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
Demand for independent high level scientific advice

High Level Group

Operational support (within DG RTD)

European/National Academies & Learned Societies

Wider Scientific Community

Existing specialist advisory bodies

Supply of high level, independent scientific advice

Research Council

President & College

Commission services*

Other stakeholders

* 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)

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<td>Announcement of the new Scientific Advice Mechanism</td>
<td>Set up of the identification committee (who will propose names for the High Level group)</td>
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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