



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Community Research

# ***SCAR response to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Foresight Expert Group Report***

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***Teagasc 2030 One Year On – Follow-up Workshop  
Dublin, 2 October 2009***

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## Standing Committee on Agriculture Research

### Main role for SCAR

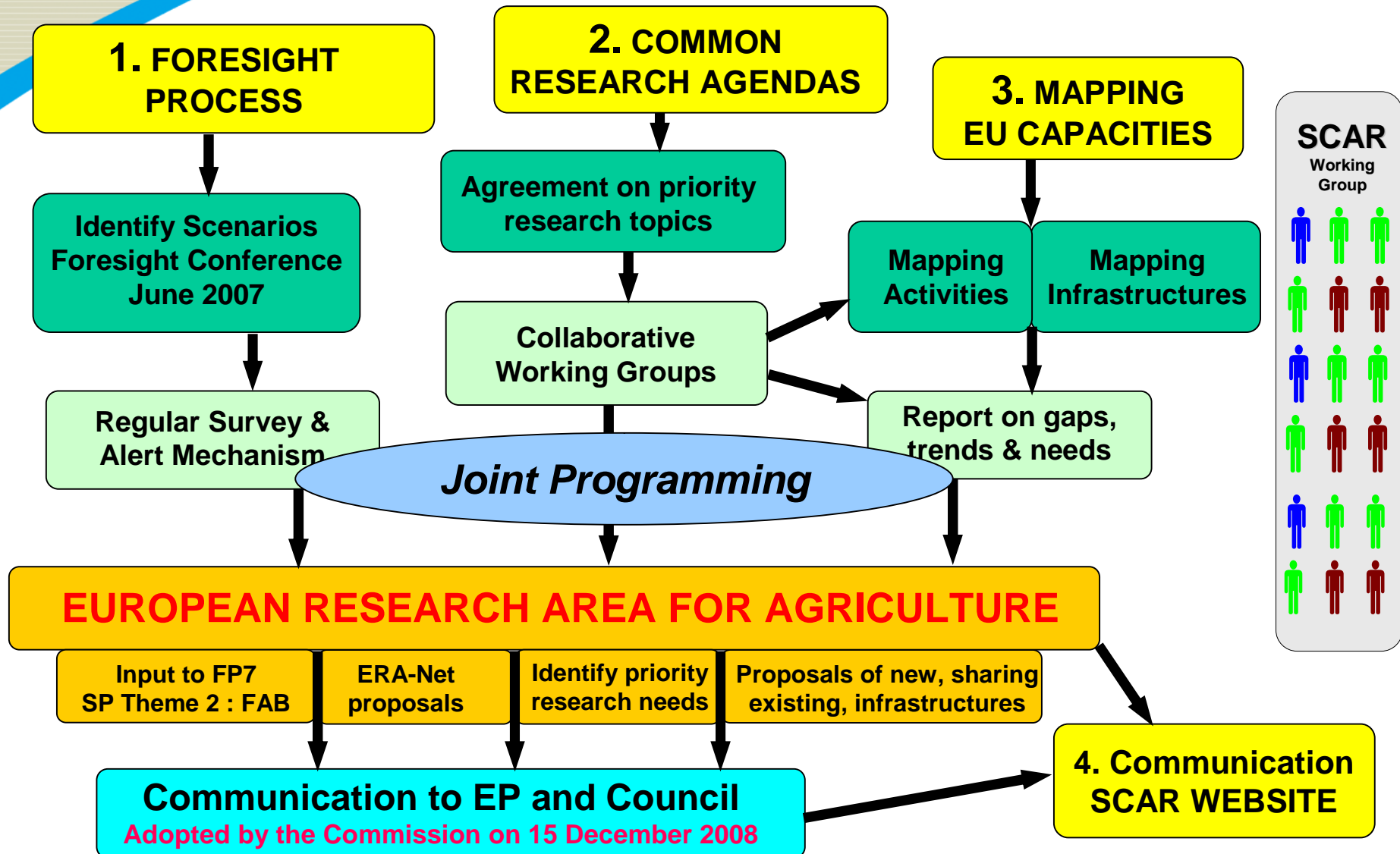
*Support the Commission  
and MS towards better  
coordination of agricultural  
research across the ERA*

- **1974:** Council Regulation N° 1728/74 establishing SCAR
- **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 to nominate two high-level representatives
- **2-3 February 2005:** first “new” SCAR meeting
  - *New mandate*
  - *Establishment of a standing oversight working group*
  - *Nomination of Observers*
- **15-16 December 2009: 11<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting**

**SCAR countries: EU 27 + 11 Observers  
(HR, MK, TR, AL, CH, IL, IS, ME, NO, SB, BA)**



# SCAR initiatives towards a European Research Area for Agriculture





*Conclusions of the Communication:*

## **Key actions towards a coherent European Agricultural Research Agenda**

- 1. Towards a more sustainable agriculture in the global context**
- 2. New priority areas for the future Agricultural Research Agenda**
  - *Climate change and agriculture under the perspectives of adaptation and mitigation -> CWG*
  - *Agriculture and energy and the specific research needs resulting from their mutual interaction -> CWG*
- 3. Strengthening the agricultural knowledge production and sharing in Europe**
- 4. Consolidating joint research programming for better governance of the European agro-food system – *Which role for SCAR?***
- 5. Developing a mechanism for foresight monitoring**
- 6. The responsibility of Europe in a globalised world**

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**Follow-up:**

- **EESC opinion – adoption in plenary foreseen 4-5/11/09**
- **Competitiveness Council - Conclusions foreseen 3/12/09**



# SCAR foresight process

## Overall objective

To analyse possible **scenarios** for European agriculture in a 20-year perspective, allowing the identification of **specific research needs** for the medium and long term

### 1<sup>st</sup> Foresight exercise : Disruption Scenarios (June 2006 – June 2007)

- *June-December 2006:* Appointment of a Foresight Expert Group (FEG)
- *31 December 2006:*
  - Foresight papers on major driving forces
  - Synthesis report on 4 disruption scenarios
- *January 2006:* Dissemination of the foresight documents
- *29-30 March 2007:* Stakeholders workshop in Stockholm
- *26-27 June 2007:* **Conference “Towards Future Challenges of Agricultural Research in Europe => Key messages for research priority setting**
- *4 December 2007:* SCAR position paper on the way forward
- *15 December 2008:* **Communication from EC to EP and Council**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Foresight exercise : Horizon Scanning and analysis (June 2008 – December 2008)

- *June-December 2008:* Appointment of a Consultancy Expert Group (CEG)
- *January 2009:* Synthesis report + **SCAR comments** + dissemination
- *26-28 May 2009:* **Conference “Sustainable development - a challenge for European Research” - Foresight session "global change and agriculture"**

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Foresight exercise foreseen in 2010

**FORESIGHT  
SIGNALLING  
&  
MONITORING  
MECHANISM**



## Major issues highlighted by the SCAR- Working Group on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Foresight Report

1. The **complexity** of the new challenges
2. The **vulnerability** of the food system
3. The **sustainable development challenge** of agriculture and food systems
4. The **underestimation of the rate** of climate change
5. The **research** and **innovation** needs
6. The adequacy of the **Agricultural Knowledge System**
7. The **governance** design



# Major issues highlighted by the SCAR- Working Group on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Foresight Report

- The **complexity** of the new challenges
  - **Problems**
    - Interconnections between agricultural and other systems
    - Lack of knowledge and information
    - Uncertainty of the future
  - **Recommended solutions**
    - New approaches involving a broader range of disciplines
    - Better understanding of key ecosystem components
    - Continued assessment of foresight developments
  - **SCAR initiatives**
    - Foresight monitoring mechanism
  
- The **underestimation of the rate** of climate change
  - **Problems**
    - Global warming and GHG emissions forecast
    - Vulnerability of food systems
  - **Recommended solutions**
    - Adaptation strategies
    - Mitigation strategies
  - **SCAR initiatives**
    - CWG “*Agriculture and Climate Change under the perspectives of adaptation and mitigation*”
    - Towards a Joint Programming Initiative?



## **Joint Programming in European Agricultural Research” (JPAR)**

- The **SCAR foresight process** paved the way to the preliminary identification of **3 priority research** themes suitable for the JP requirements
- **COM "Towards Joint Programming in Research"** foresees a new impetus towards a more strategic approach to coordination and collaboration in the programming of public research within the ERA

2008 - **JP Framework:** MS engaging in the development of strategic research agendas, based on a common vision on how to address major societal challenges

4/06/09 - **JPAR Workshop:** identification of **3 priority research themes** suitable for the JP requirements

**1. Agriculture and Climate Change: Adaptation & Mitigation**

**2. Food, diet, health and prevention of metabolic diseases**

**3. World food security and supply**

- 16/06/09: Adoption of a SCAR **position paper on JP** combining the **3 themes**
- 11/09: **Submission of 1 theme** to the High Level Group on JP
- Spring 2010: **Adoption by the Council?**



## Major issues highlighted by the SCAR- Working Group on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Foresight Report

- The adequacy of the **Agricultural Knowledge System (AKS)**
  - **Problems**
    - AKS inadequately equipped to deal with changes with immediate solutions
    - Narrow field of competences
  - **Recommended solutions**
    - New types of knowledge through new forms of cooperation
    - Role of stakeholders – connection research/policy
  - **SCAR & EC initiatives**
    - Workshop (Angers, Oct. 2008) on the reform of AKS in several European countries and its impact on the European agricultural research system
    - Proposal for a new CWG on *Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems*
    - Topic "*Knowledge systems for farming in the context of sustainable rural development*" in the next KBBE 2010 call



# Follow-up of the SCAR foresight process

## 2<sup>nd</sup> exercise

- *further outreach distribution of this foresight to a wide group of relevant stakeholders (ETPs, ERANETs, EU projects) to open up for the European continued discussion on these matters*
- *activities to explore the implications for research priorities*
- *AND research policy matters in general e.g. on research and innovation organisational and structural issues.*
- *such reflections by the SCAR-WG could take place during the Autumn of 2009*
- *leading up to a discussion in the plenary SCAR at its “December meeting” 2009*

## 3<sup>rd</sup> exercise

- *Meanwhile during the autumn 2009 the first discussions could start in the SCAR-WG of what could tentatively be the challenges that a 3<sup>rd</sup> foresight round could be directed towards.*
- *Already at the SCAR plenary in December 2008 some indications were presented on some lines of thought.*
- *These could now be further expanded the next few months providing the SCAR plenary in December 2009 the basis to take a first discussion on these directions for further work.*
- *give the basis for a SCAR-WG preparatory efforts during Spring 2010*
- *to further explore and prepare a new round of foresight that tentatively could be set in motion before the summer 2010*
- *with the aim of being ready late 2010 - in time for the SCAR Plenary in December.*



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Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology  
Knowledge - Based Bio - Economy ( K B B E )

## linking with relevant MS/institutions

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/scar/index\\_en.cfm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/scar/index_en.cfm)