

Minutes of Meeting
States' Representatives Group
24 March 2023, 9:00 – 12:00
(Hybrid Meeting – in-person + remote connection)

<i>Agenda</i>	
1.	<i>Adoption of the agenda</i>
2.	<i>Approval of the minutes of the 13 December 2022 meeting</i> a) <i>Review of implementation status of action points</i> b) <i>Status of formal nominations; new participants (if any).</i>
3.	<i>Commission update: Report on ERA Infrastructures action 12 - pilot action on aviation Infrastructures</i>
4.	<i>Synergies with national / regional research programmes</i> a) <i>Presentation of Austria's national programme</i> b) <i>Action Plan with Regions: overview, MoC approach and call for SRG action</i> c) <i>ECARE project</i>
5.	<i>Update on CEI for new Clean Aviation members</i>
6.	<i>Clean Sky 2 progress</i>
7.	<i>Clean Aviation update</i>
8.	<i>Next meetings dates and long-term plan for SRG activities</i>
9.	<i>Any other business</i>

The Chair, **Juan Francisco Reyes (ES)** welcomed the States Representatives Group (SRG), JU members, and EC representatives and chairs to the first meeting of 2023.

Seven countries were represented in-person and 11 countries remotely, for a total of 17 (Note that one PT representative joined remotely and one in-person):

- In-person: **ES, HR, AT, NL, DE, PT, BE**
- Remotely: **IE, PT, TR, HU, SE, RO, FR, SI, IT, PL, MT**

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair gave a brief run through of the agenda. There were no comments or questions from members.

Outcome: Agenda deemed adopted.
Action: JU to publish agenda on the Clean Aviation website.

2. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting (13 December 2022)

The Chair reminded Members that the draft minutes of the last meeting had been sent to Members in advance of the present meeting. Members did not make any comments regarding the draft minutes. The minutes were thus deemed adopted.

Outcome: The minutes of 13 December were deemed adopted.

Action: JU to publish minutes on the Clean Aviation website in due course.

a) *Review of action points*

The Chair listed the following action points from the previous meeting:

The first point related to the 1st call for proposals of CAJU. The JU sent to the SRG an excel in October with the results of the evaluation. However, during the hearings performed under the evaluation process, the evaluators proposed some recommendations leading to modifications to the proposals. Therefore, during the preparation process for the Grant Agreement some modifications and adjustments in terms of budget and scope of activities were applied under the signed Grant Agreements. The Chair asked whether an updated version of the results could be provided to the SRG. The JU responded by saying that information with the funding amount allocated to each project and the signed Grant Agreement were already publicly available in Cordis and/or on the F&T portal.

The second action point concerned the collaboration of the CAJU SRG and the SESAR (Single European Sky ATM Research) SRG. The CAJU SRG Chair met with SESAR SRG Chair, **Anne-Marie Ragnarsson**, in February. The goal of the meeting was to make progress in defining common ground between the two SRGs and how both groups could work together going forward. During the Chairs' meeting, it was agreed that the first step towards cooperation would be the exchange of good practices between the two groups. It was proposed that a joint meeting of the two SRGs should be organised. The JU noted that it was also collaborating with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency's Member States' Advisory Body (MAB). The JU suggested that there could be added value in contacting them with the view to cooperating at Member State level. The Chair agreed and stated that he would contact the Spanish members of the MAB and that other SRG members could do the same with their countries' counterparts in the MAB. The Chair intended to discuss the CAJU-SESAR action point further under agenda item 8, but it was postponed to the next SRG meeting due to time constraints.

The Chair informed the SRG that during the Governing Board (GB) meeting held on 22 March 2023, there was a presentation about AZEA. Some GB members asked about Clean Aviation's approach regarding Member States and coordination with national activities. The Chair proposed that an AZEA presentation be included as an agenda item in the next SRG meeting.

The third action point to be discussed was about information on the Call for Expression of Interest for associated members. The point was discussed later in the meeting under agenda item 5.

The fourth and final action point related to the SRG consultation on the Work Programme 22-23 and the topic descriptions for the second call for proposals. The SRG reviewed both items in late December and early January and sent its consolidated review to the CAJU. The CAJU then replied to the SRG's comments and thus this action point was deemed closed.

b) Status of formal nominations; new participants (if any).

The JU informed Members that two new representatives had joined the SRG, **Johanna Sarkijarvi (FI)** and **Vera Eichberger (AT)**. It also noted that the nominations for Bulgaria (BU) and Latvia (LV) were still pending.

3. Commission update: Report on ERA Infrastructures action 12 - pilot action on aviation Infrastructures

The Chair explained that the Commission provided the SRG with preliminary information about the ERA action last year and that it would now provide further information on ERA action's 12's progress. **Andrea Gentili (EC)** highlighted that the mapping of infrastructure was being updated as well as gaps & overlaps (roadmap and suggestions), based on RINGO. The intention was to launch a COFUND action under Cluster 5 WP 25, and the Commission asked for the SRG's support and to discuss internally with their ministries and agencies to analyse the support.

Members were then given a breakdown of funding. A total of €50-75 million would come from the Commission: €50 million would be invested within Europe Work Programme 25-27 (from parts 8, 3 and 10) and other EU programmes (CEF, Digital Europe, among others), and an additional €25 million would come from the new European innovation agenda. €100-150 million could be invested by MSs using their national/regional funds. SRG CA should be the main interlocutor with the EC for this purpose. The Chair asked the Commission for the names of the people involved in the EREA working group.

Luis Maia (PT) queried why the co-fund was being proposed so soon again given that it was disregarded last year. The Commission clarified that what had previously been proposed was a co-funded partnership, not a co-fund action. The co-funded partnership was a public partnership which required a governance model with member states and the EC to define how to invest. Now it would be a co-fund action, similar to the old ERA-NETS co-fund.

Ingrid Kernstock (AT) commented that it seemed to be easier for larger countries to provide funding for research infrastructures. Smaller countries such as Austria did not always have the budget for such projects. She went on to point out that Austria's Take-off programme had two new infrastructures. She proposed that all information be shared with the SRG periodically to be sure that the roadmap would be completed.

Bruno Mastantuono (JU) indicated that the JU had performed a preliminary analysis and that under CAJU Call 1 grants agreements, large infrastructures and facilities like WTT and other tests facilities were already receiving substantial financial support under Clean Aviation JU projects. He noted that the JU would be available upon request to support the Commission with a technical assessment and echoed the Commission's previous statement in underlining the need to seek industrial members' feedback on the proposal.

The Chair put forward that Members should discuss internally with their respective ministries and agencies about the national and regional positions. He added that as soon as the SRG received the first draft of roadmap he would ask the SRG for their comments.

Action: Members to determine national and regional positions with ministries and agencies and report back.
Action: Commission invited to share new information with SRG periodically on the matter.
Action: Chair to request comments from Members once first draft of roadmap received.

4. Synergies with national/regional research programmes

a) *Presentation of Austria's national programme*

Ingrid Kernstock (AT) presented Austria's national programme, Take-off. In the presentation she outlined Austria's research, technology, and innovation strategy for aviation. The slides for this presentation were uploaded to SRG's CIRCABC.

Action: Chair to determine next Member State to present with SRG.

b) *Action Plan with Regions*

The CAJU presented on the progress and development of synergies with regions and Member States managing ERDF/Cohesion Funds. The presentation began with a reminder of the legal basis for synergies in the Single Basic Act. A summary of the national and regional synergies with Clean Aviation was given. The JU finished by running through the next steps to take in the action plan, which had more ambitious targets than what was already very positively achieved in Clean Sky 2 (with over €50 million of synergies projects) and which targets joint roadmaps with Regions and MS on "net-zero aviation" and technical alignments with Clean Aviation activities.

The Commission also informed Members about an upcoming aviation research workshop being organized with the JU with the support of the Committee of the Regions, which would take place on 27 September 2023 in Brussels.

Action: Commission to send a "save the date" to SRG members for the workshop on 27 September.

c) *ECARE Project*

Representatives of Aerospace Valley, **Benjamin Lopez** and **Fabienne Daveran**, presented on European Clean Aviation Regional Ecosystem (ECARE) Project. They noted that the project's duration was to be 24 months in total from January 2023 to December 2024. They highlighted that the consortium for the project was made up of French (Aerospace Valley), German (Hamburg Aviation), Italian (Campania Technological Aerospace District) and Belgian (EASN-TIS) members. They went on to detail the project's main objectives as well its work plan and expected impact. The presentation also included an overview of the ECARE project's

network and a timeline of the projects next steps. More details can be found on the slides uploaded to CIRCABC.

5. Update on CEI for Associated Members

The CAJU presented an update on the Call for Expression of Interest (CEI) for additional Clean Aviation Associated Members. It was stated that the CEI would open on 12 May and close on 22 June. Members were given a run through of the timeline between the CEI opening and accession to membership in late November/early December.

Following the presentation, **Luis Maia (PT)** asked whether the applications were to be submitted at consortium level or at individual level. The JU clarified that applications should be made individually.

The Chair then asked whether the SRG would receive a draft of the CEI in advance to which the JU responded affirmatively. The JU indicated that the SRG should be involved in the early dissemination of the CEI. Thus an early draft would be shared and the JU encouraged SRG Members to take an active role in national and regional dissemination. Additionally, the JU informed Members that it would be holding a workshop with the SRG to provide more information on the matter.

Serhat Melik (TR) asked whether the CEI would be open to all entities or only those participating in the first call for proposals. The JU stated that it would be open to all entities.

With regard to the UK situation, it was explained that for the CEI, UK entities would be able to apply but no decision could be made on their accession before the UK was formally associated.

Action: JU to provide a draft of the Call to the SRG in advance.

6. Clean Sky 2 progress

The JU reported on Clean Sky 2's progress on Grant agreements for Members (GAM). It was noted that there would be monthly monitoring until the end of the Clean Sky 2 programme. It was underscored that 45% of demonstrators had been completed and 55% of activities/demonstrators were yet to be completed (at the correct TRL level). The JU went on to explain that 34 demos (31%) were currently identified as contributing to one or several Clean Aviation projects. There would be €9.2 million unused budget coming from Grant Agreements from Partners and extra funding was to be confirmed. The JU stated that the GAMs would be amended at end of September 2023 with the inclusion of the remaining funding. Certain GAMs would receive extra funding to complete the activities and to secure the articulation with the Clean Aviation programme. Members were also informed that an evaluation process to assign extra funding would be presented in June (following similar 2021 principles).

7. Clean Aviation Update

The JU presented Members with a breakdown of participation in Clean Aviation. The presentation went through participation by country, participation by type of entity, participation by members and affiliates versus non-members. More details can be found in the slides which were uploaded to CIRCABC.

8. Next meetings dates and long-term plan for SRG activities

Kai Wagner (DE) pointed out that the SRG had to provide a report to the GB at the end of each calendar year regarding cooperation and synergies with national and regional programmes. The Chair stated that the first action regarding synergies initiated with the presentation of national funding programmes during 2022 and 2023. He considered that given 2022 was the preparation phase, no reporting was to be delivered. He viewed that the ongoing presentation of national funding programmes could be considered as part of the report. The JU informed that a “country fiche” exercise would be launched soon in order to collect and map information from national programmes relevant to Clean Aviation. The JU stressed that it should serve as a first basis to identify potential for cooperation on synergies and alignment with Clean Aviation and shortlist a group of Member States wishing to engage in a cooperation to fulfil the SBA requirements. The Chair also proposed to have a brief slot during Governing Board meetings to update GB members on the work done by the SRG.

For 2023, it was submitted that the SRG and the JU should define the exact content and procedure to be used in the report. It was proposed that an SRG subgroup supported by JU representatives should be created to define it, as well as approaching the obligation of SRG for this year.

Due to time constraints, the discussion about the long-term plan for SRG activities was postponed until the next meeting of the SRG.

Action: The Chair to set up SRG subgroup to work on SRG annual report to the GB.
Action: The Chair proposed that a presentation of national funding programmes be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

9. AOB

No other specific points were addressed under AOB.

The Chair closed the meeting.

- End of minutes -