The Chief Scientific Adviser to the President of the European Commission: Results of an experiment

Dr Jan Marco Müller
European Commission
http://de.slideshare.net/SciAdvice14/1000-days-in-the-life-of-a-science-advisor-38529597 (downloaded > 10,000 times)
Science advice in the Commission didn’t start with the CSA

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is the in-house science service of the European Commission. The mission of the JRC is to provide scientific-technical support to European policies, throughout all stages of the policy cycle. The JRC is independent of national or private interests.

- Founded in 1957
- 7 Institutes in 5 countries
- 3000 staff
- Budget: 375 M Euro / year + 78 M earned income
The Panel would like to see the IRC play the future problems and needs of the policy making process.

To achieve this important objective they need to break through the classical pattern in which policy advice is not expected to act as a policy advice to policy processes.

The Panel urges the President and the Commission to link its links to university knowledge and to exercise a proactive policy advice would need, for example, the creation of an "Adviser to the Commission" within the profile Chief Scientific Adviser responsible for the Commission.

EU needs 'brave' scientific advice

By Pallab Ghosh
Science correspondent, BBC

European commission said the MEPs need better, more 'brave' scientific advice from the UK government's chief scientist, it has said.

Professor John Beddington said that Europe should follow US President Barack Obama's lead and step up its science agenda. "Compared with the new Washington line-up, European science advice looks very weak and insufficient," he said.

Professor Beddington is leading efforts to update Europe's science base and is calling for more independent advisers.

US President Barack Obama is backing scientists to senior positions in policy.

The ERA Milestones

We will know the ERA is a shared responsibility in 2030 when we see:

- The EU has a fully functioning, independent Chief Scientific Advisor, supporting its decision-making with the best available evidence, horizon-scanning and future scenario planning.
- A more educated citizenry is trained in science and technology issues to be able to participate in policy debate.
"We also need a fundamental review of the way European institutions access and use scientific advice.

In the next Commission, I want to set up a Chief Scientific Adviser who has the power to deliver proactive, scientific advice throughout all stages of policy development and delivery.

This will reflect the central importance I attach to research and innovation."

- José Manuel Barroso, 15 September 2009
Honourable Members,
I have committed to translating these priorities into the organisation of the next College, once I have been confirmed by the European Parliament. But I can already share with you today my commitment to some organisational changes:

I will create a Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Civil Liberties including citizens' and minority rights, as a reflection that the EU is a community of rights and values.

I will also create a Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, including security. One of the key tasks of this Commissioner will be to develop a truly common approach to migration in line with the political guidelines – promoting the integration of legal migrants, fighting illegal migration and related criminal activities, and ensuring solidarity between Member States.

I will set up a Commissioner for Climate Action, to reflect the fact that climate change is a challenge that needs to be addressed across the whole range of our policies. A dedicated Commissioner for Climate Action will also send an important signal to the world that, independent of the level of ambition that comes out of Copenhagen, Europe is serious about maintaining momentum for action.

We also need a fundamental review of the way European institutions access and use scientific advice. In the next Commission, I want to set up a chief scientific adviser who has the power to deliver proactive, scientific advice throughout all stages of policy development and delivery. This will reflect the central importance I attach to research and innovation.
Composition of the European Parliament in September 2009

President Barroso was re-elected with 382 votes.

“I will create a Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Civil Liberties.”

“I will create a Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration.”

“I want to set up a Chief Scientific Adviser.”

VOTES NEEDED FOR MAJORITY: 369
DISCUSSION PAPER

A Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) to the European Commission:

Background, requirements and options for implementation

Authors: Jan Marco Müller, Jens Otto
II. 1 Scope of a CSA in the European Commission

As function of the options discussed later the CSA could have the following tasks:

- Scientific Advice:
  - provide robust scientific advice to the President;
  - ensure that Commission policy-making takes into account robust scientific evidence (note that this would operate at the level of DGs and of the President/College);

- Risk assessment and management:
  - Provide advice to the President in the field of risk assessment and management, e.g. in crisis situations, based on robust scientific evidence/models;

- Anticipation:
  - Proactively identify future societal challenges which may be tackled by scientific-technical responses as well as scientific-technical developments which may create societal challenges and thus require policy action; the issues to be examined must be in the remit of EC policy making and potentially have a major impact on the EU.

The CSA would be able to act on his/her own initiative, or on demand (“request”).

An additional function that may be envisaged for the CSA is to be an advocate for science in policy making towards the public. Indeed, in the interest of transparency this might be seen as a requirement.
Concerning its institutional setup, five options can be identified:

Option 1: a CSA on Commissioner level, either being the Commissioner for Research himself or a different person;

Option 2: a CSA as DG or DDG of the JRC, but with an own office + core staff functionally attached to the President;

Option 3: a CSA as a senior adviser attached to the President, potentially with a formal status and related powers;

Option 4: a CSA as an external adviser (or group of external advisers) to the President;

Option 5: a CSA with a position similar to the European Data Protection Supervisor outside the European Commission.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OPTION 1 (Commissioner)</th>
<th>OPTION 2 (DG/DDG)</th>
<th>OPTION 3 (Senior Adviser)</th>
<th>OPTION 4 (External Adviser)</th>
<th>OPTION 5 (Outside EC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Influence on decision-making</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence on the policy cycle</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ease of implementation</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credibility / Scientific Standing</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Perceived) Independence</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to JRC and other EC resources</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Commission’s Chief Scientific Adviser should report directly to the President of the European Commission and should be responsible for ensuring the integrity, quality and effective operation of the scientific advisory system.

The position of Chief Scientific Adviser should be at a level equivalent to that of a Director-General of the European Commission.

A central unit to support the Chief Scientific Adviser should be established.

A steering group, chaired by the Chief Scientific Adviser, should be established to oversee and co-ordinate the use of science by the Commission and its agencies.

The Chief Scientific Adviser should establish a new policy for the collection and use of scientific advice.

A policy for managing risks posed by new technologies should be drawn up by the Chief Scientific Adviser.

A policy for improving public acceptance of the use of scientific evidence in decision-making should be drawn up and implemented by the Chief Scientific Adviser.

The Chief Scientific Adviser should develop and publish mandatory written principles that define the quality of studies, information, and data to be used in scientific assessments.

The Chief Scientific Adviser should require significant risk assessment opinions to be independently peer-reviewed.

Mandatory guidelines for the presentation of scientific advice to risk managers and policymakers (“internal risk communication”) should be drawn up by Chief Scientific Adviser.
EUROPEAN COMMISSION - PRESS RELEASE

Appointment of Chief Scientific Advisor

Brussels, 05 December 2011 – President Barroso has today appointed the Commission’s first Chief Scientific Advisor, Professor Anne Glover. Professor Glover will provide high-level and independent scientific advice throughout all stages of policy development and delivery. The Chief Scientific Advisor will provide advice directly to the President, and will give regular updates on major scientific and technological developments.

President Barroso said: "I am delighted to appoint Professor Anne Glover to the post of Chief Scientific Advisor. I believe her outstanding background and calibre will bring invaluable expertise to the Commission. She has a strong track record in leading the Scottish Science Advisory Committee which made her the standout candidate for this post."

Background

President Barroso announced his intention to appoint a Chief Scientific Advisor in a speech to the European Parliament on 15 September 2009. President Barroso has personally interviewed a range of candidates for the post. Professor Anne Glover will report directly to the President. Administrative support to the Chief scientific Advisor will be provided by the Bureau of European Policy Advisors (BEPA).
Mandate of the Chief Scientific Adviser

- To provide independent expert advice on any aspect of science, technology and innovation as requested by the President;
- Upon a request by the President, to provide analysis and opinion on major policy proposals being submitted to the College touching upon issues of science, technology and innovation; in particular the Chief Scientific Advisor will provide authoritative guidance on interpretation of scientific evidence in presence of uncertainty, and will be involved in strategic emergency planning;
- To build relationships with high-level advisory groups (e.g. European Research Area Board), the scientific Committees of the Commission, the EU agencies (European Medicine Agency, European Food Safety Authority, the European Chemicals Agency and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control), the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies;
Mandate of the Chief Scientific Adviser (continued)

- To build relationships with similar structures in Member States and other countries;
- To advise on novel science, technology and innovation issues arising both in the context of the EU and internationally; to serve as an early warning conduct point on issues that might arise when scientific progress entails either opportunity or threat for the EU;
- To communicate the scientific values on which specific Commission proposals are based in order to enhance public confidence in science and technology, and in general to promote the European culture of science and technology widely within Europe and abroad.
Institutional setup of science in the EC 2012-2014

José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

Professor Anne Glover
Chief Scientific Adviser to the President

Secretariat-General (SG)
Impact Assessment Board

Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA)

European Commissioners (including Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science)

Directorates-General, including:

DG Research and Innovation (RTD)

Joint Research Centre (JRC)

"Policy for Science"  "Science for Policy"
Resources of the CSA Office

2012: 2 scientific staff, 1 admin staff
2013: 3 scientific staff, 2 admin staff
2014: 3 scientific staff, 1 admin staff, 1 trainee

Annual budget:
60,000 Euro

(+ 40,000 Euro for the meetings of the President’s Science and Technology Advisory Council)
Positive Experiences
Establishment of the President's Science and Technology Advisory Council

- Advised the President on overarching societal questions regarding science and technology and was chaired by the CSA
- 16 Members from across disciplines and across the ERA Member States
- Delivered two reports on science and society, and S&T foresight
Terms of Reference
European Science Advisers Forum (ESAF)

Mandate

The European Science Advisers Forum is an independent and informal network of government science advisers in Europe. The aim of the European Science Advisers Forum is to provide a platform on which government science advisers in Europe can

• discuss and explore potential consensus on the scientific dimension of European-wide policy challenges
• communicate with each other in emergency situations,
• exchange experiences and best practices,
• promote evidence-based policy-making in Europe.
Fostering global science advice

Auckland, 28-29 August 2014
Establishment of the EU Agencies Network for Scientific Advice (EU-ANSA)
Establishment of a Commission-wide foresight network

- Many Directorates-General had foresight teams/functions, but these were not coordinated
- In February 2014, the CSA team set up an internal foresight network, which now comprises 235 staff from 21 Directorates-General
- Foresight workshops were held in March/April 2014
- 2014 Eurobarometer survey and focus groups
- Science and Technology fiches (files) on 45 topics

Source: Special Eurobarometer 419
Establishment of a close collaboration with Science Academies

Academies play a key role as evidence providers because...

- they have a unique convening power to gather the very best experts on a given topic from across Europe, across disciplines and across institutional backgrounds
- they are able make authoritative, relevant and scientifically sound statements thanks to their vigorous peer-review process and their extraordinary reputation
- they provide a bridge between the European and the national level because they are trusted by the European institutions, the national governments and the citizen
Acting as a "scientific ombudsman" and champion for evidence in the EC

Professor Anne Glover CBE
Chief Scientific Adviser to the President of the European Commission
Berlaymont 08/039
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels/Belgium

RE: Draft regulation on endocrine active chemicals

Dear Prof. Glover,

We, the undersigned are writing to draw your attention to imminent decisions by the European Commission to set a regulatory framework for so-called endocrine disrupting chemicals.

Source: ETHZ

Looking for real transparency – an open letter to the European Commission’s Chief Scientist

The Foundation for Vaccine Research

EU science chief wants greater voice for experts

Anne Glover says that better access to evidence helps policy-makers to make informed choices.
Being an ambassador for European science and technology
Being a role model for women and the young generation
Negative Experiences
July 26, 2012: The terms of reference of the CSA are sent to all services of the European Commission

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
CABINET OF THE PRESIDENT
Head of Cabinet
Chief Scientific Adviser to the President

Brussels, 26/07/2012

NOTE TO HEADS OF CABINET AND DIRECTOR-GENERALS

Dear Colleagues,

Following the appointment of the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) to the President and the start of Professor Anne Glover in this position as of 01/01/2012, the current note aims to specify her responsibilities and to set up related working procedures.
In order to establish efficient working procedures as outlined above, all Commission services which rely significantly on scientific advice are asked to nominate a CSA Correspondent. Please communicate your nominations by 31/08/2012 to ana-maria.costa-freitas@ec.europa.eu and/or jan.mueller@ec.europa.eu.

We count on your support to make this new function established by the President a success, with the aim of fostering science, engineering and technology as key driver for European growth.

Thank you in advance!

Johannes Laitenberger

Anne Glover

Dear colleague

We have taken due note of your request to appoint a CSA correspondent for services that rely on scientific advice. As this is not the case for DG [DG], we understand the request is without object for our DG and hence we will not proceed with such a nomination.

Kind regards
The European Commission ignoring the presence of the CSA at the ESOF 2012 Conference in Dublin (07/2012)

For five days in July, Dublin was the world capital of science, as it hosted the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF). The largest biennial scientific conference of its kind, ESOF brought together over 5,000 attendees—scientists, policymakers, stakeholders, and journalists—from all over the world to discuss the best of European science and address the world’s major scientific challenges.

Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, led the Commission team. In her keynote speech, she called for science to be put at the heart of Europe, and Europe to be put at the heart of science. She explained how the Commission intended to do its part with an increased budget under Horizon 2020, bringing together for the first time all the EU funds for research and innovation in order to fund excellent science, competitive industries, and research for a better society.

Investing in research and innovation

At a time of tight budgets and decreasing national science expenditure, budget negotiations will be very tough. The European research agenda has to be a priority. This is further reinforced by EU science being at the heart of the heads of state’s agenda.

ESOF 2012 was the first opportunity for the European Commission to present its science plan, with a focus on Horizon 2020 and the European Research Area. A symposium was organized jointly with ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) under the ESOF ‘global partnership symposia series’, which covered also Africa, US and China, with eminent scientists from Europe and our partners discussing critical global scientific topics. Other workshops covered such issues as neuroscience, biotechnology, and climate change.
The Commission answers to a Parliamentary Question regarding public statements of the CSA on GMOs as follows:

EN
E-007606/2012
Answer given by Mr Barroso on behalf of the Commission (3.10.2012)

[...] The Commission wishes to use the opportunity to clarify to the Honourable Member the role of the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA). The CSA reports directly to the President of the Commission and has the task to provide independent expert advice to the President on any aspect of science, technology and innovation and the potential opportunities and threats to the EU stemming from new scientific and technological developments. Likewise, the CSA has a role in enhancing public confidence in science and technology and to promote the European culture of science. In this context, the CSA has a role in stimulating societal debate on new technologies and to communicate the existing scientific evidence about such technologies. The CSA has a purely advisory function and no role in defining Commission policies. Therefore, her views do not necessarily represent the views of the Commission.
July 10, 2013: The only time the CSA attended a meeting of the College of Commissioners (talking about an innovation-friendly societal environment)
Oct 7, 2014: The first time the President appears in public with his CSA
The Chief Scientific Adviser and the NGOs
Oct 24, 2013: Moderating a consensus meeting between two opposing scientific camps in the field of endocrine disruptors

Meeting on endocrine disruptors
Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser, European Commission, Brussels, 24.10.2013

Conclusions agreed by the participants

1. The participants appreciate the initiative of the Chief Scientific Adviser to help discuss the remits of scientific consensus around issues on endocrine disrupting substances (EDCs).

2. EDCs are a good example where scientific advice is an essential element for environment and health related policy-making.

3. There is substantial agreement as well as uncertainty on scientific issues around EDCs. Some of the main consensus and uncertainties are as follows:
The CSA in the hands of industry?

Science and conflicts of interest: Ties to industry revealed

Seventeen of 16 scientists who wrote a controversial editorial critical of the European Commission's plan for creating a chemical safety assessment agency were funded by the chemical, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

Bas Blauwbroek, Editor-Europe, Toxicoology in Vitro, and professor of toxicology, Utrecht University. Received $259,370 in research funding from the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) between 2006 and 2010. An assessment project at the Health and Environmental Science Institute, which is part of the International Life Sciences Institute, a non-profit health and environmental science organization funded by the chemical, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

Abby C. Collier, Section Editor, Chemical-Biological Interactions, and associate professor, University of Hawaii, United States. Received a study partly supported by the Human Drug Conjugation Consortium (Roche, Lilly, Novartis, Pfizer and Wyeth-Ayerst) in 2012. Her lab is partly funded by the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme.

Wolfgang Dekant, Editor-in-Chief, Toxicology Letters, and professor of toxicology, Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Brown University. Received funding for a 2008 study on bisphenol A (BPA) from the American Chemical Society, the American Chemical Society's non-disclosed private companies between 2007 and 2012. Member of the scientific board of Synergistics, an organization for the fragrance, detergent, and cosmetics industry. Past chair of the Association of the Automotive Industry. Receives research funding from Honeywell, Tetrahydrofuran Task Force, a consortium of U.S. manufacturers of tetrahydrofuran, and The Burroughs Wellcome Fund, a U.S. private foundation.

The EU Chief Scientific Adviser and endocrine disrupting chemicals

New evidence the role's existence enabled undue influence at the top of the European Commission
The Innovation Principle
"Stimulating Economic Recovery"

Open Letter to Mr. José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

Mr. Herman Van Rompuy
President of the European Council
Rue de la Loi 175
1048 Brussels

Mr. Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 Brussels

9 October 2013

Dear Presidents,

As major investors in European innovation, we welcome the focus of European leaders on innovation as an engine of economic recovery. To fully realise the potential of innovation, we believe it is essential to:

6. Require the obligatory ex-post evaluation of the effectiveness of risk management legislation, regulation or administrative decisions in addressing the issue originally identified as causing concern and provide for the amendment/reversal of such measures where:
   - new evidence becomes available to demonstrate an acceptable balance of risks
   - ex-post evaluation demonstrates no material impact on the issue originally identified as giving rise to concern

7. Provide a formal power for the Chief Scientist of the European Commission to review the use of scientific evidence in risk management legislation, regulation or administrative decision and to require further scientific assessment where appropriate

Sincerely,

Dr. Martin Dekkers
Chairman of the Board of Management
Bayer AG

Dr. Helga Rubsam
Chief Executive Officer
Curls GmbH

Andrew Liveris
President, Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer
The Dow Chemical Company

Robert Hansen
Chief Executive Officer
Dow Corning Corporation

Antonio Galdon
President and Chief Executive Officer
Dow AgroSciences LLC

Kaspar Ronsted
Chief Executive Officer
Henkel AG & Company

Harry van Dommelen
Chairman
IBM Europe

Joseph Jimenez
Chief Executive Officer
Novartis AG

Kees van den Berg
President and Chief Executive Officer
Royal Philips

Jean-Pierre Clamadieu
Chief Executive Officer
Solvay S.A.

Michael Mack
Chief Executive Officer
Syngenta AG
The CSA office receives the first access to documents (= freedom of information) request – there will be many more

Dear Secretariat General (SG),

Under the right of access to documents in the EU treaties, as developed in Regulation 1049/2001, I am requesting documents which contain the following information:

– on the topic of endocrine disrupters (also spelled: disruptors),
  all correspondence (including emails), the list of meetings with
detailed minutes and any other reports of such meetings between the
Chief Scientific Adviser of the European Commission (and her
representatives) and the following organisations and/or
individuals:
  -The President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso (and
  his representatives)
  -European Policy Centre (EPC)
  -European Risk Forum (ERF)
  -Plastics Europe
  -Julie Girling
  -Ragnar Lofstedt
  -Mark Walport
  -Ian Boyd
  -UK Governance
  -The German Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (Bfr)

(between April 2011 and July 2013).

Note the interest in the correspondence with other CSAs
Jan 03, 2014: The access to documents requests get bigger

1. All documents exchanged within your BEPA staff, including by yourself, in the last two years on the topic of endocrine active/disrupting chemicals/pesticides/biocides (collectively called here "endocrine disruptors"), notes, drafts, minutes, memo's, e-mails, comments, etc.
2. All documents exchanged by your BEPA staff in the last two years on the topic of endocrine active/disrupting chemicals/pesticides/biocides (collectively called here "endocrine disruptors"), notes, drafts, minutes, memo's, e-mails, comments, etc. in the interservice consultations with SG and the DG's on endocrine disruptors
3. All documents exchanged by your BEPA staff and you in the last two years on the topic of endocrine active/disrupting chemicals/pesticides/biocides (collectively called here "endocrine disruptors"), notes, drafts, minutes, memo's, e-mails, comments, etc. with SG and other DG's beyond the interservice consultation
4. All documents exchanged by your BEPA staff and you in the last two years on the topic of endocrine active/disrupting chemicals/pesticides/biocides (collectively called here "endocrine disruptors"), all briefing notes, drafts, minutes, memo's, e-mails, comments, etc. with the Commissioners, including members of the cabinets
5. All documents exchanged by your BEPA staff in the last two years on the topic of endocrine active/disrupting chemicals/pesticides/biocides (collectively called here "endocrine disruptors"), all briefing notes, drafts, minutes, memo's, e-mails, comments, etc. with external stakeholders and parties

Submitted by Pesticide Action Network Europe
April 30, 2014: The access to documents requests get bigger and bigger

Under the right of access to documents in the EU treaties, as developed in Regulation 1049/2001, I am requesting documents which contain the following information:

- all correspondence (including emails), the list of meetings with detailed minutes and any other reports of such meetings on the topics of pesticides, Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs), the precautionary principle, the innovation principle, and GMOs between the chief scientific adviser to the Commission’s president, Anne Glover and/or her office staff; and representatives of the following organisations/bodies:
  - European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC)
  - European Crop Protection Association (ECPA)
  - EuropaBio
  - Monsanto
  - CropLife (Europe and US; CropLife International)
  - Freshfel Europe
  - Bayer
  - BASF
  - Syngenta
  - Syngenta Foundation
  - European Risk Forum
  - European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC)
  - European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals (ECETOC)
  - International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI)
  - Public Research Regulation Initiative (PRRI)
  - BusinessEurope
  - American Chemistry Council
  - American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union (AmCham EU)
  - US Chamber of Commerce
  - Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (UK)
  - DG Environment

or any lobby firm or consultancy working on their behalf.

Between December 2011 and 30 April 2014.

Submitted by Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)
May 20, 2014: Discussing with NGOs how the use of scientific evidence by the Commission could be improved
There were letters of support coming in
July 22, 2014:
NGOs ask for the CSA post to be "scrapped"

"The post of Chief Scientific Adviser is fundamentally problematic as it concentrates too much influence in one person, and undermines in-depth scientific research and assessments carried out by or for the Commission directorates in the course of policy elaboration."

"Until now, the role of Chief Scientific Adviser has been unaccountable, intransparent and controversial."

"We hope that you as the incoming Commission President will decide not to nominate a chief scientific adviser and that instead the Commission will take its advice from a variety of independent, multi-disciplinary sources, with a focus on the public interest."
The supporters reacted

Scientific scrutiny in Europe is essential

We and many organisations across Europe have written to President-elect of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker to ask him not to abolish the post of Chief Scientific Adviser. Our letter is in response to a call by environmental NGOs to “scrap this position.” We object to this proposal and to any attempt to undermine the integrity and independence of scientific advice at the highest level of the European Commission.

Don't scrap Europe's chief scientific adviser

Groups opposed to genetically modified crops want the EU to drop its chief science adviser. Bad idea

Scientists rush to the defence of EU Chief Science Adviser

EC Chief Scientific Adviser position gets strong backing

Hundreds of scientists have come out in support of the European Commission's Chief Scientific Adviser position after calls were made for the job to be scrapped. Talha Khan Bokri reports.

Top scientists back Brussels adviser who called GM opponents mad

By Dave Keating on 17.08.2014 / 12:05 GMT

Welcome to your preview of The Times

Welcome to your preview of The Times

By Dave Keating on 17.08.2014 / 12:05 GMT

Mr Juncker, do not scrap science!
Aug 19, 2014: The NGOs send another letter

"The intention of our letter was to stimulate a debate about [...] the risks that continuing the CSA position poses to scientific policy advice in general. [...] Far from being anti-science, our message is that there should be more objective and diverse expertise available to policy-makers than any single adviser could reasonably be expected to provide. [...] President Barroso’s experiment of establishing a CSA position [...] undermined expert research undertaken by European agencies and independent scientists."

"The question is how to ensure that the best representation of wide-ranging scientific advice is available to you and your colleagues. The CSA position does not and cannot fulfil this purpose. This is not because of a lack of resources but because of the fundamental flaws of the role itself."
Activists urge EU to scrap science advisor job

August 19, 2014

NGO backlash to Chief Scientific Advisor position grows

Des ONG mettent en garde l’UE contre le risque d'une pensée unique scientifique

European NGOs fight about the future of science advice to the EU

Green Groups Go To War On Scientific Reform In Europe

It is, perhaps, not the best of times for Green Groups. They are angered at the revelation that a senior official at the European Commission is now revolting against the organization from within. The official, who has been quoted in the Dutch paper Volkskrant as saying, “I have a question, why should others do so?”

Europe’s Science Chief seeks to eliminate scientific discourse

By Brian John
“The former decision of the outgoing Commission President to appoint a Chief Scientific Adviser should be maintained. But the role should be strengthened and enlarged to oversee the elaboration and application of new methods of impact assessment of EU legislation as a key input for improving policy and regulatory quality. The CSA’s task should also involve the tracking and tracing of forefront scientific development, surveying and overviewing science and innovation communication and delivering foresight studies. All works and recommendations of the CSA must be public, including any dissenting opinions.”
September 20, 2014: The CSA sends to the incoming President a briefing on the experiences made with the CSA role, a briefing on the President’s Science & Technology Advisory Council and a note with ideas on how the science advisory system should evolve.
On November 11, 2014, at 6:03 pm, the Chief Scientific Adviser is informed by e-mail that the CSA position ceased to exist and will not be renewed.
**Industry slams decision to scrap chief science advisor**

Decision sparks fears that ‘voice of science will be stifled’ in key policy issues after EU scraps role of chief scientific advisor.

Researchers attack Brussels for ousting top scientific adviser Professor Anne Glover

Scientists Decry Axing EU Head Scientist Post

Researchers in Europe are universally dismayed over the decision to eliminate the European Commission's Chief Scientific Advisor role.

EC will scrap Professor Glover's role at the end of the year

Concern voiced at axing of EU chief scientific adviser post

Scientists criticise decision to scrap EU chief scientific adviser post

Juncker please note: You need more, not less science

Commission bids Glover a silent farewell

Researchers call for clarification as CSA post is left to expire

Ditching chief scientific adviser role is ‘madness’
EU's Chief Scientific Advisor Forced Out by Green Campaigners

Greenpeace Wins - Science Is Out Of EU Policy Making Again

Chief scientist is forced out after green campaign

Juncker has given in to the lobbyists from Greenpeace

A Victory for Anti-GMO Forces and a Blow to Science

Jean-Claude Juncker 'sacks' EU scientific adviser over her pro-GM views

When Evidence becomes a Nuisance

When Evidence becomes a Nuisance

(August 18th, 2014) The new European Commission is no longer interested in retaining a Chief Scientific Advisor, CSA. This not only silences Anne Glover's plainly audible voice in Brussels, it also means there will be no successor. It's a catastrophic loss, thinks Brynja Adam-Radmanic.
Juncker Science

The European Commission’s chief scientific adviser falls afoul of the green lobby.

European Science’s Great Leap Backward

By Michael Specter

Since 2012, the distinguished Scottish biologist Anne Glover has...
Conclusion 1: The CSA experiment was a failure

1. Lack of adaptation of the CSA model to the European Commission environment
2. Lack of communication and integration into Commission procedures
3. Lack of moral support by the Commission President
4. Lack of human and financial resources
5. Lack of transparency
Conclusion 2: The CSA experiment was a success.

Europe is finally talking about the importance of science advice and how to deliver it!
The role of the Chief Scientific Adviser

The European Union Select Committee, at its meeting on 23 November, discussed the discontinuation of the role of Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) to the President of the Commission. The House of Lords Science and Technology Committee has also discussed this matter, and this letter reflects the views of both Committees.

26 November 2014

President Juncker
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

The role of the Chief Scientific Adviser

Principles for transparency, excellence and independence in scientific advice to the European Commission

A vital and important tool in government policy. In some cases science can give very definite answers, in other cases it is uncertain. Recognising the wider societal questions and context when making decisions, clear, balanced, authoritative views on the state of the science.

General policy principles

1. Involve the public in, where appropriate, policy making in shaping the questions that scientific research might address.
2. Respect the role of science in the policy process: “on top, but not on top.” There is an important position for science in advisory processes, but science on its own may not be able to do little to determine the right course of action, particularly in contentious debates where there is high scientific uncertainty and/or disagreement about desired outcomes, and where societal considerations are prominent.
3. Report publicly to the decision-maker. The advice and appraisal of evidence, given directly from the advisory committee to the person or group making the decision, should be made available.

European Commission unveils long-awaited science advice plans

Team of expert researchers will bridge between politicians and wider science community.

Alison Abbott

13 May 2015
Thank you for your attention!