



# **A new mechanism for independent scientific advice in the European Commission**

# Introduction – why is a new mechanism needed?

- *Scientific evidence increasingly important for policy making, a part of Better Regulation*
- *Scientific advice needs to be independent, objective, interdisciplinary, transparent*
- *And must **take account of specific characteristic of EU policy making**, e.g.*
  - different national perspectives
  - principles of proportionality and subsidiarity

# How do national governments obtain independent scientific advice?

- *In most countries: Academies of Science play a key role, also Advisory Councils/ Committees.*
- *Some countries (e.g US, UK, Ireland) appoint Chief Scientific Advisor, alongside academies and advisory bodies.*
- ***There is no single model or best practice!***

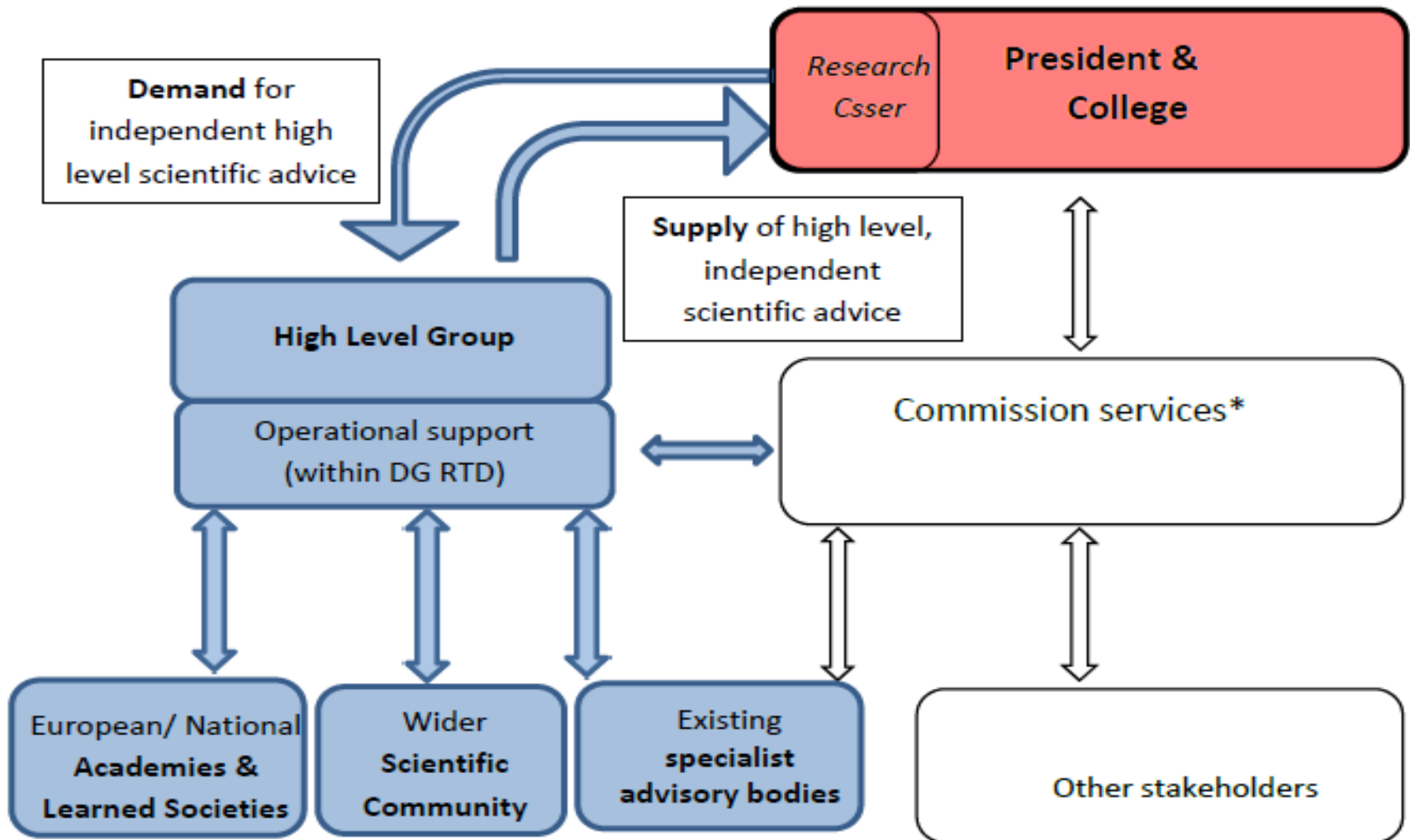
# Use of scientific advice in the Commission

- *Already extensive use of scientific advice in specific policy areas:*
  - **Joint Research Centre** providing in-house scientific support
  - **Use of external experts** - groups, contracted studies, as well as standing, independent, advisory committees.
  - **Horizon 2020 finances research projects** in support of EU policies (societal challenges).
- *But lack of a mechanism to provide timely, independent, high level scientific advice to meet needs across all policy areas.*

# The proposed mechanism

*Strengthen existing arrangements and bring together the supply and demand for independent scientific advice, with **two main new features:***

- *A **structured relationship with scientific advisory bodies in Member States (e.g. national academies)** – to benefit from the wealth of knowledge and expertise*
- *Establishing a **High Level Group of eminent scientists** - to improve the interaction with scientific community, and ensure independence, scientific integrity, transparency*



\* Including the Joint Research Centre which provides in-house scientific support

# Next steps – ongoing work

*1- Launch process to appoint High Level Group (using an Identification Committee)*

May 2015	June 2015	July-August 2015	September	October onwards
<b>Announcement of the new Scientific Advice Mechanism</b>	Set up of the identification committee (who will propose names for the High Level group)	Work of the identification Committee	Selection and appointment of the High Level Group	Start of the work of the High Level Group

# Next steps – ongoing work

2 - Provide new support for Academies and Learned Societies to collaborate on EU policy issues

- Specific CSA in Horizon 2020 -Workprogramme 2016 to provide an operational frame to channel the scientific evidences from the European Academies in support of the EU Policies.

3 - Put in place operational support within European Commission (within DG Research and Innovation)

**=> New mechanism operational from Autumn 2015**