week with an excel document. No major comments were received.
- The Confidentiality and Non-Conflict of Interest declaration by the SRG members. This action is completed.

## *2.2. Status of formal nominations; new participants (if any).*

**Christos Vasilakos (CAJU)** highlights that the CAJU received most of the formal nominations from all Members States. BU, HR and LV are still pending.

Concerning the signed declaration, the CAJU received all of them. If one of the SRG members has forgotten, he still could send it in the next days.

## **3. Clean Aviation update**

### *3.1 Report from the Governing Board*

**Juan Francisco Reyes (ES)** attended the meeting as observer for the SRG. The agenda of the Governing Board is included in the slides. The most important point was the issue concerning the Work Programme, the first Call and their views for submission documents.

The Advisory Bodies (SAB & SRG) had the opportunity to give their opinion. **Juanfran** expressed the positive opinion of the SRG but highlighted the SRG members' concerns on general issues, such as the need for prepublication of the call for the next time, the worries about the participation of SMEs and newcomers, and finally the concern about the management of IPR, mainly between different linked projects. The **CAJU** and the **European Commission (EC)** explained that the time was very tight to pre-publish the call. They also added that they are aware of the SMEs' participation concerns, and they would like to improve it. The IPs issues will further be discussed and considered in detail. The **EC** highlighted the policy adopted by the Commission with respect to participation of entities from Russia and Belarus, explaining that these are barred from participation from all calls, except in special situations, such as for humanitarian reasons which will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

**Juanfran** also mentions that there was a round table for GB members to answer three questions: the first one was their opinion about which topic or thrust should have the greater impact, the second, regarding the synergies with MS funding programmes, and the third one regarding the openness of the call and the inclusion of SMEs and newcomers.

### *3.2 Work Programme and 1st Call of Proposals (next steps)*

**Ron Van Manen (CAJU)** reminds the timeframe for the 1<sup>st</sup> call, pointing out that the Advisory Bodies needed to be formed and their opinion was a mandatory step in terms of discussion and adoption by the Governing Board.

On 16<sup>th</sup> March, the Work Programme and the 1<sup>st</sup> Call was adopted in the Governing Board. The Call is launched 23<sup>rd</sup> March and will be closed on 23<sup>rd</sup> of June (meaning 3 months precisely after the call opening). The 1<sup>st</sup> Info Day takes place on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. He also notes that a decision was reached in the adoption by the GB to fund up to 2 projects in two of the hydrogen topics based on a recommendation by the Technical Committee (TC) and the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) each in one of these cases.

**Ron (CAJU)** presents the overview of the call, along with the call package and the main points for the rule of submission, evaluation, and the selection of the proposals. He also notes that

the CAJU is working on the model collaboration agreement, between projects. This agreement has to be signed by the projects' coordinators within six months after the signature of GA. The CAJU will send to SRG a draft of the Collaboration Agreement. The relative slides are included in the master slides that have been uploaded in CIRCABC.

Regarding a question about the subcontracting in topic proposals, **Ron** replies that it follows the Horizon Europe general approach and rules, and core research activities should not be subcontracted.

#### 4. Update from the European Commission

**Franky Callewaert (EC)** provides some information on behalf of the European Commission. He addresses the situation with Russia, and notes that within Horizon Europe there are twelve Associated and six candidate countries, while there is no progress in the negotiations with the UK. The discussion with Canada is going quite well, but the agreement is not signed yet, while the negotiations with South Korea, and New Zealand are in the process.

**Juanfran (ES)** asks about the procedure to include UK budget in proposals. Should UK partners be considered as from a third country or an associated country?

**CAJU** highlights that so far, UK is considered as a 'third country', but the consortium may include a funding request for the UK partners. If on the date of the signature of the Grant Agreement, the Association Agreement with the UK is signed, these entities may receive EU funding.

**Francky (EC)** notes that the EC will communicate an announcement about the inclusion of funding requests from UK entities in the proposals.

#### 5. Discussion on CEI and CSA related to synergies

**Ron (CAJU)** addresses the synergies with other Joint Undertakings, partnerships, and EU programmes.

In the current call of the Clean Hydrogen JU there are two topics focused on aviation with a total value of 35m€ (Fuel Cell technologies and H2 storage). A high-level roadmap has been agreed in which it has been established which topic areas should be dealt with in Clean Hydrogen and which in Clean Aviation.

Concerning SESAR3, the WP 2022 mentions synergies with Clean Aviation, including the possibility to share data, when relevant, between projects to achieve higher impact. Clean Aviation and SESAR3 JUs have developed a "non-paper" [2020] outlining areas for possible joint demonstration.

Concerning the Collaborative Research within Cluster 5 there are the following topics to be considered:

- Complete with some actions necessary for achieving the climate neutral aircraft
- Technological research, e.g., linked to energy storage, thermal management

- Research on the impact of future aviation (including non-CO2 climate impact)
- Low NOx Combustion topic and proposal

Concerning the Batteries Partnership, the dialogue is ongoing, while the CAJU is represented on Batteries PPP Board.

**Christos (CAJU)** presents the main points of the Call for Expression of Interest (CEI) for establishing collaboration and synergies between the Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking and Member States/regions. He also thanks SRG members for their contribution and the feedback on the draft of this call and notes that the CEI will be possibly launched at the end of Q2 2022. Then, **Christos (CAJU)** provides replies to the questions and the comments that were raised by SRG members in the draft document. All the slides are uploaded to CIRCABC.

**Chair** points out that SRG asks for a new round of comments with the updated version of the document, highlighting that the CEI should be clear and openness to allow most of the countries to submit it. There should be a template to ease the application of the CEI with the different cooperation options. Juanfran asks the exclusion of reference to “funding commitment” as a minimum requirement in the CEI. It is too restrictive for some national and regional programmes. **AT** and **GE** support this position.

**Francky (EC)** supports that the national ecosystems should make efforts to establish synergies with the Clean Aviation programme.

**Chair** notes that Member States are trying to develop synergies and some national programmes provide funding support to national projects related to Clean Sky 2. He asks from the EC and CA JU to facilitate the development of synergies by considering the support to these national funded projects as IKAA for Founding and Associating Members. He also highlights that this is a real case of synergies since all of them are complementary to Clean Sky projects.

**Francky (EC)** asks for SRG members to send their procedure of certifying and auditing their national R&D&I projects to study if they can or not be automatically considered as IKAA, case by case. This could only be done for CA members as only CA members can bring in IKAA. However, even with this limitation there could be a substantial simplification of procedures.

**Chair** proposes each SRG member to send the procedure of certifying and auditing national funded projects. After sending the required information, a follow-up meeting with the EC and the CAJU could be useful.

**Chair** asks about the role of clusters in the CEI and if a cluster could submit a proposal even if there is not an association with the regional funding programme or regional government.

**Christos (CAJU)** notes that role of clusters may be more as a facilitator of a potential cooperation, and this issue will be clarified well in the CEI.

**Christos (CAJU)** presented and explained the objectives and the expected outcomes of the CSA, as well as the links with the CEI. The CSA has already approved and will be launched in the 1<sup>st</sup> call for proposal. The relevant slides are available to CIRCABC

**Chair** notes that there are still a lot of doubts about how to address it by countries, regions and clusters. SRG members are also (in most of the cases) the NCPs to assess national proposals and they need to know some more details about this topic. For that reason, the **Chair** asks for an extraordinary meeting between SRG and the JU that will be provided more clarifications about the possible participation of members and regions.

## **6. Planning of SRG meetings 2022**

**CAJU** proposes for the next SRG meeting: Wednesday 15 June 2022. This date will be confirmed later.

## **7. AOB**

**Christos (CAJU)** highlights that the CA JU expects from SRG members to encourage the organization of Info days at a national and/or regional level, related to the 1<sup>st</sup> call of proposals, as well as other dissemination events. CA JU will support these events when it is required and needed.

The Chair, the CAJU and the European Commission thank all the members for their active participation and the constructive discussion and close the meeting.