



Science Policy after the European Elections

Dear Reader,

As winter inches closer, I am very pleased to introduce our last newsletter of 2014.

Since our last issue, the arena of science policy on the European level has experienced quite a few changes and welcomed many new faces. In July, the Italian Presidency took the helm of the Council of the European Union, while the European Parliament committees ITRE and CULT received new chairs and new members. And on 1 November, the

new Commission under President Jean-Claude Juncker began its five-year term – without, as was recently confirmed, the expert voice of a chief scientific adviser. President Juncker's removal of not only the CSA but also the Bureau of European Policy Advisers under which the CSA post was subsumed has been met with growing anxiety as to the future of evidence-based independent science policy advice on the European level.

Thus, with this newsletter's focus topic, we hope to give our readers an overview of the current developments and trends in the arena of European science policy. We are pleased to present an interview with Professor Jerzy Buzek, Chair of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee at the European Parliament. Our interview with Professor Buzek will, I hope, offer our readers an illuminating glimpse into the current science policy climate in Brussels and Strasbourg. Moreover, beyond our presentation of the debate regarding the CSA and BEPA, in our [focus article](#) we break down the most important tendencies driving the Commission's approach to science policy.

While this issue's focus is meant to offer insight into the complex political structures that make science policy decisions in Europe, it also dovetails with the theme of the next ALLEA General Assembly, which will take place in April 2015 in Lisbon. 15 years after the "Lisbon Strategy" set out the goals for two decades of European science and research, we will return to its original agenda and examine the strategy's aims, what has been accomplished since 2000, and what still needs to be done. In this context, I

would also like to introduce a new section of this newsletter in which we will feature the rich and multifaceted profiles of our member academies. In our first portrait, I hope you enjoy getting to know the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon before they generously open their beautiful halls to the next General Assembly.

Last but far from least, I am very pleased to report the continued active engagement of our ALLEA Working Groups. To highlight just a few of their recent activities, the Working Group Science Education has released the complete "Academia-Industry Alliance: Joint Efforts in Science Education" report and will soon publish the AEMASE Conference Report, which details the proceedings of the May 2014 African-European-Mediterranean Academies for Science Education conference in Rome and will be produced as a printed booklet. Meanwhile, the Permanent Working Groups Science and Ethics and Intellectual Property Rights met to discuss possible future cooperation on cross-cutting issues of relevance for both expert groups. I thank our Working Group members for their dedicated and excellent work and look forward to their future collaborations on behalf of science and research.

I wish you enjoyable reading and a healthy and happy transition into the next year.

Kindly yours,

Günter Stock

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ALLEA Board Meeting in Berlin

For its second meeting of 2014, the Board convened at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities last summer



The ALLEA Board met in Berlin at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities on 9 July 2014, to discuss recent, current, and future ALLEA activities as well as administrative and budgetary matters. Special attention was given to outcomes of the ALLEA General Assembly 2014, which took place on 24/25 April in Oslo, on the premises of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.



The Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities at the Berlin Gendarmenmarkt square. Photo by Angelika Fischer

An activity report from the Presidency encompassed ALLEA President Günter Stock's visit to the British Academy Dinner in London honouring Anne Glover, the Chief Scientific Advisor to the President of the European Commission. Other topics included the release of the publication on the "Facing the Future" conference on European SSH research infrastructures and various proposals regarding how to bring further attention to SSH research on Europe as well as the broader contributions science and research can make to EU development. Further matters of discussion involved updates from the respective ALLEA Working Groups, the programme planning for the next GA to be held at the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon in Spring 2015, as well as the next award ceremony for the All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values.

Moreover, the Board decided to endorse the [statement](#) "Protecting health and scientific research in the Data Protection Regulation" (drafted by Wellcome Trust), which had already been endorsed by numerous Member Academies and by EASAC. A second [statement](#) published by eight Member Academies would also be supported by ALLEA: "Mastering Demographic Change in Europe". Both statements and additional information are available on the ALLEA website and were further disseminated among the respective channels.

Rounding out the meeting were reports on various avenues of international cooperation, including the last meeting of the Presidents of ALLEA, Academia Europaea, and EASAC in May 2014 in Riga, where a potential dialogue forum with the European Commission was discussed.

The Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) is a learned society with a three-hundred-year-old tradition of uniting outstanding scholars and scientists across national and disciplinary boundaries. 78 Nobel Prize winners have shaped its history. It preserves and reveals the Berlin-Brandenburg region's cultural heritage while also pursuing research and offering advice on issues that are crucial for the future of society. Furthermore, it provides a forum for dialogue between scholarship and public. The Academy premises are also the current home of the ALLEA secretariat office.

Read more about the BBAW [here](#).

ALLEA Board Meeting in Sofia

The Board met in September for its third meeting of 2014

The ALLEA Board met in Sofia on the premises of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) from 16-17 September. At its third meeting of 2014, the Board discussed, inter alia, recent, current, and future ALLEA activities as well as on-going and planned future initiatives and projects by ALLEA's five working groups. The meeting was facilitated by Professor Nikolay Miloshev, who is Vice President of the BAS and has represented his Academy in the ALLEA Board since 2013.



The ALLEA Board in front of the BAS

The programme opened with a session with Academy President Stefan Vodenicharov, who offered an overview of the many significant activities and services performed by the BAS. He underlined the importance of a reform process that the BAS-led research system underwent after the comprehensive scientific evaluation conducted by ALLEA and ESF in 2009 of the then 69 institutes, centres, laboratories, and other relevant facilities of the BAS.

The ALLEA President pointed to the prominent role of the BAS in the Bulgarian science system as a whole and in the further strengthening of excellent research in the country against standards of international scientific competitiveness in particular. He also expressed his gratitude to President

Vodenicharov for the close cooperation and long-standing engagement of the BAS in ALLEA activities.

Further to the reporting session on its recent activities, the ALLEA Board discussed the current personnel changes in Brussels as a result of the new composition of the European Commission under President-elect Jean-Claude Juncker and noted in particular the nomination of Commissioner-designate Carlos Moedas for the position of Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, which is of special interest to ALLEA and its science policy work. In reiterating ALLEA's role as the voice of academies towards the European political institutions, the Board agreed on the necessity of sustaining the dialogue which was well-established with outgoing Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn throughout the new term of Mr Moedas.

The Board proceeded to devote a substantial portion of the meeting agenda to the planning of the General Assembly to be held at the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon in April 2015 as well as the next award ceremony for the [All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural](#)

[Values](#). Updates were also provided regarding international partnerships with other academy networks and pan-European stakeholders as well as on the [Survey and Synergy Analysis of SSH Research](#) (SASSH) project, a joint undertaking by ALLEA and the Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities. The meeting was accompanied by a number of supplementary events, including a visit to the BAS-run archeological museum of Sofia.

The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences is the largest national centre for scientific research and the premiere research-performing organisation in Bulgaria. The BAS encompasses 42 autonomous research units (institutes) in 9 divisions which perform both fundamental and applied research in practically all fields of knowledge. It is accredited to tutor doctoral students in the areas of research conducted by the BAS institutes. The BAS generates 60% of Bulgaria's internationally-recognised scientific output, such as publications in international scientific journals, projects, and patents. Read more about the BAS [here](#).



ALLEA President Günter Stock (left) with BAS President Stefan Vodenicharov



БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ

BAS Logo

More ALLEA News

Report Release

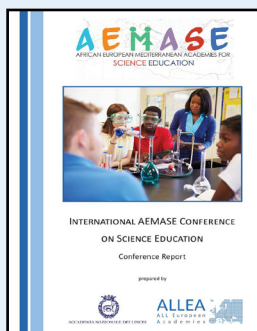
"Academia-Industry Alliance: Joint Efforts in Science Education"



Featuring contributions by Working Group Science Education members, the report details last year's "Royal Irish Academy

(RIA)-ALLEA Joint Efforts in Science Education Forum" and provides a comprehensive look at the current challenges of adapting European school curricula to inquiry-based teaching methods and building an academia-industry alliance to further the progress of science education in Europe. Please click on the cover to download.

Soon to be released:



The proceedings of the AEMASE Rome Conference on Science Education featuring texts by participants from over 22 countries will be released in December both in digital form and as a print booklet and will be disseminated internationally across 6 continents.

Wellcome Trust Statement on Data Protection Regulation

The statement "Protecting health and scientific research in the Data Protection Regulation" was prepared by the Wellcome Trust, the international charitable foundation dedicated to funding biomedical research and supporting the medical humanities. Drafted in 2012, the Data Protection Regulation would take direct effect in all EU Member States. The European Parliament and Council are currently discussing and amending the Regulation, which could be adopted next year.

While the original draft of the Regulation laid out a plan for protecting privacy without impeding research progress, the amendments would severely confine the types of patient data that can be used in scientific re-

search by requiring specific consent in nearly every case. The heavily restricted use of personal data such as individual patient records would remove a critical resource from research for the benefit of society. This statement emphasises the strict confidentiality controls already in place in both national and international law for researchers working with personal data.

Along with over 100 other signatories including numerous Member Academies as well as EASAC, ALLEA recommends the original draft Regulation that provides for a proportionate mechanism to protect privacy without hindering meaningful scientific research. The statement can be accessed [here](#).

Joint Statement "Mastering Demographic Change in Europe"

ALLEA supports the joint statement "Mastering Demographic Change in Europe" published by 8 European Academies of Science to address the policy challenges driven by significant demographic developments in Europe. The statement offers research-based recommendations to encourage well-informed European Union policymaking grounded in an understanding of the causes and outcomes of demographic change.

As Europe's population ages and lives longer lives, its fertility rate is falling. Changing immigration dynamics combined with global changes such as climate change, natural resource shortages, and social challenges, require careful policy planning in order to ensure a high quality of life for future generations.

The statement calls for a systematic, life-course approach towards developing policies that allow for more flexible movement between the spheres of education, career, and family. It emphasises that European citizens need the support of both EU and national policymakers for the successful management of longer working and post-retirement lives, the maintenance of productivity and quality of life levels beyond economic employment, and sustainable consumption.



Please click on the cover to download.

The new European Commission under Jean-Claude Juncker: Developments and Trends in Science Policy

With a new European Commission in Brussels, this newsletter issue will take a look at the current trends in the political structures of the European Union concerning its science policy system. Who are the people or bodies in positions of influence on the side of the EU institutions? What are the current trends in the context of science policy? The following article will offer an overview of the most important players and tendencies driving the politics of science and research on the European level.

The new Commission under President Jean-Claude Juncker is arranged differently than the previous Commission; however, the changes show that economic growth remains the key phrase for policymakers. The President has organised his College into flexible “project teams” led by Vice Presidents with the aim to promote horizontal working structures that are dynamic and involve Commissioners in collaborative projects. These teams will focus on the main “Political Guidelines” of the new Commission, which include areas such as “Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness” and “Digital Single Market”. The individual Commissioners who participate in each project team are variable according to the task at hand.



New European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker follows President José Manuel Barroso.

In this structure of the Commission, the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, reports to the Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness. This is a clear sign that, in the new Commission, science and research should function primarily as drivers of economic growth. This subordination could signify two trends: an increase of the influence of industry on science policy and a continued focus on applied research at the expense of basic research. In a similar way, the social sciences and humanities (SSH) will most likely continue to be of lower priority than those disciplines that have direct and visible ties to the industry and innovation sectors. While reports such as the Horizon 2020 Advisory Group on Societal Challenge 6’s “[Resilient Europe](#)” – in line with the continuous efforts of ALLEA and other stakeholders – argue for the necessity of SSH in order to understand major challenges facing European socie-

ty today, due to the current difficult economic climate in Europe policymakers are under pressure to find ways to accelerate economic growth. Consequently, those research areas that have clearly traceable and visible roles in innovation remain in a much better position when it comes to receiving EU funding.

In fact, Moedas was questioned at his [parliamentary hearing](#) as to the limited EU budget allocated to SSH research. He responded that SSH are “crucial” for the future and “will also have a role” in the Horizon 2020 funding programme. However, his answer was not explicitly optimistic: “There is definitely a line in the budget but there is also the whole implication that social sciences should have, and of course the programme is what we have. The programme is what we will have to implement”. In his [letter](#) to Moedas, Juncker asks that the Commissioner “focus more on applied research...with a view to



The Berlaymont headquarters of the European Commission



Tibor Navracsics, new Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport



Carlos Moedas, new Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation



Günther Oettinger, new Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society

reinforcing our industrial leadership and our capacity to address societal challenges". This request echoes Juncker's letter to the new Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor Navracsics (successor to Androulla Vassiliou), which asks him to contribute to the "knowledge triangle" of education, business and research.

Another relevant Commissioner for the research community is Günther Oettinger, former Vice President in charge of Energy under José Manuel Barroso and new Commission-

er for Digital Economy and Society. As he recently announced, among Oettinger's primary objectives is to adapt intellectual property for the digital age. This and other relevant topics, such as grace periods, open access, and digital archiving, have been extensively discussed in a regular dialogue between ALLEA and Oettinger's predecessor, former EC Vice President Neelie Kroes.

In a further modification to the Commission structure, Juncker has moved the [Joint Research Centre](#) (JRC) currently directed by Vladimír Šucha to the responsibility of Navracsics. Previously, the Commission's in-house science service reported to Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, predecessor to Moedas, representing a shift from the domain of research to that of education. Moedas, however, will still be responsible for the [Directorate-General for Research and Innovation](#) (DG R&I) under Director-General Robert-Jan Smits. With its slogan "policy for science", the DG R&I focusses on developing policy measures in order to support the aims of the Europe 2020 and Innovation Union strategic plans for European

growth. DG R&I is the Commission's driving force behind the 72 billion euro framework programme "Horizon 2020" and responsible for its implementation. The DG also organises the extensive advisory process that accompanies the programme and coordinates stakeholder communications between the Commission and the European academic community, including ALLEA.

Overall, the European institutions' paramount goal in the context of science and research is to successfully finalise the European Research



Moedas' predecessor Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, under whose term the ERA was scheduled to be finalised



The EU Framework Programmes under Horizon 2020 are specifically designed to use research funding as a way to help develop the ERA



Logo of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Area (ERA) as initiated by the “Lisbon Strategy” of 2000. The ERA is like a common market for research and is meant to combine Europe’s scientific resources as well as support multinational scientific collaboration. The EU Framework Programmes under Horizon 2020 are specifically designed to use research funding as a way to help develop the ERA. In 2011, the ERA was scheduled to be completed by 2014, although it has since been acknowledged that the ERA is actually an ongoing process.

Since 85% of publicly funded research in Europe is at the national level, one of the most important actions needed to solidify the ERA is for member states to provide their own adequate national research funding, according to the [ERA Progress Report 2014](#). This makes the Council of the European Union, the institution

that represents the governments of the 28 member states, an important player in the formation of the ERA. Although the Lisbon Strategy set out the target for each state to invest 3% of its gross domestic product (GDP) in research spending, [Times Higher Education](#) [reported](#) in March 2014 that the national average for research and innovation spending of all member states stood at only 2.06%. The current Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (until the end of 2014) acknowledged in its [programme](#) the importance of establishing the ERA despite the difficult economic circumstances faced by many states. While the Italian Presidency has helped draw attention to SSH with its cultural heritage efforts, for example, the Council lacks the willingness to explicitly prioritise science and research on its agenda and still needs to find a way to spur

increased national spending for the ERA to be successful, especially in states that have been hit hard by the international economic crisis.

The future of science and research in Europe is, for better or worse, closely related to how policymakers approach science funding in the context of economic growth. Although research that is visibly connected to innovation retains the upper hand, it is imperative that policymakers are reminded of the importance of basic research and SSH and thus acknowledge the full innovation chain: “Marketable research products are the low-hanging fruit of an intricate research tree, undermining basic research will slowly kill the roots,” [writes](#) astrophysicist Amaya Moro-Martin, member of the governing board of Euroscience.

However, even the applied and hard sciences are at risk. EU research funding in general is currently threatened by massive budget cuts of up to one billion euros, which Christian Ehler, member of the European Parliament Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) Committee chaired by MEP Jerzy Buzek, [has condemned](#) as “completely unacceptable” (note: the article was published in German).

With the new Commission having taken office as of 1 November, academia needs to swiftly establish and maintain an active dialogue with the new policymakers. For science, research and innovation to truly help the growth of the European economy and promote a stable and prosperous society, the voices of the researchers themselves need to be heard, and ALLEA will continue its efforts to make this possible.



In regard to President Juncker’s strong focus on industry, a dialogue between the science and research community and the new Commission is essential in order to ensure that the basic research and SSH sectors are not diminished.

Interview: MEP and ITRE Chair Professor Jerzy Buzek

“A healthy research system needs a symbiosis of science-driven and industry-driven research”

Last summer, Polish MEP Professor Jerzy Buzek assumed the chairmanship of the Committee for Industry, Research and Energy at the European Parliament. Mr. Buzek kindly agreed to answer ALLEA's questions regarding science policy in Europe, particularly in light of the new European Commission under President Juncker and other recent developments.

ALLEA: *What key demands regarding research and innovation do the European Parliament and especially ITRE have for the new Commission, particularly for the new Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation?*

Prof. Buzek: In ITRE, top-quality research and innovation are crucial for all the fields of our interest, be it reindustrialisation, strengthening the SME sector, implementing the digital agenda or exploiting the full potential of the common energy policy. The key to success lies in good coordination and in building synergies among policy areas as well as among resources, funding schemes and stakeholders. I hope that the new Commission, thanks to its new structure, will make such synergies much easier to achieve.

We expect the Commission to work on the completion of the European Research Area. We expect actions aimed at strengthened knowledge transfer between scientists, industry and business. We look forward to new initiatives undertaken by the EC with regard to the Innovation Union and particularly to Horizon 2020 whose potential as the world's largest RDI programme is enormous. The functioning of the programme requires some simplification and also its funding shortcomings should be addressed. We further expect that

the Commission will promote full use of new funding schemes, particularly those addressed to SMEs.

ALLEA: *What actions are most needed in order to bring the European Research Area closer to completion, and how can the EU better support science and research apart from funding?*

Prof. Buzek: Free circulation of researchers, knowledge and technology is a great concept, and we have already made a lot of effort to make it a reality. However, big challenges still lie ahead, with fragmentation of national policies and insufficient openness of the labour market for researchers being probably the most prominent ones.

Our research agendas must be better coordinated on the EU level. As much as 85 per cent of European publicly-funded research is still undertaken exclusively at national level, without transnational collaboration. We should do our best to change these proportions, exploiting all possibilities and instruments such as joint programming initiatives and public-private partnerships. We must further open the labour market for researchers and enhance their mobility – for instance by increasing the compatibility of grant schemes and pension systems. It is a worrying sign that over ten per cent of researchers risk losing their pension entitlements when moving to another country.

On top of that, we should better connect our excellent science base with industrial innovation. Too many patents created in the EU are being implemented abroad, thus increasing the prosperity of other countries.

Professor Jerzy Buzek



Jerzy Buzek is a Polish politician, former Prime Minister of Poland and former President of the European Parliament. MEP since 2004, he is currently chairing the EP's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and the Conference of Committee Chairs. He is initiator of the European Energy Community, and former rapporteur for 7th Research Framework Programme, SET Plan and EU Internal Energy Market.

Visit his Parliament website [here](#).

We must cut this vicious circle with the use of Horizon 2020 and other available tools.

ALLEA: *In Horizon 2020, how can ITRE help maintain a healthy balance between support for basic research and applied research? How can the social sciences and humanities best be integrated in Horizon 2020 and where*

do you see key contributions of these disciplines to the European research agenda?

Prof. Buzek: A healthy research system needs a symbiosis of science-driven and industry-driven research. Although more and more of the results of basic research find application in the economy and can be very useful in the long run, it is not the industrial or commercial applicability that determines the value of this type of research. Its main role is in the development of human knowledge and in attracting the best academics – both Europeans and foreigners – to work in the European Union.



As concerns social and economic sciences and humanities, they have been granted particular attention in the very regulation on Horizon 2020. It requires that these disciplines be fully integrated into each of Horizon's priorities and, in relation to societal challenges, mainstreamed as an essential element of the activities. Moreover, one of the established societal challenges, 'Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective societies', will specifically focus on social sciences and humanities.

Only a well-balanced system will yield economic growth, create high-quality jobs and revenues both for research institutions and for the society. The ITRE Committee will certainly continue to observe the balance between basic and applied research during the implementation of Horizon 2020. If necessary, we will propose appropriate changes in the midterm review.

ALLEA: *What is your view regarding the effectiveness of the current evidence-based science policy advice system in the EU decision-making process? Where do you see opportunities for improving this system?*

Prof. Buzek: The debate on how to improve the use of scientific evidence in EU's policymaking interests me greatly – as a politician with an academic background who was the rapporteur for the 7th Framework Programme and who has the pleasure of leading a committee with probably the biggest science-policy interconnection. Using the help of respected scientists who represent science academies and other institutions has indeed been “daily bread” to ITRE members.

The need for better coordination of scientific advice is apparent, and has been recognised in the EU institutions. The analytical input provided to the European Parliament is now channelled through the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services which was established exactly a year ago. I am confident that also the European Commission will establish an effective new system of scientific advice in addition to its standard impact assessment procedure.

I am glad to see that not only EU institutions' members and staff are increasingly enthusiastic about

receiving high-quality advice. Our partners in science also express their satisfaction from the fact that the fruits of their research contribute to improving the welfare of Europeans through better policy. This mutual understanding is a precondition for solving the economic, social and political challenges which we are facing. They have become increasingly complex and can only be solved with an interdisciplinary approach that acknowledges that the worlds of science and policy no longer exist in isolation.

The written responses of Professor Buzek were received on 27 November 2014.

Juncker abolishes the CSA and BEPA

Uncertain future for evidence-based science policy advice at the European Union as both Prof. Anne Glover's post and the BEPA advisory body are removed

On 12 November, the Rosetta mission dominated the European press with its amazing accomplishments, capturing the rapt attention of both scientists and laymen alike. On the same day, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker officially scrapped both the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) role and the Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA) under which the CSA fell. The news was confirmed by Professor Anne Glover, who has occupied the CSA post since 2012.

The Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA) assisted the President, the Commissioners and the Directorates General with advice gleaned from communication between the Commission and external bodies, such as think tanks and academia. According to its mandate by former Commission President José Manuel Barroso, the CSA was to provide independent expert advice to the President regarding any science, technology and innovation issue.

Furthermore, the CSA was expected to offer analysis and judgment on major policy proposals in the aforementioned fields and to act as a communicator between the Commission and internal and external scientific groups. As Nature writes, the CSA can also prove indispensable when handling crises, being "key to bringing together relevant experts and disseminating the information clearly and accurately" (28 August 2014, page 347). A further duty of the CSA was to chair the President's Science and Technology Advisory Council (PSTAC), an informal advisory group who produced comprehensive reports such as "The Future of Europe is Science".

On 4 July, a joint letter signed by the respective Presidents of ALLEA, Academia Europaea, EASAC, Euro-CASE,

and FEAM was sent to President-designate Juncker stating that "the role of a CSA to the President of the European Commission is an indispensable element in all efforts of improving how outstanding European science and scholarship informs the EU's process of formulating policies for Europe" and strongly recommending that Juncker retain the CSA position. Later in July and again in August, a group of nine NGOs wrote to Juncker urging him to scrap the CSA position with the main argument that the CSA wields too much power for one person and lacks transparency.

It is widely understood that the impetus for these letters was Professor Glover's frank assessment of the scientific evidence regarding genetically modified crops. In response, a counter-letter initiated by Sense About Science and signed by 40 organisations and over 700 individuals, including the ALLEA President, sought to convince Juncker to maintain the CSA, writing: "For European citizens to have confidence in the way our institutions evaluate and develop policy, they need to be assured that there is access to independent scientific advice at the highest level and that this independence is not compromised".

The reaction of the scientific community to this news has been swift and overwhelmingly opposed to Juncker's decision. Within a day, numerous respected individuals in the research community voiced their disappointment and in some cases their fury at the elimination of two of the most important sources of evidence-based science policy advice in Brussels. The loss of the CSA, say many researchers and scientists, is a backward step for Europe. According to Sense About Science, "the most senior figures in European regulation and law making

Anne Glover



Anne Glover CBE FRSE FASM is Professor of Molecular Biology and Cell Biology at the University of Aberdeen. She also holds honorary positions at the Macaulay and Rowett Institutes as well as the University of New South Wales, Sydney. She was Chief Scientific Advisor to Scotland from 2006 to 2011.

Glover is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Institute of Biology, the Royal Society of Arts, and the American Society for Microbiology. She has been awarded a CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to environmental science.

She joined the Barroso Commission as the European Union's first Chief Scientific Adviser in January 2012.

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Press Links (EN)

- » [The Guardian](#)
“Juncker axes Europe’s chief scientific adviser”
- » [Science Media Centre UK](#)
“expert reaction to news about abolition of post of CSA to European Commission”
- » [The Conversation](#)
“Why Europe needs a chief scientific advisor”
- » [Research Europe](#)
“Commission bids Glover a silent farewell”
- » [The Independent](#)
“Researchers attack Brussels for ousting top scientific adviser Professor Anne Glover”
- » [The New Yorker](#)
“European Science’s Great Leap Backward”
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“Juncker scraps chief scientific adviser post”
- » [Science](#)
“Science adviser role in the new European Commission in limbo”
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“European Commission scraps chief scientific adviser post”
- » [Euractiv](#)
“Juncker still mulling scientific advice role after Glover’s position axed”

no longer have a line to the evidence base of the European research community”.

At a meeting of the European Parliament’s Committee for Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) on 17 November, MEPs asked Robert-Jan Smits, the Commission’s director-general for research and innovation, about Juncker’s plans to replace the CSA, to which Smits answered that Glover’s mandate ended with the Barroso Commission and that deliberations regarding the CSA position are still in progress ([Research Professional](#) (subscription service)).

For now, Juncker is replacing BEPA with the European Political Strategy Centre, which does not include a CSA

or similar post. According to Commission spokespeople, Juncker “believes in independent scientific advice”, but has not yet decided how to “institutionalise” the function. Based on his [mission letter](#) to Carlos Moedas, then Commissioner-designate for Science, Research and Innovation, which underlined the need to “make sure that Commission proposals and activities are based on sound scientific evidence”, it can only be hoped that Juncker will show the scientific community that he is truly committed to making sure expert and independent scientific advice will continue to play a role in European science policy.



The website of the Chief Scientific Adviser has now been archived, signifying the end of the three-year-old position.

The Academy of Sciences of Lisbon

Academia das Ciências de Lisboa

ALLEA is very pleased to announce the venue for the next General Assembly in April 2015. The esteemed Academia das Ciências de Lisboa has graciously offered its premises for hosting the event. Since the General Assembly is still a few months away, now is an excellent opportunity to get to know the Academy in Lisbon a little better as we look forward to April.

The [Academy of Sciences of Lisbon](#) (ACL) was created on the 24th of December, 1779, by Queen D. Maria I. The first President was the Duke of Lafões with Correia da Serra as Secretary, who guided their actions with the following motto: “Nisi utile est quod facimus, stulta est Gloria” (“Unless what we do is useful, our fame is vain”). Among its contributions to the intellectual development of Portugal are the Council of Public Health and the Geological Services of Portugal, both of which were born from the Academy’s respective initiatives Instituto Vacínico and the Geological Commission, as well as the Faculty of Letters of Lisbon, which traces its roots to the Academy-organised higher Course of Arts that was founded under the auspices of King Pedro V. Since 1838, the Academy has been located at the monastery of Nossa Senhora de Jesus de Lisboa, which dates from the 16th century and is now classified as national heritage site.

MISSION

The Academy seeks to contribute towards building a society of knowledge, while also aiming at increasing the Portuguese participation in a global world of knowledge. It functions as an adviser of the Portuguese government in issues concerning linguistics, in conjunction with the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and with the



“Salão Nobre”
Photo by Paulo Bastos

worldwide and European academies, including those in Portuguese-speaking countries (PALOPs) and the foreign Portuguese Centres. Furthermore, the Academy works to promote the preservation of its heritage as a main function of its Museum and Library.

Throughout the year, the Academy is actively engaged in national and international scientific meetings, conferences, and seminars, preparing and disseminating scientific publications, and awarding scientific prizes, among other activities.

The ACL membership is comprised of two classes: Sciences and Humanities. Both the Portuguese members of the ACL and the foreign members meet every Thursday to present scientific communications in their specific field. These sessions are open to the interested public.

VISION

ACL aims to contribute to the development of science and culture in Portugal. To this end, ACL has an Institute of High Studies, aimed at opening its academic initiatives to society in general by inviting high standard speakers, outside of the Academy, to present their work at conferences and participate in seminars.

Within the framework of the Institute of High Studies, ACL oversees the Institute for Elder – Adriano Moreira, in which throughout the year (October - June) conferences on scientific and cultural matters are organised, with free admission for participants.

Furthermore, the ACL promotes the interaction with young scientists under the frame of the Young Scientists Seminar (election of top scientists aged 25 to 40) with the main goal of promoting the exchange of knowledge in a transparent way.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Institute for Elders Adriano Moreira

The Institute for Elders Adriano Moreira was created in 2010 in the framework of the High Studies Institute (HSI) of the Academy of Sciences to give people over 55 years old the opportunity to continue learning throughout their lives, contributing to a reduction of the widespread attitude that “elder” is a synonym for retirement and the end of an active life. The past inequalities regarding access to knowledge after the age of 55 generates a considerable impact and inequities between generations. Urgent changes are needed in order for access to knowledge to be universal, regardless of age or social



"Sala das Sessões"
Photo by Paulo Bastos

conditions. Being conscious of these problems, the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon founded the Institute for Elders, aiming at creating opportunities for those who want to continue learning throughout the later years in life by initiating a year-round programme which includes conferences on subjects of interest at national and international level as well as cultural activities, as an effort towards reducing segregation among generations, increasing knowledge, and improving human welfare.

Seminar of Young Scientists (SYC)

The SYC was created in 2010 in the framework of HSI with the goal of bringing young scientists with relevant scientific work and international recognition to the Academy to promote the interaction and understanding amongst all scientific domains, from natural sciences to humanities, as a way to encourage awareness of the need to face the challenges of globalisation while at the same time preserving a common heritage and identity.

At the end of the seminar, the Academy of Sciences evaluates the developments and activities of SYC members and if the evaluation is successful, the scientist can be proposed as a fellow of the ACL.



"Aula Maynense"
Photo by Paulo Bastos



Academy of Sciences of Lisbon Logo

Permanent Working Group Science & Ethics

PWGSE meets at Royal Academy of Sciences and Arts of Barcelona and visits the “la Caixa” foundation’s science museum

The ALLEA Permanent Working Group on Science & Ethics (PWGSE) met in Barcelona on 17 October 2014. On the day prior to the meeting, members of the PWGSE listened to a presentation by la Fundación Bancaria “la Caixa”’s scientific director about the foundation’s activities in the field of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), followed by a visit to the CosmoCaixa museum and a festive dinner with the President of the Royal Academy of Sciences and Arts of Barcelona (RACAB). The meeting took place on the premises of RACAB in the city centre of Barcelona.

RRI, or Responsible Research and Innovation, is becoming an increasingly relevant and pressing topic for the scientific community in Europe. This was one of the key messages that Enric Banda Tarradellas, the scientific director of the “la Caixa” foundation, relayed to members of the ALLEA PWGSE during his presentation of the “RRI tools” project (funded in the EU Framework Programme 7) in the CosmoCaixa museum in Barcelona. He described RRI as “a dynamic, iterative process by which all stakeholders involved in the research and innovation practice (researchers, policy makers, industry, civil society organisations, educators) become mutually responsive to each other and share the responsibility regarding the RRI outcomes

and processes”. The presentation was followed by a guided tour of the CosmoCaixa, one of the major science museums in Spain, which covers a broad range of scientific findings and methods in its interactive exhibits. The evening closed with a festive dinner on the invitation of la Caixa and in the presence of RACAB President Ramon Pascual.

The ALLEA Working Group itself is currently involved in an application for funding within the Horizon 2020 programme for a thematically related project on the implementation of RRI in science curricula. The application is projected to be evaluated by spring 2015. Consequently, RRI was among the issues that the PWGSE addressed in its meeting on the premises of RACAB on the following day. Further topics of discussion included the follow-up to the recently published statement “[Ethics Education in](#)

[Science](#)”, deliberations on the problem of private sponsoring of science, and ethical aspects of Open Access in the contexts of scientific publications and research data sets. The latter was scheduled to be one of the main topics in a joint meeting of the PWGSE with ALLEA’s Permanent Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights in Munich on 24 November 2014.

The Programme of the PWGSE visit to Barcelona also included a lunch with the Presidency of the [Institute for Catalan Studies](#) (IES) which – alongside RACAB – was elected to membership in ALLEA at the General Assembly 2014 in Oslo in April. IEC President Joandomènec Ros underlined the Institute’s interest in the ALLEA PWGSE’s field of work and presented the facilities of the Institute to its members, highlighting the Institute-run library for scientific publications in Catalan language.

In closing the meeting, the PWGSE looked forward to the joint discussions with ALLEA’s experts on Intellectual Property Rights in Munich and to its next session in March 2015.



Members of the ALLEA PWGSE



RACAB President Ramon Pascual and Working Group Chair Göran Hermerén



The Royal Academy of Sciences and Arts of Barcelona

The **next issue** of the ALLEA newsletter will be published in early 2015 and will focus on the role and relevance of Science Education for modern societies.

ALLEA General Assembly 2015 | The Academy of Sciences of Lisbon 23-24 April 2015 | Lisbon | Portugal

The topic of next year's General Assembly will be **Science and Research in Europe – past, present and future: 15 years of Lisbon agenda**. Further to the scientific symposium, the **ALLEA Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values** will be awarded for the second time to an outstanding scholar.

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IMPRINT

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Publication Date: 28 November 2014

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Pictures by ALLEA, Angelika Fischer,
European Commission, European
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