

The Romanian Academy, 125, Calea Victoriei, sector 1, RO - 010071, Bucharest

Thursday 22 November

<i>TIME</i>	<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>LEAD</i>	<i>Doc/page</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Optional sandwich lunch		
14:00 – 14:05	Welcome by Vice-President of the Romanian Academy	Bogdan Simionescu	
14:05 -14:20	Opening of Council by the EASAC President, result of recent elections and minutes of last meeting	Thierry Courvoisier	01, pg. 8
14:20 – 14:35	Report from the EASAC Executive Director	Christiane Diehl	
14:35 – 14:55	Presentation by the President of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters re. their support for EASAC in Brussels	Øyvind Sørensen	
14:55 – 15:00	Brief introduction by new Senior Brussels Officer for EASAC	Helene Rønning	
15:00 – 15:50	Roundtable Presentation by all academies' representatives on: <i>Evidence of the impact of EASAC's reports/statements on a national level</i>	All members of Council Moderator: Thierry Courvoisier	
15:50 – 16:10	Coffee break		
16:10 – 16:40	Energy Progress Report (followed by questions and discussion)	William Gillett	02, pg. 12
16:40 – 17:20	Biosciences Progress Report, followed by questions and discussion	Robin Fears and Volker ter Meulen	03, 04; pg. 14, 18
17:20 – 17:35	Brief report from workshop "Neonicotinoids in Africa"	Christiane Diehl and Mike Norton	
17:35 – 17:50	EASAC Workshop on the SDGs and resulting declaration paper	Christiane Diehl	05, pg. 26
17:50 – 18:00	Contingency decision on EASAC Statutes, Article 1, Paragraph 5 (inclusion of Royal Society)	Christiane Diehl	06, pg. 27
18:00	Close of meeting day	Thierry Courvoisier	
19:00 – 21:30	Dinner hosted by the Romanian Academy for EASAC Council	Casa Oamenilor de Știință, Piața Lahovari	Bus transfer will be provided

Friday 23 November

08:45 – 09:00	Opening of second meeting day; possible feedback on the SDGs declaration and vote	Thierry Courvoisier	
09:00 – 09:20	Contribution by the Minister of Research and Innovation on the needs for science-based advice during Romania's Presidency of the European Council	Nicolae Hurduc	
09:20 – 09:35	Questions on the presentation, and discussion	Moderator: Thierry Courvoisier	
09:35 – 10:00	Presentation of the EASAC Report on Sustainable Soils (followed by questions and discussion)	Mike Norton	
10:00 – 10:20	<i>Coffee break</i>		
10:20 – 11:00	Environment Progress Report (followed by questions and discussion)	Mike Norton and Lars Walloe	07, 08; pg. 28, 31
11:00 – 11:20	Update on SAPEA project	Nina Hobbhahn, Thierry Courvoisier	09, pg. 33
11:20 – 11:40	Planning for the coming months	Christiane Diehl	
11:40 – 11:50	AOB and close of Bucharest Council meeting	Thierry Courvoisier	
11:55 – 13:00	<i>Sandwich lunch and departures</i>		

List of Participants

EASAC Council Meeting to be held on 22 and 23 November 2018 at the Romanian Academy, 125, Calea Victoriei, 010071, Bucharest, Romania

Members of EASAC Council

1.	Professor Thierry Courvoisier	President; Switzerland
2.	Professor Jos van der Meer	Immediate Past President
3.	Professor Dimiter Ivanov (for Professor Julian Revalski)	Bulgaria
4.	Dr Hana Sychrová	Czech Republic
5.	Professor Michael Broberg Palmgren	Denmark
6.	Professor Eva-Mari Aro	Vice-President; Finland
7.	Dr Catherine Cesarsky	Vice-President; France
8.	Professor Volker ter Meulen	Germany; Biosciences Steering Panel Chair
9.	Professor Loucas Christophorou	Greece
10.	Professor Peter McHugh	Ireland
11.	Dr Bruno Carli (for Professor Sergio Carrá)	Italy
12.	Professor Lars Walloe	Norway; Environment Steering Panel Chair
13.	Professor Maria Salome Soares Pais	Portugal
14.	Professor Bogdan Simionescu	Romania
15.	Professor Andrej Kranjc	Slovenia
16.	Professor Manuel de León (for Professor David Rios)	Spain
17.	Professor Christina Moberg	Vice-President; Sweden
18.	Professor Richard Catlow	Vice-President; United Kingdom
19.	Professor Donald Dingwell	Academia Europaea
20.	Professor Luke Drury (Professor Antonio Loprieno)	ALLEA

EASAC Secretariat

21.	Dr Christiane Diehl	EASAC Executive Director
22.	Dr Robin Fears	EASAC Biosciences Programme Director
23.	Dr William Gillett	EASAC Energy Programme Director
24.	Dr Nina Hobbhahn	EASAC Scientific Policy Officer (SAPEA)
25.	Professor Mike Norton	EASAC Environment Programme Director
26.	Ms Helene Rønning	EASAC Senior Brussels Officer
27.	Ms Annika Ströfer	EASAC Secretariat Coordinator

Guests

28.	Ms Alis-Maria Alexa	Head of the International Relations Department, Romanian Academy
29.	Mr Catalin Mosoia	Science Communications Expert, Press Office, Romanian Academy
30.	Dr Jürg Pfister	Secretary General, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences
31.	Mr Øyvind Sørensen	Executive Director, The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (DNVA)
32.	Dr Heléne Sundström	Scientific Secretary, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
33.	Ms Laura Wilton	Head of International Affairs - Europe and Asia, The Royal Society
34.	Professor Gheorghe Zaman	Corresponding Member, Romanian Academy

Apologies

Professor Wolfgang Baumjohann	Austria
Professor Freddy Dumortier	Belgium
Professor Ivo Slaus	Croatia
Professor Tarmo Soomere	Estonia
Professor Tivadar Tulassay	Hungary
Professor Ojars Sparitis	Latvia
Professor Juras Banys	Lithuania
Professor Wim van Saarloos	Netherlands; Energy Steering Panel Chair
Professor Marek Switonski	Poland
Dr Mária Omastová	Slovakia
Ms Molly Hurley-Depret	EASAC Communications Officer
Professor Jutta Schnitzer-Ungefug	Secretary General of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

Progress Report – Energy Programme, May 2018 to Nov 2018

Dr William Gillett, EASAC Energy Programme Director

INTRODUCTION

This report to the EASAC Council summarises progress over the period May 2018 to November 2018 on activities in the Energy Programme.

- Energy Steering Panel
 - Meetings
 - Membership
- Follow up of completed reports
 - Electricity storage
 - Sustainable forests (together with Environment Panel)
- On-going energy projects
 - Decarbonisation of Transport
- Future energy projects
- EASAC Council is invited to take actions

ENERGY STEERING PANEL

Energy Steering Panel meetings – The Panel last met in Brussels on 6 November 2018 and will meet next in Zurich on 4th April 2019 together (if possible) with the launch of a new EASAC report on decarbonisation of transport in Bern on 5th April.

Energy Panel Membership – Three new members have been appointed to the EASAC energy steering panel: Prof Hanna-Leena Pesonen from the University of Jyväskylä will replace Prof Peter Lund; Prof Brian Norton from Dublin Institute of Technology will replace Prof Mark O'Malley; Prof Neven Duic will be the first panel member from Croatia. We are still in discussions with the Italian and Greek academies because their first suggested nominees had potential conflicts of interest. [All members of EASAC steering panels must sign conflicts of interest forms to confirm that they are independent of any industrial, commercial or political interests.]

FOLLOW UP OF COMPLETED REPORTS

1. *Electricity storage*

The report, which was launched in Brussels on 19 June 2017, is still relevant to the on-going negotiations in Brussels on the 2017 “Winter Package” on “Clean energy for all Europeans”, as well as the transposition and implementation of the resulting legislation in EU Member States.

2. *Sustainability of Forests (managed jointly with EASAC Environment programme)*

The report, which was launched in Brussels on 11 May 2017, continues to inform the debate on the use of forest biomass – it provided important inputs to the EASAC report on NETs and its findings are being used in the drafting of the EASAC report on the decarbonisation of transport. It will also be referred to during events at COP24 which are being planned by FERN and Helsinki university.

ON-GOING ENERGY PROJECTS

Decarbonisation of transport

The project was kicked off in July 2017 and its working group has held 4 meetings (Brussels, Zurich, Zagreb and a final meeting Berlin on 27 June 2018). The drafting of the report is on-going but taking longer than expected. It was scheduled to go out for peer review at the end of October, but will probably not go out until the second half of November. After that, it has still to go to EASAC member academies before being printed and launched in Brussels in late March. The Swiss academies would like to launch it also in Berne on 5 April 2019. We would therefore be grateful if Council members could send their nominations for peer reviewers to EASAC as soon as possible. Please note that the working group had a majority of technology focussed experts, so it would be valuable to include some socio-economic experts amongst the peer reviewers.

FUTURE ENERGY PROJECTS

Based on the EASAC energy programme strategy, priorities for a new project were reviewed in May 2017, and it was agreed not to work on a second strategic project whilst still working on decarbonisation of transport.

The following possible future energy project topics were discussed by the energy steering panel at its meeting in Brussels on 6 November 2018:

1. **Synthetic fuels** – This topic is addressed to a limited extent in the draft EASAC report on the decarbonisation of transport. It will also be addressed in a new briefing document by the Royal Society (RS). Paul Davies, who will be managing the preparation of that document for the RS joined the EASAC energy steering panel meeting in Brussels, where he explained that the first working group meeting would be held at the end of November 2018 and the plan was to publish by March 2019 with the target audience being the business, energy and industrial strategy (BEIS) department of UK government. Given the tight timescale, it was agreed that one or more members of the EASAC energy steering panel would be invited to participate in the RS working group, and that panel members would also be invited to peer review the document, with the possibility that the review by EASAC could be acknowledged in the text. *The option for EASAC to perform further work on synthetic fuels will be reviewed by the energy steering panel after publication of the RS briefing document.*
2. **Energy and resource efficiency in industry** – A short outline of a possible Statement on energy and resource efficiency had been prepared for discussion at the meeting in Brussels, based on the outcomes of the workshop in Budapest in April 2018 and inputs from panel members. However, on the basis of the discussions held in Brussels, *it was decided not to proceed with further work on this topic at the present time.*
3. **Future integration of hydro power into EU electricity networks** – In response to a request from the EASAC President, some work had been done by energy steering panel members over the autumn and a presentation on the topic was given by Prof Göran Andersson at the Brussels meeting to inform a discussion by the panel. As a result, it was agreed that a small group of panel members should work together with the programme director to draft a Commentary on this topic, building on the EASAC report on electricity storage as well as on other recent work in this field. *The draft Commentary should be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting of the energy steering panel.*
4. **Nuclear innovation** – This topic was proposed as a potential joint project by the Environment Steering Panel, so a substantial discussion was held at the Brussels meeting. Several panel members said that they would be happy to help their academies to identify potential experts to join a working group if EASAC Council decides that work should go ahead on such a project. At the same time, the panel also gave a strong warning that the topic is highly divisive and that whatever is written about nuclear power in an EASAC report or Statement risks being misused by pro- and/or anti- nuclear groups to promote their case in the press. As a result, EASAC could

become labelled as pro- or anti-nuclear, which could affect its future reputation for independence. Members of the panel realized that such misrepresentations are often beyond one's control these days. In terms of the resources available to the energy steering panel, *the panel concluded that this topic should not be given high priority, and therefore a joint project would not be feasible.* However, *should this become an EASAC project lead by the Environment Steering Panel, the Energy Steering Panel would like to contribute to the review of the report.*

5. Commentaries up-dating existing EASAC reports:

- *electricity storage*: this could be covered by the proposed work on the integration of hydro power
- *CCS*: this was recently addressed in the NETs report, and SAPEA has reported on CCU
- *nuclear waste management*: insufficient changes have taken place to justify an up-dating

In summary, the energy steering panel will develop a draft commentary on the integration of hydro power into EU electricity networks, and work with the Royal Society on synthetic fuels over the coming months. The panel will collect ideas from its members - especially its new members - over the winter and will discuss at its meeting on 4th April 2019 which topic to propose for its next energy report.

ACTION - EASAC Council is invited to:

- Note progress on the Energy Programme as summarised in this report.
- Submit nominations for peer reviewers for the up-coming EASAC report on the decarbonisation of transport (if not already done), and submit them to the secretariat as soon as possible.
- Endorse the energy steering panel's recommendations concerning its next energy projects.