Minutes of Meeting
States’ Representatives Group
04 July 2023, 14:00 – 17:00
(Hybrid Meeting – in-person + remote connection)

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

The meeting was fully remote. 14 EU Member States and Associated Countries participated via Microsoft Teams. The European Commission and the Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking were also represented. The countries present were as follows:

- AT, BE, DE, ES, FR, HR, HU, IE, MT, NO, PL, PT, SE, TR.

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 (24 March 2023)

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 24 March 2023 were deemed adopted.

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

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**a) Review of action points**

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

The first action point was regarding the ERA. SRG members were requested to determine their national and regional positions and report back. However, this action was ongoing as the SRG was waiting for the EC to provide information. The Commission was invited to share new information periodically with the SRG on the matter, and there was an update on the situation under point 3 of the agenda. The Chair was supposed to request comments from members once the first draft of the roadmap was received, but the action remained ongoing as no roadmap had been received yet.

The second action point concerned synergies. The CAJU and the SRG had drawn up the country fiche form to be filled out by the SRG in order to have an overview of national funding programs and the willingness to be aligned with Clean Aviation. The first part of defining the template was closed. The second part was to fill in the country fiche template and/or to provide feedback by 4 July. Only nine countries had already done so, and the action was still ongoing.

The Chair was to determine the next SRG member to present the national program, but the presentations had been replaced so far by the country fiche. The decision on whether to continue the action would be made by the CAJU and the SRG. This action was deemed closed.

The third action point related to CEI. The CAJU was to provide the SRG with a draft of the Call, in advance of publication. The SRG provided their comments to the JU, closing this action as well.

The fourth action point was about SRG planning. The Chair was to set up an SRG subgroup to work on the SRG annual report to the GB, and it was to be determined under point 5 of the agenda. This action remained ongoing.

Lastly, coordination with the SESAR WG was discussed, and it was decided that a joint meeting between CAJU and SESAR SRG would be held on 28 September. This action point was deemed closed.

**b) Status of formal nominations; new participants (if any).**
The JU informed members that three new representatives had joined the SRG, Ira SCHAUG-PETTERSEN (NO), Marta PINTO (PT), Clément MAÎTRE (FR). It also noted that the nominations for Bulgaria (BU) and Latvia (LV) were still pending.

3. Commission update

The Commission began its update by informing members of a change of Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth. Former Bulgarian MEP and member of the European Court of Auditors, Iliana Ivanova, was chosen to replace the Bulgarian Mariya Gabriel with the same portfolio.

The Commission then briefed members on its Work Programme for 2025, noting that the Strategic Development Plan had been sent to Member States. With regard to ERA, an overview of its current status and future plans was given. The Commission highlighted that the gaps and overlaps analysis was ongoing at the time of the meeting. It also noted that the next steps would be to derive a roadmap for RTIs. The Commission added that it planned to formulate a dedicated action by the end of 2023. Members were also informed that the workshop on synergies, due to take place in September, would be postponed to a later date.

Lastly, the Commission drew members’ attention to the Transport Research Arena (TRA) 2024 which would be taking place from 15 to 18 April 2024 in Dublin, Ireland. It was stated that the event took place every two years and was co-organised by DG RTD, DG MOVE and the local host country. The theme for TRA 2024 would be “Transport Transitions: Advancing Sustainable and Inclusive Mobility”.

Stanley Tang (JU) asked the Commission if there was any news regarding the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe and whether an update could be provided at the next meeting. The Commission briefly outlined the high-level timeline of the next steps of the interim evaluation.

**Action:** Commission invited to share new information and updates with SRG periodically on ERA and on the upcoming interim evaluation of Horizon Europe at the next meeting.

4. Synergies with national/regional research programmes

a) SRG activity on country fiches

The Chair gave an overview of the country fiche template and underlined the objective of gathering information and strategic planning from Member States regarding their R&I strategies, programmes, and funding relevant to Clean Aviation.

The purpose of this exercise was twofold: firstly, to identify a group of countries willing to engage in an official cooperation and technical co-roadmap with CAJU, with the aim of ensuring technical alignment and maximizing impact towards achieving Net Zero Aviation, particularly in support of Phase 2. Secondly, the JU aimed to assess the feasibility of developing a "coordinated roadmap" with Member States. The goal of completing the exercise by 28 September was stressed, so that it would coincide with the next SRG meeting and the
final outcome could be used as a relevant input to the envisaged SRG report by end of this year.

Some SRG members responded that they had issues understanding how to fill in the fiche. The CAJU proposed to send examples to the SRG from fiches they had already received.

Serhat Melik (TR) explained that Turkey did not publish national funded projects and thus the information could not be disseminated. He inquired whether the complete information would be shared with the Governing Board or whether it would be published by the CAJU. The CAJU replied by stating that they needed to consider the matter and would have come back to SRG on the issue. Although the CAJU was of the view that disseminating information concerning national funded projects was likely not necessary, they noted the need to confirm this for certain.

The Chair pointed out that there were two CSAs working on the compilation of information regarding national funding programmes: ECARE project and AREANA project. He suggested that the SRG should try to coordinate efforts with them.

| Action: JU to select two exemplary country fiches to be sent to SRG as examples to follow. |
| Action: JU to check if the country fiches will be published and/or sent to the GB, specifically the information about national funded projects. |
| Action: SRG members to send remaining country fiches to the JU before 28 September 2023. |
| Action: SRG members to update the submitted country fiches based on the exemplary country fiches shared by the JU. |

b) **Update on Action Plan with Regions**

The CAJU reported that Memoranda of Cooperation (MoC) were signed with the following regions: Occitania and Campania. Additionally, several regions had been approached regarding the MoC approach, and they expressed their interest and engagement. These regions included Andalusia, Piedmont, Apulia, Hamburg, Czech Republic (with funding managed at the national level), and Poland (with funding managed at both regional and national levels). In order to further enhance collaboration, letters co-signed by Axel Krein, CAJU Executive Director, and Rosalinde van der Vlies, Director of RTD.C, were sent to all regions/Member States who had signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under CS2. These letters presented the actions related to synergies with Aerospace Regions and invited the regions to consider strengthening their commitment by upgrading it through a MoC with CAJU.

5. **SRG sub-group for SRG annual report to the Governing Board**

The Chair reminded members of the requirement stated in Article 20 of the SBA (Single Basic Act). According to this article, the SRG was responsible for submitting an annual report detailing national and/or regional policies relevant to the Joint Undertaking and identifies specific areas of cooperation with the actions funded by the Joint Undertaking.
To fulfil this requirement, it was decided that the SRG would establish a working group tasked with compiling the necessary information and preparing a report to be submitted to the Governing Board (GB) by the end of the year. The proposed table of contents for the report included the following sections:

1. Introduction

2. Synergies: This section would provide insights into the contributions made by EU, national, and regional programs towards Clean Aviation. It would include country fiches and presentations highlighting the specific national programs.

3. Dissemination Activities: This section would focus on the activities associated with disseminating information related to the joint undertaking.

4. Supportive Activities: Here, the report would outline the initiatives undertaken to support the Joint Undertaking (JU) in the implementation of its program. This would include consultations on Work Packages (WP), including Annexes, as well as the Annual Activity Report (AAR).

The Chair proposed that at least four members from the SRG be selected to define the content of the report. These members would then collaborate with representatives from the CAJU and the European Commission to finalise the document. During the meeting, only the Chair (ES) and David Zammit-Mangion (MT) volunteered to take on this task for the SRG. Kai Wagner (DE) expressed his interest in contributing to this exercise where possible.

The Commission and the JU indicated their support to the SRG chair to prepare and define a template for the report. The JU agreed to format the final draft document.

**Action:** The Chair to send an email to the SRG requesting for at least one or two more volunteers to participate in the subgroup.  
**Action:** Commission and CAJU together with the SRG Chair to prepare a template for the report.

6. **Update on CEI for Associated Members**

The CAJU gave a run-through of the assessment of applicants to the Call for Expression of Interest (CEI) for new associated members. Key statistics regarding the Call were presented. One application was deemed inadmissible. Six were from applicants who were neither First Call for Proposals beneficiary nor Second Call for Proposals applicants. Seven were both First Call beneficiaries and Second Call applicants. Finally, the JU recalled the timeline to members, outlining that the CEI was expected to be completed with accession to membership by end of this year.
7. Clean Sky 2 Progress

The CAJU presented the Annual Reviews Outcome. There were no significant changes in the scope or content of the Development Plan. Delays in activities and technical issues with some demonstrators posed risks and could lead to additional costs. Some funding issues remained, but overall, members expressed their commitment to completing the activities, even though self-investment. The quality of deliverables was generally fair, but improvements were requested in some cases. Demonstrators contributing to Clean Aviation were mapped, with more details provided for projects from the First Call.

The status of Clean Sky 2 demonstrators was presented, indicating delays for certain components and activities.

An assessment and funding redistribution exercise was planned to support demonstration activities, exploit results, and align with Clean Aviation Program objectives. A timeline for the additional funding evaluation process was provided, including proposal submission, assessment, consensus meetings, and final funding decisions.

8. Clean Aviation Update

The CAJU provided an update on the Second Call for Proposals, which consisted of nine topics. Out of the total proposals received, seven were deemed inadmissible. Currently, twelve proposals are under evaluation, with a combined grant request amounting to €80 million. Two topics, HPA-03 and SMR-03, received multiple proposals.

SRG members were reminded of important dates in the timeline of the Call. The kick-off event for grant preparation was expected to occur in mid-September, and the deadline for grant signing was set no later than mid-December 2023.

The CAJU also reported satisfactory progress on key performance indicators (KPIs) at the end of the first quarter for First Call projects, although some horizontal contractual deliverables were still pending.

Regarding the M6 periodic reviews, it was announced that the first round of reviews would take place from 28 September to 13 October 2023. The objective of these reviews would be to assess the progress made during Reporting Period 1 (RP1) of 6 months. The reviews would be limited to projects with a second reporting period scheduled for mid-2024 or transversal activities, specifically the projects TREA: SMR-ACAP, HERA, CONCERTO; SMR: OFELIA, FASTER-H2, UP Wing; HER: AMBER, TheMa4HERA; and HPA: NEWBORN.

The CAJU noted that other projects with REPA in M6 but not listed above might undergo ad-hoc online or on-the-spot reviews as requested by the Project Officer (PO). It was underlined that the key expected deliverables for M6 the Cooperation Plan and Impact Monitoring.

The Chair again inquired the JU whether an updated version of the Call 1 results (excel file) could be provided to the SRG, including all participants and final budget/funding. As in the March SRG meeting, the JU responded that the SRG already received an excel file in October 2022 with the results of the evaluation. The final funding amount allocated to each project including the funding per beneficiary (as agreed at the grant preparation phase) are already publicly available in Cordis.
SRG insisted on receiving the excel file with the updated version, as it was done in Clean Sky 2. This would help the SRG to compare the data with what they received through ECORDA.

**Action:** JU to check if they can send an updated version of the Call 1 result in excel file to SRG.

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

The SRG received and reviewed the proposed dates for upcoming meetings, which had been shared prior to the present meeting. The suggested dates were as follows:

- Thursday, 28 September 2023: A joint CAJU-SESAR SRG meeting was proposed for the morning (to be confirmed), followed by a CAJU SRG meeting in the afternoon.

- Wednesday, 29 November 2023: This meeting was scheduled to take place one day after the ECARE transnational workshop, and all SRG members were invited to participate.

No opposition to these dates were raised thus the meeting dates were deemed confirmed.

The CAJU put forward a proposal for the first meeting of 2024, suggesting that it could be hosted by one of the SRG countries. This would provide an opportunity for a different member state to take the lead in organizing and hosting the meeting.

**Outcome:** Meeting dates confirmed for September and November

**Action:** The Chair to discuss with SRG about a member/associated country hosting a meeting in 2024

### 10. AOB

No other specific points were addressed under AOB.

There being no further business to attend to, the Chair brought the meeting to a close at 16:20.

- End of minutes –