

Meeting ADB(M)052

Minutes ADB(M)052- MoM

Date of the Meeting..... : 6 May 2021
Time : 10:00-12:30
Place..... : WebEx

Board Members and other participants

SJU Members	Representative		
European Union represented by the European Commission (EC)	Mr Henrik Hololei	Member	
	Ms Christine Berg	Observer	
	Mr Marco de Sciscio	Observer	
	Mr Octavian Vasile	Observer	
	Mr Erki Must	Observer	
EUROCONTROL	Mr Eamonn Brennan	Member	
	Mr Philippe Merlo	Alternate	
Airbus	Mr Bruno Darboux	Member	
	Mr Hugues de Beco	Alternate	
AT-ONE	Mr Dirk Kügler	Member	
B4 Consortium	Ms Magdalena Kukula	Member	
COOPANS	Mr Robert Schneebeuer	Member	
Dassault	Ms Catherine Champagne	Alternate	
DFS	Mr Gerhard Taus	Alternate	
DSNA	Mr Philippe Barnola	Alternate	
ENAI	Ms Mariluz de Mateo	Alternate	
ENAV	Mr Cristiano Cantoni	Alternate	
Frequentis SESAR Partners	Mr Michael Holzbauer	Member	
Honeywell	Mr George Papageorgiou	Alternate	
INDRA	Mr Rafael Gallego	Member	
Leonardo	Mr Luigi Iacometta	Member	
NATMIG	Mr Trond Bakken	Alternate	
NATS	Mr Dave Curtis	Member	
SEAC	Mr Frank Poetsch	Member	
Skyguide	Mr Thomas Buchanan	Member	
Thales Air System SAS	Mr Luc Lallouette	Member	
Thales Avionics SAS	Mr Olivier de la Burgade	Member	
	Mr Pascal Combe	Alternate	

Stakeholder representatives	Representative		
Military / European Defence Agency (EDA)	Mr Eric Labourdette	Member	
	Mr Emilio Fajardo	Alternate	
Civil users of airspace (AU)	Mr Giancarlo Buono	Member	
	Mr Robert Baltus	Alternate	
Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP)	Ms Tanja Grobrotek	Member	
Equipment manufacturers (EM)	Mr Vincent de Vroey	Member	
Airports (APT)	Mr Aidan Flanagan	Alternate	
Staff in the ATM sector (STAFF)	Mr Michele Altieri	<i>excused</i>	
Scientific community (SC)	Mr Peter Hecker	Member	
	Mr Jacco Hoekstra	Alternate	

Permanent Observers

European Commission - Directorate General for Research and Innovation	Jane Amilhat	Observer	
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Permanent representatives	Representative		
SJU Executive Director	Mr Florian Guillermet		
SJU Deputy Executive Director	Mr Peter Hotham		
Chief Financial Officer	Mr Richard Frizon		
SJU Chief Administration Affairs	Mr José Calvo Fresno		
SJU Internal Audit Capability	Mrs Véronique Haarsma		
Secretary of the Board	Mrs Ilaria Vazzoler		

Item 1 Introduction

The Chairperson, Mr Hololei, welcomed the Board Members to the 52nd Ordinary Meeting of the SJU Administrative Board, the first ordinary meeting of 2021. Given the shorter duration of the WebEx meeting, he informed that items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6c would be addressed while for the remaining items presentations were provided before the meeting to the Members who had been invited to submit any questions.

He informed the Members that PANSA (B4) has appointed Mrs Magdalena Kukula, Director for Strategy, International Affairs as new main representative.

Verification of the voting quorum

- ▷ The quorum was verified, on the basis of the distribution of voting rights reported in the decision ADB(D)08-2021 adopted by Written Procedure on 26 April 2021.

Adoption of the agenda

No Board Members proposed additional changes to the Agenda.

- ▷ The Board adopted the Agenda.

Disclosure of conflicts of interests

The Chairperson reminded the participants of their obligation to declare any real or potential conflict of interest on any agenda item. Board Members and participants were required to inform the Secretary of the Board in advance of the meeting about any conflict of interests.

- ▷ The Chairperson noted that no conflict of interest was declared on any agenda item.

Mr Hololei provided an update on the most important developments on the Commission's side since the last meeting.

The future of the Single European Sky policy

The Chairperson confirmed that the reform of the Single European Sky remains a key priority for the Commissioner, considered crucial in extreme situations like the one generated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the last ADB meeting, negotiations have continued, both in the Council and in the Parliament. Technical meetings took place in the Council working group on aviation throughout the Portuguese Presidency, who presented a compromise text to COREPER. The compromise text, and preliminary positions of Member States lean towards maintaining, at best, the status quo.

The Portuguese Presidency aims to reach an agreement on a General Approach by June 2021 (TTE Council 3 June).

On 14 April, the Wise Persons Group on SES met and, recalling their recommendations from 2019, called on EU institutions, Member States and stakeholders to constructively support the SES reform in the negotiations.

Mr Hololei also informed that in the Parliament, Mr Marinescu is the rapporteur for the amended recast proposal on the SES and Mr Liberadzki for the proposal for amending the EASA Basic Regulation, enabling it to host the independent Performance Review Body of the SES. The EP report is planned to be adopted this summer, and trilogue meetings should start in the second semester of 2021.

Performance

In November 2020, the Commission adopted exceptional measures for RP3 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic that provided for the revision of Union-wide and national performance targets for RP3.

The Commission tabled a proposal for revised Union-wide targets based on the advice of the PRB and has already significantly relaxed the targets which brought on board many MS. However, the discussions with Member States in the Single Sky Committee have been difficult despite compromises offered.

Consequently, the EC has now referred the proposal to an appeal committee on 11 May 2021. The EC considers that the targets, especially after the compromises offered already by the Commission, show a balanced solution for the remainder of RP3 also to incentivise further modernisation investments.

The Chairperson informed the Board that Member States will have to submit by 1 October 2021 revised RP3 performance plans.

SESAR Deployment

Mr Hololei reminded the Board Members that in 2021, the SESAR deployment phase will be overhauled. The main recent development has been the adoption by the European Commission of the Common Project One (CP1) Regulation that sets out the specific ATM functionalities, based on SESAR solutions, to be deployed between 2021 and 2027.

The CP1 will be accompanied by an updated SESAR Deployment Programme. To this

end, the SESAR Deployment Manager is currently carrying out an extensive stakeholder consultation exercise, to ensure that the programme reflects the needs of the implementing partners.

The final draft of the deployment programme is expected in July and it should be approved by the Commission in the second half of the year.

The EC will publish a call for the new deployment manager as soon as the CEF2 Regulation will be approved by the co-legislators, possibly under the new CEF programme by the end of September.

Regulation on Digital Green Certificate

The discussions on travel and border restrictions intra EU and towards third countries are not advancing given the current epidemiological situation.

On the Digital Green Certificates, a common position has been reached in the Council and a common position should now be reached in the Parliament to have a Regulation coming into effect by 1 July this year.

The Chairperson commented that there is a strong willingness among many Member States, in particular for tourist destinations, to facilitate holiday travelling. Some Member States are however more prudent and do not accept the certificate as a travel document. Therefore, there is not yet a common view amongst Member States and the acceptance for travel will ultimately be up to each Member State.

The certificate has three components: vaccination, testing, antibodies. It will be digital and applied through EU.

Mr Hololei informed that he represented the EU at the G7 meeting of Transport ministers of 5 May where safe reopening of international travelling was discussed. Coordination is challenging due to different regimes applied by countries: international travels opening remains complicated and will depend on the success of the vaccination campaign and on the application of pan-European solutions.

Cooperation with the US

In March, the 4th meeting of the Executive Committee under Annex 1 of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the US and the Union took place. The meeting relaunched the cooperation on ATM modernisation that had lost some momentum.

In particular, the co-Chairs highlighted the important role that climate change and environment play in their respective policies and confirmed that these topics and the common goal to achieve global interoperability will drive the future cooperation.

The Excom Co-Chairs approved the common white paper prepared by the three Appendix teams, identifying the priority topics on which future cooperation efforts should concentrate. The teams are developing detailed work plans, which are planned to be delivered before the summer.

The SJU will continue to be actively involved in the cooperation activities together with the Deployment Manager and the performance teams of the SES Unit and Eurocontrol.

Update on the traffic situation and the Network

Mr Brennan (Eurocontrol) presented an update on the traffic situation.

Since January 2021 the traffic situation is at -64%, as the last relative increase took place at the end of December 2020.

The Digital Green Certificate is at the core of the strategy to resume air traffic. Eurocontrol supports the EC proposal.

Mr Brennan added that forecast for June, July and August shows some increase in traffic; a new forecast of 2021 Q3 is expected by the end of May.

The effects of the reduction of flights (6.3 million in 2020 vs 11 million flights in 2019) will display on unit rates and on Airlines, ANSP and Airports.

In particular, long haul traffic will be facing more difficulties, due to restrictions in

place in Asia (India situation) and Australia. However, USA and UK are cooperating to open flights in June.

▷ Conclusions on item 1

- The Board took note of the information provided by the Mr Hololei and by Mr Brennan.

Item 2 Appointment of Board Vice-Chairperson*

The Chairperson stated that, in line with the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Board, the EC proposed, as previous years, to re-elect the EUROCONTROL representative as Vice-Chairperson of the SJU Administrative Board.

▷ Conclusions on item 2

Decision ADB(D)10-2021

- The Board took note of the information provided and adopted Decision ADB(D)10-2021 on the re-election of the Board's Vice Chairperson.

Item 3 Update on the future partnership

The Chairperson presented the developments since the December Board meeting.

He thanked the Members for their active involvement, interest and efforts to setup a new and stronger partnership to work towards the achievement of the digital European sky.

He continued by commenting that the progress on the adoption of the Single Basic Act has been slower than planned, with delays mainly due to the uncertainties linked to the new long-term Union budget and the overall budget figure for the Horizon Europe programme, as well as a strong pressure across all institutions to reduce administrative expenditure.

This has materialised in the future SESAR3 JU with a reduction of two FTEs.

The Commission proposal was adopted on 23 February. The negotiations in the Council have kicked off in March and have continued intensively. Member States submitted their written comments in April and have reached a first position on the Common part of the SBA at the end of April.

On March 29, the EC discussed SESAR 3 with Member States that raised the following issues:

- The participation of legal entities from 3rd countries. DG RTD is defining a mechanism to ensure that if e.g. NATS or Skyguide are awarded grants by SJU, the funding for those grants comes from the UK and CH governments. The EUR 600M budget allocated to the future JU should be reserved for the EU27, Norway and Island.
- The derogation of the SJU from the Common Back Office (CBO). DG MOVE explained the intention to continue using the well-established support from Eurocontrol (e.g. on IT, communication, logistics).
- Additional funding from CEF given to the SJU. DG MOVE explained that the SBA allows this possibility and the plan is to delegate the 2021 allocation of CEF for ATM to the SJU to launch the digital sky demonstrators. This should significantly accelerate the market uptake of SESAR solutions.

Member States are discussing their joint position on the horizontal part of the SBA. No new negotiations have taken place on the specificities of the SESAR JU.

The Chairperson commented that there will be a prominent role for the States Representative Committee in all JUs. The EC and the SJU should think how to best use

this governance tool for the benefit of SESAR and how to best promote SESAR activities with the Member States.

He continued by saying that, following several iterations between the SESAR team in DG MOVE and the SJU team, the work for the preparation of the upcoming Multi-annual Work Programme (MAWP) for SESAR 3 has advanced.

Similar to the current SESAR2020, the MAWP should be the overarching planning tool for the whole duration of the partnership, matching the three key ingredients:

- a) the policy and operational priorities and needs,
- b) the funding available, including its timing and
- c) the technical and operational capacity of the Members to invest, work and deliver the expected SESAR solutions.

On 15 April the EC has organised a first workshop with the future founding Members of the SESAR 3 JU that was attended by the majority of the current Members.

Some issues raised during the workshop could not be addressed, as they are still under definition or they depend on the outcome of the negotiations with the Council and Parliament.

The preparation of the Multi-annual Work Programme for SESAR 3 was addressed.

The EC planned two more workshops, one on 25 May, with the ambition to finalise the Multi-annual Work Programme in time for the first meeting of the SESAR 3 Governing Board (planned for October) and one in July.

All the signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding will be invited to join the new SESAR 3 JU as founding Members.

At a later stage, once the SBA text stabilises in the Council, they should formalise their engagement through a joint letter of commitment signed by all founding Members who collectively commit to invest EUR 500 million in SESAR 3, matching the EUR 500 million from the Union and EUR 500 million from Eurocontrol.

DG RTD is preparing a template for the letter, which should be made available in the coming months.

Those who would not be able to join from the start as founding Members, could become an Associated Member at a later stage, when the new JU would launch a call for expression of interest for new Members. This would be decided by the new Governing Board, once the JU is established.

The Chairperson invited all Members to continue working together.

Mr Guillermet continued by providing an update on the preparation for the future partnership, which is mainly organised around two work streams. The first is internal, conducted in close cooperation with the EC, and related to the legal transition allowing the closure of the current legal entity and the setup of a new one (SESAR 3 JU). It encompasses legal, administrative, financial, HR aspects and is being prepared on the basis of the new draft Regulation. The second is the preparation of the Multi-Annual Work Programme MAWP document and the research programme; for the technical aspects, it is based on the content defined in the ATM Master Plan, in the impact assessment conducted in the context of the HLPP and in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) edition of 2020 Q3.

The preparatory work has identified some key principles that were presented at the workshop of 15 April. During the second workshop, planned for the end of May, the first draft of the MAWP will be presented to the future founding Members. Technical content, expected outcome of future projects, high-level budget allocation to the different components of the future programme will be discussed. Based on the feedback collected, a second version will be drafted and presented at a third workshop in July; a fully fleshed draft should be presented in September and tabled for adoption by the new Governing Board. The MAWP will be the basis to derive the Annual Work Programme 2022 to be adopted by the end of the year.

Mr Guillermet added that the SJU is holding regular bilateral meetings with Members and stakeholders. He also commented that coordination and preparatory work for future projects can start on the basis of the SRIA and the conditions set by the Proposal for the SBA adopted on 23 February.

Mr Guillermet seized the opportunity to thank Mr Hololei for his support during the difficult negotiations, particularly on HR matters for the future JU. The SESAR JU will be facing a reduction of 5% in FTE, that will have to be managed by the new organisation.

He also welcomed the exemption from the Common Back Office, considering that the current cooperation with Eurocontrol, that provides support functions, works well.

Ms de Mateo (ENAI), asked to confirm if the financial liability will be limited to the contribution of the private Members to the Administrative costs (i.e. to EUR 25 million) and if this could be reflected in the text of the SBA and in the Letter of commitment.

Mr Gallego (INDRA) informed the Board that INDRA is actively working with national authorities to explain INDRA's position. Expressed satisfaction for the progress made in setting up the new partnership and asked a confirmation that the process will be concluded by Q4 2021.

The Chairperson confirmed that the EC would work to ensure that the process to set up the new partnership is completed by Q4 2021, but also warned this also depends on the work performed by external actors.

The EC specified that the commitment of EUR 500 million coming from industry consists of financial contribution, cash, IKOP and IKAA.

5% of EUR 500 million (= EUR 25 million) should be paid in cash to support the administrative costs of the SJU. The financial liability is limited to the contribution to the administrative costs. As the SBA only refers to cumulative figures, the EC suggests that a consortium agreement is in put in place to define how the total amount is split per partner. In case of no agreement, the new Governing Board should decide on the allocation.

Mr Lallouette (Thales) underlined that, considering that all calls will be open, there is no framework to establish the contribution of the Funding Members to the administrative costs. The only foreseeable solution seems to be to divide equally the amount of EUR 25 million. A consortium agreement between Members, establishing the conditions for alternative mechanisms, is unlikely to be put in place within a short timeframe. Mr Lallouette asked if the EC and the SJU would have alternative suggestions.

The EC acknowledged the difficulty of the exercise but stressed that the Regulation leaves the Members to get organised autonomously. The option of dividing equally the administrative costs would probably not be fair in respect of the different sizes of investments that entities would make (big industrial players vs small research institutes). An alternative option would be better to put on the table with indicative figures proportionate to the size of the investments.

▷ Conclusions on item 2

- The Board took note of the information provided by the EC representatives and by the SJU.

Item 4 Report on the progress of the Programme and other on-going key activities

Item 4a Programme overview

Mr Guillermet informed that there is no major new impact on the Programme reported since end of the year. However, delays in validations preparation and deliverables submission have increased; simulation facilities may not be available or sufficient to cope with all demands i.e. delayed exercises create a peak of demands.

For some projects, buffers are consumed and the remaining 20 month period is very tight to cover all project objectives. The second “Covid impact assessment” is ongoing and will be completed by mid-May. A possible mitigation is the Grant duration extension (under consideration with Members/Projects).

Mr Guillermet confirmed that the submission of deliverables is overall on track and the quality of the submitted deliverables remains high.

He then continued by providing an overview of the 71 projects in execution (as of 1 May 2021) along the three pillars of the SESAR programme, Exploratory Research, Industrial Research and Very large scale demonstrations.

He also reported on the status of projects compared to the ATM Master Plan.

SESAR1 has focused on phase A, currently completed, SESAR 2020 on phase B and C, currently ongoing, and SESAR 3 will focus on phase D as an enabler for the Single European Sky.

In the context of SESAR 3, it will have to be decided either to stop the activities at a certain level of maturity or to transfer some of them to the next programme, a proposal will be made in that sense in the draft MAWP.

Concerning the coverage of the AAS TP Milestones, Mr Guillermet showed the current status of the R&D progress and the expected status at the end of SESAR 2020, underlying that the expectation is to have completed all the activities required for the first two tranches of the AAS at the end of SESAR 2020.

He then also presented the progress of AAS TP Solutions in terms of TRL. In the context of SESAR 2020, the expectation is to arrive at the last TRL for most of the Solutions (See slides).

Exhaustive information will be provided in the Annual Activity Report.

The Chairperson concluded by encouraging the Members to continue working on SESAR 2020 to achieve the expected results, with the support of the SJU team.

Item 4b External Relations and communication

Concerning publications, Mr Guillermet informed the Members that “SESAR Innovation Pipeline - 2020 highlights” was published in Q1 2021: the aim is to demonstrate how solutions coming from ER projects are brought to higher maturity level. The “SESAR Solutions catalogue” will be issued in Q2/Q3 2021 and will summarise the results of W1 of SESAR 2020.

Mr Guillermet informed that more than 300 participants from the core SESAR JU community attended the virtual SESAR JU Internal Meeting held on 27 April, which discussed the “green” recovery for aviation, on the necessity to focus on the “right” investments, and on the way to pool investments around solutions that have the highest impact.

Regarding the key events scheduled for 2021, the Executive Director mentioned:

- The Digital European Sky SESAR JU Awards in June, that will reward the most performing projects and for which candidates projects are being assessed;
- The World ATM Congress, postponed to end of October 2021 (physical event in Madrid). The SESAR JU and the Members should decide urgently about their participation, considering that a significant part of the budget is committed for this event;
- The SESAR Innovation Days, planned on 6-9 December, will be an on-line event

- The SESAR Digital Academy's series of online webinars, looking at the latest research results and activities of the SESAR JU, will continue during 2021 in close coordination with SESAR JU Members and projects.
- Showcasing SESAR: Spotlights on key SESAR Solutions: a series of events throwing the spotlight on mature SESAR R&D, organised in a live-demonstration style to highlight the sustainable and safety performance benefits coming out of the SESAR JU programme (from the end of September to Q1/Q2 2022).

Item 4c Annual Work Programme objective's implementation

Mr Guillermet reported that the SJU has overall been able to comply with the targets set in the Annual Work Programme for Q1, while two areas have been identified as main risk:

1. Covid-19 crisis brings different types of challenges to the SESAR JU relating to:
 - a. Members' contribution - adjustments of contributions have been put in place;
 - b. Risk related to programme delivery due to the situation of the Aviation sector - necessity to optimise the use of funds and to establish monitoring measures;
 - c. Impacts on internal functioning of the SESAR JU - staff monitoring and efficiency measures established.
2. Transition to SESAR 3 brings additional risks to the SESAR JU, in terms of financial resources to ensure that the SJU will be able to achieve its objectives and fulfill its commitments related to the current portfolio of activities; of human resources; of private partners contribution, three of which have been adjusted through a Written procedure. The SJU continues monitoring the transitional provisions of the SBA, on the basis of the guidance provided by DG RTD (some more guidance from DG RTD is expected in the coming weeks), to prepare all the necessary decisions that the new Governing Board should put in place.

The Chairperson commented that 2021 is a crucial year for the administrative transition to the future SESAR 3 JU and thanked the SJU team for the preparatory work currently ongoing.



Conclusions on item 4

- The Board took note of the information provided by the SJU and of the comment from the EC.

Item 5 Planning and Reporting documents

Item 5a CAAR 2020

Mr Guillermet informed that, in line with the content presented in previous years, the CAAR 2020 reports achievements of the SESAR JU in 2020.

The report has been tailored to the specific situation related to the COVID-19 crisis, to the closure of W1 and the transition to W2, highlighting the key features, the preparation for SESAR 3 and the preparation for the future through the SRIA. The CAAR also provides assurance over internal control and sound financial management.

According to the timeline, the second review by the ADB Members takes place from 7 to 21 May and the launch of the Written Procedure for its adoption is planned for 1-22 June, in view of the submission of the adopted CAAR 2020 to the Budgetary Authority, the Commission and the ECA by 30 June.

Item 5b Information on SPD 2022-2024

Mr Guillermet continued by informing that the Single Programming Document 2021-

2023 adopted in December 2020 was undergoing an amendment, mainly due to the annual budget process for 2021.

Preparatory works are ongoing for the SPD 2022-2024, but after the transition to SESAR 3, its content will be transferred to the new planning instrument, the Annual Work Programme. The transition is expected to require an AWP 2021, required to start the new legal entity and will include relevant elements from the SPD 2021-2023 as amended, and an AWP 2022, that will be adopted by the Governing Board before the end of 2021 that will serve as financing decisions for the first SESAR 3 calls.

The Chairperson encouraged the Members to also contribute to the finalisation of the CAAR, which is an important document to showcase achievements, especially to the Court of Auditors and the European Parliament.

On the programming document, he reminded that, the future SESAR 3 JU will no longer function as a decentralised agency and therefore will not use the Single Programming Document as a planning instrument, but the Annual Work Programme, which will nevertheless include the main elements of the SPD (Annual Work Plan, the Budget and the Staff Establishment Plan). The SJU will work on the preparation of this document, once the new template is being made available by the Commission.



Conclusions on item 5

- The Board took note of the information provided by the SJU.

Item 6 General Administrative and financial items

Item 6a Legal & procurement activities overview

This item has not been presented, but full information has been made available in the slides. No question has been raised by the Members.

Item 6b Budget execution overview

This item has not been presented, but full information has been made available in the slides. No question has been raised by the Members.

Item 6c HR matters

The Executive Director informed that 2021 would be a year of transition also from an HR standpoint, as 30% of the Temporary Agents (TA) contracts will have to be renewed. The renewal has to take place under the current Regulation and the approved Staff Establishment Plans for 2021 and 2022. Nevertheless, the SJU will cover only up to 37 TA and 1 CA positions in 2021 (including renewals) in view of the LFS of the draft SBA (i.e. minus 2 positions compared to SESAR2020).

He warned the Board that the current budget assigned to staffing is based exclusively on H2020 funds and contribution from Members, which are insufficient to maintain occupied 38 positions during the period 2022-2024. Consequently, the renewal will be done until end 2023 or undetermined (in compliance with Staff Regulation) but with a possibility of early contract termination due to lack of budget in the very unlikely scenario that SESAR 3 is not established.

Mr Hololei informed the Board that the mandate of the SJU Executive Director expires on 31 March 2022.

According to the Statutes of the SJU, the Board cannot renew Mr Guillermet's mandate a second time.

He recalled that a new Executive Director will be appointed by the SESAR3 JU Governing Board from the list of candidates proposed by the Commission, following an open and transparent selection procedure.

The Commission is working on the draft vacancy notice that, after validation from the

Commission's HR Services, will have to be approved by the current Board, between 24 May and 4 June by written procedure.

The job description will already reflect the requirements proposed in the new Single Basic Act for all future Joint Undertakings.

Once approved by the Board, the Commission will launch the translation and publication of the vacancy notice and appoint the rapporteur. The Commission will publish the notice on the Official Journal of the European Union and on the Europa website in mid-July for four weeks, excluding August. In parallel, the SJU will also publish it in the press and its own website.

The deadline for applications will be around 16 September.

The next steps will consist in establishing the pre-selection panel followed by the interviews of the pre-selected candidates between 10 and 31 October.

The Consultative Committee on Appointments will validate the shortlist of pre-selected candidates in November, who will be interviewed by Commissioner Vaele within the first half of December.

By mid-January 2022, the Commission will adopt the final shortlist, which will be submitted to this Board for evaluation.

By mid-February 2022, the Board will appoint the new Executive Director, who will start his or her mandate on 1 April 2022.

We all appreciate that this is a fundamental exercise for the governance of the future SESAR Joint Undertaking.

The peculiar aspect of this procedure is that, assuming that the Council will establish the SESAR3 Joint Undertaking by the end of this year, it will be launched under the governance of this Board, while the Board of the SESAR3 Joint Undertaking will finalise it.

▷ Conclusions on item 6

- The Board took note of the information provided by the SJU and by the Chairperson.

Before closing the meeting, Mr Hololei and Mr Guillermet thanked warmly Mr Octavian Vasile for his commitment, professionalism and dedication during the six years in which he was in charge of the SESAR JU supervision within DG MOVE. Mr Vasile's valuable contribution to the preparation of SESAR 3 was recognised and appreciated by the EC and the SJU. Mr Brennan echoed the Chairperson in thanking Mr Vasile for all his precious work.

The proposed ADB meeting dates in 2021 are:

- ADB(M) 053 Thursday 7 October
- ADB(M) 054 Tuesday 14 December

Done in Brussels, 6/5/2021.

Chairperson
Mr Henrik Hololei



Secretary
Ms Ilaria Vazzoler



