



# Register of Expert Groups and Other Similar Entities

## Commission Expert Group

**Name:** Science and Technology Advisory Council (E02908)  
(Closed - This group no longer exists)

**Abbreviation:** STAC

**Policy Area:** Research and Innovation

**Lead DG:** EPSC - European Political Strategy Centre

**Type:** Informal, Permanent

**Scope:** Broad

**Mission:** is to provide advice directly to the President on how to create the proper environment for innovation by shaping a European society that embraces science, technology and engineering. In particular, the Council will advise on the opportunities and risks stemming from scientific and technological progress. It will also advise on how to communicate these in order to foster an informed societal debate and ensure that Europe does not "miss the boat" and remains a global leader in cutting-edge technologies.

**Task:** Assist the Commission in the preparation of legislation or in policy definition

**Composition:**

Research
Academia
Climate
Environment
Industry
Sustainable development
Other

**Publication in RegExp:** 14 Aug 2013

**Last updated:** 02 Dec 2014

## Additional Information

### Activity Report

On February 27, 2013, the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, has announced the creation of a Science and Technology Advisory Council. The main aim of the Council is to provide advice directly to the President on how to create the proper environment for innovation by shaping a European society that embraces science, technology and engineering. In particular, the Council will advise on the opportunities and risks stemming from scientific and technological progress. It will also advise on how to communicate these in order to foster an informed societal debate and ensure that Europe does not “miss the boat” and remains a global leader in cutting-edge technologies. The Science and Technology Advisory Council differs from other advisory bodies in the Commission in that it does not have a specific subject remit, but tackles issues that are of cross-cutting nature, with a clear societal dimension. It will operate in a proactive way, identifying topics of value and of interest to support future growth and development in Europe. The President will also ask the Council for advice on science and technology related topics that are of key importance for underpinning the Commission’s growth agenda. Members of the Council deliberate freely and in total independence. Conflicts of interest have been declared by the members of the Council. The Council meets on a schedule agreed with the Secretariat. The Council usually meets at the offices of the European Commission in Brussels. Minutes of sessions are drafted by the Secretariat, and, approved by the Council on request of the Chair at the following meeting. The biography of Members, the terms of references have been published in the web. Documents produced by the Council as well as the minutes and agendas of its meetings are made available, in agreement with the President, on a dedicated website.

[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/president/advisory-council/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/advisory-council/index_en.htm)

### Selection Procedure (members)

The Science and Technology Advisory Council is composed of 16 members, one of them being the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Commission President who chairs the Council. The Science and Technology Advisory Council is an independent and informal group of outstanding science and technology experts from academia, business and civil society, covering a broad range of disciplines and uniting expertise from across the European Research Area. Its members have been selected by the President in consultation with the Chief Scientific Adviser, based on their scientific reputation, experience at the science-policy interface and communication skills. Expertise represented in the Group include: energy, chemical engineering, microbiology, medicine, neurosciences, biochemistry, geology, public understanding of science, bioethics, theoretical physics, environmental sociology, technology assessment, food safety, pharmacological sciences, brain research, climate change, theoretical physics, molecular materials, mathematics, protein crystallography etc. The selection of the 15 nominated members was based on the following criteria: • Establishing an appropriate balance between the broad scientific disciplines needed for the work; • Ensuring a good gender balance as foreseen by Commission Decision 2000/407/EC of 19 June 2000 relating to gender balance within the committees and expert groups established by it; • Ensuring an appropriate geographical balance in the membership. The selected members will serve in a personal capacity and are asked to offer independent advice to the Commission. They have been appointed on the basis of their expertise and a geographical distribution that reflects the diversity in Europe.

[http://ec.europa.eu/bepa/pdf/bios\\_stac.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/bepa/pdf/bios_stac.pdf)

### Internal Rules of Procedure

The Science and Technology Advisory Council is an independent and informal group of science and technology experts from academia, business and civil society, covering a broad range of disciplines and uniting expertise from across the European Research Area. The task of the Council is to examine areas where research and innovation can contribute to Europe’s growth—with a particular focus on benefits and risks of science and technology advances and how to address and communicate these. Members of the Council deliberate freely and in total independence. Conflicts of interest have been declared by the members of the Council. Members of the Council are appointed for one year with possibility of extension. The Council operates in a proactive way, but also respond to specific demands from the Commission President or the Chief Scientific Adviser regarding the provision of scientific information, analysis, evaluation and advice. It can solicit evidence from a broad range of scientific stakeholders, from both the public sector (e.g. research performing organisations, higher education institutions, agencies) and the private sectors (e.g. industry, NGOs). Likewise, the Science and Technology Advisory Council would collaborate, where appropriate, with the Commission’s services, notably the Joint Research Centre (JRC), DG Research and Innovation, and Eurostat, and liaise with other advisory structures of the Commission, such as ERIAB (European Research and Innovation Area Board), EFFLA (European Forum on Forward Looking Activities), the European Group on Ethics in Science and Technology (EGE) and existing thematic scientific committees as well as the EU Agencies. The Science and Technology Advisory Council proposes a list of working themes to be submitted by the Chief Scientific Adviser to the President for approval. It would report on those themes on a regular basis, following its meetings.

[http://ec.europa.eu/bepa/pdf/pstac\\_tor\\_27feb2013.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/bepa/pdf/pstac_tor_27feb2013.pdf)

### Other

The Commission published a Press release with all information on the Science and Technology Advisory Council. Members of the Science and Technology Advisory Council are independent from their Member States’ authorities and act on a personal basis. They would not receive any remuneration. Expenses directly related to their participation in meetings of the Science and Technology Advisory Council (travel costs and daily allowances) would be reimbursed in line with Commission rules.

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-168\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-168_en.htm?locale=en)

## Members

### Individual expert appointed in his/her personal capacity

Name	Nationality	Professional Title	Membership Status
ATKISSON Alan	Sweden	President and CEO of "AtKisson Group"	Member
BECALLI-FALCO Ferdinando	Italy	President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of GE Europe and CEO GE Germany. Senior Vice President of GE and member of the Corporate Executive Council of the Company.	Member
DE LORENZO Victor	Spain	Researcher at National Centre of Biotechnology (Madrid)	Member
FREUND Tamas	Hungary	Professor and Director of the Institute of Experimental Medicine, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, and Head of its Cellular and Network Neurobiology Department.	Member
GASSER Susan	Switzerland	Professor for Molecular Biology at the University of Basel and Director of the Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research.	Member
HENZINGER Monika	Austria	Professor of computer science at the University of Vienna	Member
MOLIN Soren	Denmark	Professor of Biosustainability at the Danish Technical University Copenhagen and Director of the Novo Nordisk Centre for Biosustainability.	Member
PININSKA Joanna	Poland	Head of the Department of Geomechanics at the Faculty of Geology of Warsaw University.	Member
QUINTANILHA Alexandre Tiedtke	Portugal	Professor of biophysics at the Biomedical Faculty, researcher at the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology and the Institute of Biomedical Engineering in Oporto	Member
RENN Ortwin	Germany	full professor and chair of environmental sociology and technology assessment at Stuttgart University. Director of non-profit company DIALOGIK, a research institute on environmental policy-making.	Member
SALMELIN Riitta	Finland	Academy professor at Aalto University	Member
SANDRA Pat	Belgium	Emeritus Professor at Ghent University. Founder and President of the Research Institute for Chromatography.	Member
SCHELLNHUBER Hans Joachim	Germany	Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and Chair of the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU)	Member

SESSOLI Roberta	Italy	Associate professor of chemistry at University of Florence	Member
VILLANI Cédric	France	Professor of Mathematics at Lyon University and director of Institut Henri Poincaré	Member
YONATH Ada	Israel	Director of the Helen and Milton A. Kimmelman Center for Biomolecular Structure and Assembly of the Weizmann Institute of Science	Member

## Subgroups

No Subgroups assigned to this group.

## Statistics

### Number of Members: 16

Individual expert appointed in his/her personal capacity:	16	female: 6	male: 10
Individual expert appointed as representative of an interest:	0	female: 0	male: 0
Organisation:	0		
National administrations:	0		

### Number of Alternate Members: 0

Individual expert appointed in his/her personal capacity:	0	female: 0	male: 0
Individual expert appointed as representative of an interest:	0	female: 0	male: 0
Organisation:	0		
National administrations:	0		

### Number of Observers: 0

Individual expert appointed in his/her personal capacity:	0	female: 0	male: 0
Individual expert appointed as representative of an interest:	0	female: 0	male: 0
Organisation:	0		
National administrations:	0		