



Developing a mechanism for supporting better decisions on our environment based on the best available knowledge.

The Strategic Advisory Board

1) What is the Strategic Advisory Board (SAB)?

The Strategic Advisory Board is a key part of the EU support mechanism for evidence-based and evidence-informed policy on biodiversity and ecosystem services, providing strategic advice to EKLIPSE.

The Board currently consists of eleven high-level experts from science, policy and society, and two ex officio members:

- Chair: Sybille van den Hove (Median)
- Stefan Leiner (DG ENV)
- Maria da Graca Carvalho (DG RTD SAM)
- Didier Bourguignon (EPRS)
- Ronan Uhel (EEA)
- Karl Falkenberg (EPSC)
- Helene Lindman (City of Stockholm/EUROCITIES)
- Yann Laurans (IDDRI)
- Senka Barudanovic (University of Sarajevo)
- Suzanne de Cheveigné (CNRS)
- Sue Collins (European Habitats Forum)
- Marie-Alice Budniok (Habitats Forum)
- Ex officio: Sofie Vandewoestijne (DG RTD)

Members are appointed for a term of three years, with the possibility of continuing for a second consecutive term.

The main roles of the Board are to follow the work carried out in the EKLIPSE project, provide advice on strategic decisions including the discussion of yearly budgets and thematic foci, and serve as ambassadors of the EU support mechanism. In the first 18 months of the project, the Strategic Advisory Board will also help establish the links between relevant project activities

and policy at the EU level and beyond, and contributing to designing the strategy for the implementation and effective operation of the EU support mechanism on the policy side e.g. mandate, management of policy request formulation, collaboration with knowledge infrastructure within the EC and other EU level agencies and bodies. Members of the SAB will be asked to sign a conflict of interest form at each yearly meeting.

2) Advising on the selection of the Knowledge Coordination Body

The SAB is responsible for selecting the members of the Knowledge Coordination Body (see guidance notes on the KCB, and guidance notes on the selection of the KCB). Tasks include:

- Reading pre-screened KCB nominations, including initial ranking.
- Discussing KCB nominations at the SAB meeting, and selecting the final KCB in view of reaching a group where individuals all reach certain criteria (see guidance note on selecting the KCB), and where the final KCB group is balanced in terms of disciplines, tasks within EKLIPSE, geographic origin and gender.

3) Advising on the selection of knowledge requests to be addressed by EKLIPSE

The SAB is responsible for providing strategic advice on the requests that will be addressed by the EKLIPSE project and later the EU support mechanism. Tasks include:

- Reading pre-screened policy requests, including initial ranking (see guidance notes on the selection of requests).
- Discussing requests at the SAB meeting, establishing a short list and providing advice on these request(s) in view of policy needs and fit with EKLIPSE ability to respond and strategic direction. The recommendations of the SAB will then be discussed and final decision made by the KCB.

4) Participating in SAB Meetings and chairing

- The Board will meet face to face once a year throughout the four-year EKLIPSE project (meetings to be provisionally held in Brussels), but will be encouraged to have more regular virtual contact if and when needed (for example following each 6-monthly call for requests).
- SAB meetings will be chaired by the SAB Chair and supported by the Secretariat. For more information on support provided by the Secretariat, please refer to our guidance note on the EKLIPSE Secretariat.