



Building Europe A Duty for Academia in Europe

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Dear Reader,

It is all too often a dire sight when we open newspapers across Europe at the moment. Wherever we turn, we see disunity and conflict among European nations and our common dream of a unified Europe seems more under threat today than ever since its inception. ALLEA is deeply concerned about these developments and will continue to work towards a Europe united by common values and traditions. As such, I am most pleased to announce the focus topic of this edition of the ALLEA Newsletter: Building Europe. As such, we recently announced the latest edition of the ALLEA book series Discourses on Intellectual Europe, edited by Prof. Albrecht Riethmüller. Furthermore, this edition features an interview with Prof. Rémi Brague, this year's laureate of the ALLEA Mme de Staël Prize for Cultural Values and eminent scholar on medieval European philosophy. I am sure his insights will provide a fertile ground for discussion on current European issues.

This leads me to our next topic. It is now not long until the ALLEA General Assembly 2016, kindly hosted at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna, will take place on 18 and 19 April. The event will kick off with a scientific symposium entitled 'The Freedom of Scientific Research in the Face of Political and Societal Demands'. The symposium will feature a wide variety of scholars from around Europe and will surely encourage a lot

of thought and discussion during and after the day. The first day will then culminate in the Award Ceremony for aforementioned Prof. Rémi Brague. We are very proud to have Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations hand over the Prize. To give you a little preview of what's to expect, we have included an academy portrait of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in this issue.

Lastly, we want to give you an update on what's been happening with the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism. As I am sure you are well aware, ALLEA is involved, as part of a consortium of European Academy Networks, in the development of a Horizon 2020 grant proposal to provide evidence-based scientific advice to European policy-makers. Said High Level Group met for the first time in January, where they decided to reach out to the Academy Network presidents and meet them in Brussels. You will be able to read all about the latest development in personnel, proposed research topics and the status of the grant in the SAM section of this edition.

I wish you enjoyable reading

Kindly yours,

Günter Stock

ALLEA Board Meetings in Dublin and Bucharest

Board met in December and February at the Royal Irish Academy and at the Romanian Academy

Following the warm welcome by the Presidents of the respective host academies, the members of the Board discussed recent, on-going and future ALLEA activities. During both meetings, a particular focus was put on the big topics of the moment: the ongoing development of ALLEA's involvement in the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) as well as the ongoing preparations for the 2016 ALLEA General Assembly in the premises of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna on 18/19 April.

During the meeting in Dublin, the Royal Irish Academy kindly provided the Board with a guided visit to the academy's library and hosted a reception, where the academy's President Mary E Daly introduced her academy to the Board.

In Bucharest, the President of the Romanian Academy Ionel Valentin Vlad, elaborated to the group the conditions of scientific research in Romania. Additionally, ALLEA President Günter Stock accepted an invitation to attend the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Romanian Academy in April. The meeting was concluded with a tour to the Romanian Academy's library.

The [Royal Irish Academy](#) champions Irish academic research. One of its principal roles is to identify and recognise Ireland's world class researchers. It supports excellent scholarship and promotes awareness of how science and the humanities enrich our lives.

The Academy is an all-island independent forum that brings together the worlds of academia, government and industry, to address issues of mutual interest through major outreach events and legacy projects. Drawing on the expertise of its Members, the Academy makes a significant contribution to public debate and public policy formation on issues in science, technology and culture. The Academy leads important national research projects, particularly in areas relating to Ireland and its heritage. In addition, the Academy represents the world of Irish learning internationally, maintains and enhances a unique globally-recognised library and is a leading academic publisher.



The [Romanian Academy](#) (Academia Română) was founded in April 1866 as the Romanian Literary Society. The following year it began its activities, but was now called the Romanian Academic Society. In 2016, the Academy will celebrate its 150th anniversary on 4 April. On behalf of ALLEA and its member academies, ALLEA President Günter Stock will address the audience during the festivities. In 1879, by means of special legislation, it was promulgated as a national institution with the current name of Academia

Română – the Romanian Academy. From the very beginning the newly founded institution was a national, encyclopedic and active society. It was:

- National, because it was representative of the culture of not only the territory of what was then Romania, but also those territories under foreign domination by the Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, and Russian Empires. Hence, the 21 founding members were scholars and literati, not only from Wallachia and Moldavia, but also from Transylvania, Banat, Bukovine, Bessarabia (today the Republic of Moldova) and the Balkan Peninsula.

- Encyclopedic, since its preoccupations embraced all domains of the arts, letters, and sciences.

- An active society, because the Romanian Academy was conceived by its founders as a forum of national recognition, but at the same time as an active centre of scientific research and literary and artistic creation.



ALLEA President visits Academy of Sciences of Moldova

Professor Guenter Stock receives honorary doctorate and delivers laureate speech on the role of science in shaping our future.

On 19 January 2016, ALLEA President Guenter Stock visited the [Academy of Sciences of Moldova](#) on the kind invitation of academy president Academician Gheorghe Duca in Chisinau. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by the academy for his substantial contribution to the promotion of scientific excellence and academic cooperation.

In his laureate speech Guenter Stock expressed deep gratitude and pride to receive this prestigious award. He reaffirmed ALLEA's inclusive outlook on Europe, transcending the political boundaries of the EU and highlighted the importance of scientific autonomy and independence from political, ideological and commercial interference. Especially with a

view towards the European Commission's new Scientific Advice Mechanism and the role of the academies therein, the autonomy of the science community is now more important than ever in order to provide meaningful, unbiased and evidence-based policy advice. He reiterated the unique ability and responsibility of the scientific community "to spot problems earlier than the general public and politicians" and hence derived the duty to "make our fellow citizens, our politicians aware of what the future holds and how positive solutions could be found".

A video recording of the speech can be found on the website of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova [here](#) and to view the picture gallery please click [here](#).

In addition to his laureate speech at



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the academy, Professor Stock signed the Book of Honorable Guests at the Museum of the academy, and inter alia met with esteemed representatives of the Moldovan scientific and medical community. Professor Stock highly commended a draft concept published by the academy towards ensuring the proper conditions for the improvement of research performance and the creation of premises to attract talented youth in research. In his position as ALLEA President he reaffirmed his offer to support and assist where possible in achieving these laudable goals.

The Academy of Sciences of Moldova (A.S.M.) is the highest scientific forum of the state, and represents the only public institution of national interest in science and innovation sphere, it is a plenipotentiary coordinator of scientific and innovation activity. Also, it is a scientific consultant of the public authorities in the Republic of Moldova and has a Statute of Autonomy and acts on the basis of self-administration principles.



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Interview: Rémi Brague, Laureate of the 2016 ALLEA Mme de Staël Prize

„What academia as such can and should do is to spread a sober view of things“

ALLEA: *Mr. Brague, first of all congratulations for receiving the 2016 ALL European Academies Mme de Staël Prize, making you the latest in a line of great thinkers on European identity and cultural values. Mr. Brague, please share with us, what does European cultural identity mean to you? Who are we and what unites us?*

Mr. Brague: First of all, I am the one who has to thank you. I am immensely flattered to be put on the same footing as the two ladies before me, not to mention the one after whom the Prize is named. You know that I saddled university chairs in Paris and in Munich, so I have a sweet spot for the French-speaking author of *On Germany* (1810).

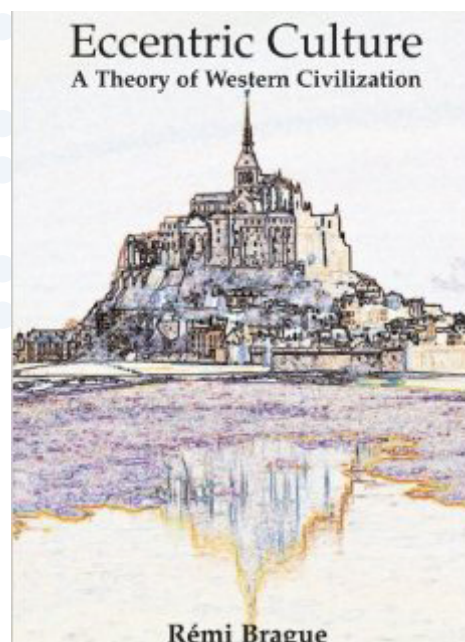
Well, all is said in the very phrase “cultural identity”. European identity is neither grounded in geography, since Europe has no physical boundaries, nor in racial features, or political rule (empire), but on culture alone. And in Europe even the basic element of common culture, i.e. language, is diverse. Yet, we have some sort of focal unity: the Europeans look back towards the same sources, the Bible, Greece, and Rome. Wherever Judaism and Christianity, Greek philosophy, Roman law are relevant and active at the same time and place European features are present.

ALLEA: *Following on from this, from your perspective as a philosopher, do you consider Christian values an essential part of European culture today? Is it even possible to make a distinction between religion and culture?*

Mr. Brague: What I do consider

essential for the survival of European culture is Christianity, not the alleged “Christian values”. All the less that, first, “value” is quite a dubious philosophical notion. Second, a “value” qualified by any adjective as being the value of a definite group of people (“my” values vs. “your” values) becomes suspicious. Third, Christianity is about a person, not about a “message”.

This distinction between religion and culture didn’t make sense for the Ancient World. It was brought about by Christianity. It is the result of Paul’s rejection of the literal meaning of the bulk of the commands of the Torah in favor of a merely allegorical interpretation. The Decalogue could not provide a complete code of



Cover of Rémi Brague’s 2009 book *Eccentric Culture: A Theory of Western Civilization*

conduct such as the Jewish halakhah that was to evolve from the Torah

Rémi Brague

Rémi Brague, born in Paris in 1947, is professor emeritus of Arabic and medieval philosophy at the Sorbonne in Paris and holds the Romano Guardini chair of philosophy (emeritus) at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. Professor Brague’s work provides an invaluable wealth of analysis on the interplay between Judaism, Christianity and Islam as they progressed through history.

or as the later Islamic shariah. Rules of the right and the wrong, criteria of the beautiful and the ugly, and others had to be borrowed from the “Pagan” world: law from the Romans, philosophy and art from the Greeks. To some extent, the idea of a culture that could be judged in its own right, without religious underpinnings, is a Christian invention.

European elites were Christian, but they were taught the classical writers of Pagan Greece and Rome for centuries.

ALLEA: *You are an eminent scholar on medieval Jewish, Christian and Islamic philosophy. Why is it necessary to return to the Middle Ages to understand the cultural problems of today?*

Mr. Brague: Eminent or not, I keep thinking that a better assessment of the Middle Ages could help us, not only towards a better understanding of our present day predicament, but towards some answers. As for the former, the swerve that had Europe

drift away from other cultures took place around the 11th century. As for the latter, let me give you only one example: I think that the medieval view of Nature is right to take a middle course between the technological outlook (nature as a lifeless quarry to be exploited) and the divinisation advocated by some deep ecologists (Gaia as a goddess to which mankind might have to be sacrificed). People like Alain de Lille around 1160, and later on Jean de Meung and Geoffrey Chaucer saw in Nature God's lieutenant, in charge of producing the spectrum of beings and of ruling them according to her own laws, but under the sway of the Creator who wants things to be and stands for the legitimacy of their existence.

As a matter of fact, a return to the Middle Ages, which I have the nerve to hope for, wouldn't mean jettisoning the achievements of modern times, for they are emphatically positive. I simply wish that we should get a clearer consciousness of what made those very achievements possible, i.e. a world-view whose roots are medieval and in line with what the Middle Ages kept and bequeathed to us from the ancient legacy.

ALLEA: *In the past you mentioned that in order to achieve a common positive future for Christians and Muslims, dialogue between the people is needed. How could we facilitate such a dialogue if, as we are witnessing at the moment, both sides are becoming more polarised and thus refuse to engage with the other?*



Brague in Barcelona in 2009

Mr. Brague: I insist that a dialogue can't take place between abstract entities like "religions", but only between people of flesh and blood. This doesn't just require the moral qualities that are so harped upon by our present day preachers, such as "tolerance" and "openness". What we badly need are first and foremost intellectual virtues: seeing things as they are, calling a spade a spade, getting rid of one's schemes of thought in order to learn what the other really thinks.

I am not sure that both sides are polarised in the same way. The phenomenon happens, regrettably, among poorly educated people on both sides. But what about the intellectuals? European Christians have been curious of and interested in Islam since at least Robert the Venerable, who had the Quran translated in the 12th Century. A bevy of the so-called "Orientalists" devoted their lives to the study of Islamic religion and history. I am sorry to have to say that I very seldom meet

Muslims who are simply interested in Christianity, let alone knowledgeable about it. Just compare books on Islam in Christian bookstores and books on Christianity in Islamic bookstores... Christians know that they don't know Islam; many Muslims imagine that they know Christianity, since the Quran tells them they do.

ALLEA: *In your view, what role could or should academia play in light of the challenges and changes that mass migration to Europe is likely to entail?*

Mr. Brague: Academia's proper task, educating people, can only take place with already pre-educated young boys and girls. The ground work of the matter is done in elementary school: teaching the language; then high school can teach real history, real biology. At an even more basic level, it is necessary to teach European morals, teaching elementary things like: a woman bare-headed and wearing a skirt is not necessarily

morally reprehensible. This should already happen at the level of the family. What academia as such can and should do is to spread a sober view of things, and teach teachers.

ALLEA: *You once mentioned Europe's „eccentric identity“, its ability to openly engage with foreigners and to adopt their customs, norms and knowledge for its own benefit. Do you see the opportunity for cultural enrichment in present times as well?*

Mr. Brague: This idea is absolutely central to my view of European culture. Its cultural model began when the

Roman elite began to acknowledge the cultural superiority of the Greeks and set to learn the language and imitate the achievements of the people they had vanquished on the battle-field. What is important is not whether cultural goods are foreign or not, but whether they are better or worse than our own. Other people could teach us some virtues that we are forgetting: hospitality, courage, hard work, faithfulness, respect for the elders, love of one's offspring, etc. As for “culture” as it is commonly understood, i.e. science, art, law, literature, I'm afraid the Western or Westernized World is still ahead.

ALLEA: Mr Brague, thank you very much for your time and answering our questions. We are very much looking forward to seeing you in Vienna.

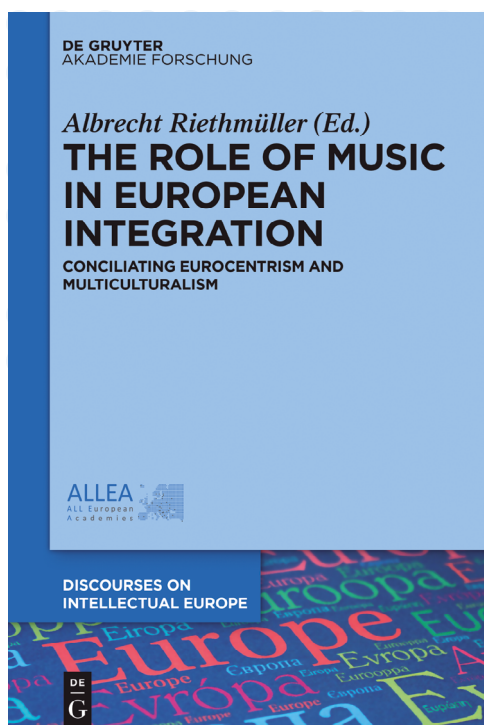
The written responses of Mr. Brague were received on 1 February 2016

Second Volume of ALLEA Book Series Discourses on Intellectual Europe announced for autumn 2016

Professor Albrecht Riethmüller compiles volume on The Role of Music in European Integration: Conciliating Eurocentrism and Multiculturalism

Following on from the first volume, *„The Boundaries of Europe“* of the ALLEA book series *Discourses on Intellectual Europe*, ALLEA is proud to announce the next volume of the series: *The Role of Music in European Integration: Conciliating Eurocentrism and Multiculturalism*, edited by Professor Albrecht Riethmüller, long-standing delegate of the Union of German Academies to ALLEA and member of the Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur, Mainz.

Professor Riethmüller's book compiles contributions from a wide variety of scholars and from a workshop held at the Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Science and Humanities on 11 and 12 March 2014 on Music and European integration. The author investigates how music beneficially influenced the process of European integration since World War II. The development of a European musical identity went hand in hand with deepening interrelations and multiculturalism on the European



continent. As such, one can no longer speak of distinct national styles, but rather of a European style that has come to the forefront. The role of music has always mirrored the political environment it was created in and has

often effectively underscored political and societal transformation. While the future direction of the European continent might not depend on the music it produces, music will at any rate set the inherent accompanying tone.

The ALLEA book series represents an effort by the scientific community to rekindle commitment to the European dream and encourage commitment towards an understanding of Europe as an enduring cultural and intellectual region. ALLEA's member academies, with their expertise in sciences and humanities, are in a unique position to sharpen awareness for the deep-rooted intellectual and cultural richness of Europe and can, thus, present unique and challenging perspectives.

The 2016 ALLEA General Assembly

Every year in spring the ALLEA delegates meet in one of the many splendid member academies to reflect upon the past year and to set the course for the year to come. Traditionally, the meeting opens with a scientific symposium where eminent scholars discuss science policy topics with an interested audience. The symposium is followed by the award ceremony for the ALLEA Mme de Staël Prize for Cultural Values, which this year will be awarded to Professor Rémi Brague (interview on page 4). After the Lisbon Academy of Sciences (click [here](#) for video) did an outstanding job in hosting the 2015 ALLEA General Assembly, the Austrian Academy of Sciences has kindly offered to host this year's General Assembly in its premises in Vienna. If you want to learn more about the academy check out the academy portrait on page 8.

The topic of this year's symposium „The Freedom of Scientific Research in the Face of Political and Societal Demands” suggests a juxtaposition of scientific, political and societal spheres, which in today's day and age holds potential for tension or even conflict. However, increasing interest in deepened exchange also offers enormous potential for all three sectors. Thus, it is not surprising that initiatives and concepts aiming at greater interaction are currently on the rise: Science with and for Society as one of the mainstays of Horizon



ALLEA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016

18/19 APRIL 2016
AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
DR. IGNAZ SEIPEL-PLATZ 2, 1010 VIENNA

2020, the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) to strengthen evidence-based policy making, strategies to establish Open Science and Open Innovation as well as Open Access initiatives all attest to these ever more urgent attempts to encourage interaction between the scientific, political and societal spheres. Yet, trying to influence the direction and the results of this exchange might fundamentally risk the autonomy of science and research, and with it, the key source of its credibility.

The symposium will aim to discuss these interactions, their risks and opportunities, from a scientific perspective and to contribute to advancing the discourse on the

European level. Despite all of this uncertainty we can be sure of one thing: the symposium will certainly shed light on many aspects and enlighten its audience.

The day will be rounded off by the award ceremony for this year's Mme de Staël Prize for cultural values. This year's recipient, Professor Rémi Brague, is one of Europe's foremost experts on medieval philosophy and undoubtedly a suitable recipient of the prize. The All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values is awarded to eminent scholars whose work represents a significant contribution to the cultural and intellectual values of Europe and to the idea of European integration, thereby promoting and strengthening an

understanding of Europe as multifaceted, intellectual, open and vibrant. The prize also seeks to underline the importance of non-technological scholarly work and research for European advancement. Due to their long-standing tradition of preserving, securing and making available the cultural heritage of Europe, Academies of sciences and humanities are in a special position to show and promote Europe's intellectual and cultural richness. The prize is kindly co-sponsored by the Stiftung Mercator.

Feel free to come and join us in Vienna for a day full of knowledge and wisdom. For more information please visit the ALLEA website [here](#).

Academy Portrait: The Austrian Academy of Sciences

ALLEA is very pleased to announce the venue for the next General Assembly in April 2016. The esteemed [Austrian Academy of Sciences](#) (OeAW) has graciously offered its premises for hosting the event. Since our meeting is only a few weeks away, now is an excellent opportunity to introduce the Academy in Vienna as we look forward to April.

The Academy was founded on 14 May 1847 by Emperor Ferdinand I. The famous Orientalist Joseph Freiherr von Hammer-Purgstall was elected as its first president. From the outset, the Academy undertook pioneering research of great importance to the state and increasingly on the international stage in the central fields of the humanities and sciences. Many results were published in the memoranda of the Academy, which were open to all languages of the Habsburg Empire. In 1857, the Academy moved to the former premises of the University of Vienna, today's Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz, in the heart of the city. This has remained the seat of the Academy to this day.

MISSION AND VISION

The Academy is Austria's central non-university basic research and science institution. Its statutory mission is to "promote science in every way". The OeAW has over

770 members and 1,450 employees dedicated to innovative basic research, interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge, and the dissemination of new insights with the aim of contributing to progress in science and society as a whole.

As a learned society, the Academy consists of two divisions – the Division of Humanities and the Social Sciences and the Division of Mathematics and the Natural Sciences – as well as of a Young Academy. The members of the Academy engage in interdisciplinary exchange to consider important questions concerning the future and are active in the field of science for policy advice. In scientific commissions, members of the Academy examine questions of great

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relevance to science and society such as interdisciplinary ecological studies, climate and air quality, migration and integration or science ethics.

Furthermore, the OeAW operates 29 research institutes in the field of innovative basic research in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. The Academy stimulates pioneering research by taking up future-oriented topics and ensures the preservation and interpretation of cultural heritage.

The Academy is particularly committed to the sustainable support of promising young talents: it offers diverse opportunities for highly qualified emerging researchers in its own research institutes and also



awards fellowships and prizes mainly for young researchers independent of their affiliation.

The OeAW aims to foster the dialogue between science and society. This dialogue is mainly driven by the initiative of the members of the Academy. Therefore, the Academy is a lively place for the discussion of scientific achievements and insights. Through its wide-ranging events, open to a broad public, it inspires the fascination for science and research.

international level and is a member in international scientific institutions.

The establishment and cultivation of international contacts has a long tradition at the OeAW. The Academy currently has bilateral agreements with more than 40 partner organizations worldwide that foster the mobility and networking of researchers, among them distinguished institutions such as CERN.

Another important step in the Academy's internationalization is its recent cooperation agreement with the Collège de France, which has already resulted in a lively exchange. As part of this agreement, outstanding researchers from both organizations give public lectures in the other country.

With all of these activities and initiatives, the OeAW thus contributes to the sustained visibility of Austrian research on the international stage.



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SPOTLIGHT ON...

...the OeAW in a global context

Since basic research of the highest quality can only take place in a global context, the OeAW is committed to increasing its international collaboration: The OeAW's institutes participate in international research cooperation projects, its members are networking worldwide, the OeAW provides exchange programs for scientists, and engages in bilateral agreements with partner academies. It also represents Austria's scientific interests on a European and

A focal area for the OeAW's efforts in respect of internationalization in recent years were countries outside of Europe, such as China, Iran, Cuba, or South Africa. However, the Academy also paid particular attention to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the successor states of the former Soviet Union with whose academic institutions the Academy has long nurtured close relationships.

The OeAW's new Joint Excellence in Sciences and Humanities exchange program (JESH) aims to foster "brain circulation" by enabling an international exchange of researchers between Austria and a wide variety of countries.

...OeAW and ALLEA

The OeAW is a member of ALLEA ever since ALLEA's foundation in 1994. Until today, the OeAW has taken part in ALLEA activities such as science for policy advice and research on Digital Humanities.

The members of the Presiding Committee of the OeAW, President Anton Zeilinger, Vice President Michael Alram, President of the Division of Humanities and the Social Sciences Brigitte Mazohl, and President of the Division of Mathematics and the Natural Sciences Georg Brasseur are pleased to host the ALLEA's General Assembly in 2016. The OeAW is looking forward to this opportunity of strengthening ties between the member Academies in Europe and beyond.

ALLEA kindly thanks the Austrian Academy of Sciences for providing this comprehensive academy portrait

High Level Group now fully functional

In this section, we would like to give you an update on recent developments within the European Commission's newly set up Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM). Most importantly, a meeting between the High Level Group of Scientific Advisors (HLG) and Commissioner Carlos Moedas took place in January to decide on the Chair and deputy Chair of the HLG as well as to discuss first topics for policy recommendations.

In March, the HLG and Commissioner Moedas came together again in Brussels for its second meeting, which included discussion with the Presidents of the 5 academy networks.

On 29 January the seven leading scientists who make up the European Commission's new Scientific Advice Mechanism High Level Group met in Brussels for the first time since their appointment.

The meeting was chaired by Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation and attended by Andrus Ansip, the Commission's Vice-President for the Digital Single Market. On the occasion Commissioner Moedas emphasised the role of academies and stated that *"plans to consult European Academies of Sciences and the wider scientific community, will make an important independent contribution to science advice for European policymaking"*.

The group started out with the appointment of the Chair and Deputy Chair. Professor Henrik C. Wegener, Executive Vice President, Chief Academic Officer and Provost at the Technical University Denmark was appointed as Chair of the group and Professor Elvira Fortunato, Nova University Lisbon was appointed as deputy Chair. Following discussions with representatives of the European Commission, the group declared that

its first advice to the Commission will be on the topics of cybersecurity and on closing the gap between light duty vehicle real-world CO2 emissions and laboratory testing.

In the meantime, scoping papers for both topics have been published and can be accessed here:

[Cybersecurity](#)

[Closing the gap between light duty vehicle real-world CO2 emissions and laboratory testing.](#)

The meeting saw a firm commitment by the HLG and the Commission to closely work together with the European academy networks.

This commitment led to an invitation to the Presidents of the academy networks, Academia Europaea, ALLEA, EASAC, Euro-CASE and FEAM, to meet the HLG and Commissioner Moedas in Brussels on 17 March.

At the meeting, the Presidents reiterated the importance of truly interdisciplinary approaches towards today's societal challenges which the academies are in a position to provide. With their scientific expertise, the European academies will contribute to the debates on risks and benefits of new advances, support the formulation of policies, and help enhance public confidence in science policy advice.

In their discussions, the following issues were addressed:

1: A structured dialogue between

the Consortium, the HLG and the European Commission should be established in order to discuss and agree on subjects for scientific evidence-based policy advice from the academies;

2: A timely delivery of advice was agreed, ensuring that scientific results from the academies' work contribute to the opinion-forming and policy-making process;

3: The consortium will provide support to the HLG for the two



The Presidents of the Consortium with Commissioner Carlos Moedas and the members of the High Level Group; © European Union

topic requests from the European Commission ("Closing the gap between light duty vehicle real-world CO2 emissions and laboratory testing" and "Cybersecurity").

On the occasion of the meeting between the HLG and the academy networks' Presidents, the consortium held a meeting to advance a joint grant proposal in response to a Horizon 2020 call.

For more information on the Scientific Advice Mechanism please click [here](#)

Taking stock: The Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities

ALLEA participates in Meeting between DG Research and Stakeholders in SSH

On 2 December 2015, ALLEA participated in the second external stakeholder workshop on the Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities in Horizon 2020. The invitation-only workshop gathered a limited number of eminent experts from European and international scientific organisations active in the fields of social sciences and humanities as well as representatives from the European Commission, particularly from its Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. ALLEA was represented by Professor John Bell, Chair of the [ALLEA Working Group on Social Sciences and Humanities \(SSH\)](#) and Fellow of the [British Academy](#).

The meeting followed up on a first workshop on “[Embedding Social Sciences and Humanities \(SSH\) in Horizon 2020](#)” held in Brussels in November 2014. With these workshops, the Commission intends to receive feedback from various involved SSH stakeholders on how to further improve the integration of research in the social sciences and humanities in Horizon 2020. In 2014, participants were invited to provide feedback on the quality of the integration of SSH in the first calls of Horizon 2020. Furthermore, they provided feedback on how to further improve true interdisciplinarity in the calls, with the SSH as an integral part of the research projects to be funded. This year’s workshop focussed on a discussion around the recently published Commission Monitoring Report on the integration of Social Sciences and Humanities in Horizon 2020 in the first calls for proposals of Horizon 2020.



The invited members of the scientific community concluded that considerable progress had been made in improving the integration of SSH. However, several Societal Challenges would still benefit from further integration while other areas even show a worrisome lack of SSH input at all. In agreement with the Commission’s conclusion that more efforts and actions are still required for the SSH to become an integral part of the development process for new research questions, the stakeholders identified several areas of improvement to strengthen the role of SSH in Horizon 2020 calls. It was noted that experts with SSH expertise constituted only a minority within H2020 Expert Advisory Groups as well as among proposal evaluators. In addition, Societal Challenges that would naturally require a stronger inclusion of Humanities subjects too often show low levels of inclusion (SC 6&7). In terms of geographic distribution, the participants raised concerns that countries from Central

and Eastern Europe still show very low participation rates and project coordination is most often awarded to countries with strong infrastructure to support the preparation of bids.

In its concluding remarks the Commission reaffirmed its plans to continue the publication of an annual monitoring report. In addition, the importance of deeper SSH inclusion in “Societal Challenges” was underlined and concrete actions were highlighted to improve the integration of SSH in Horizon 2020. The Commission committed to continuing the fruitful and constructive exchange with the SSH stakeholder community and announced that the next stakeholder meeting will be held in June 2016.

ALLEA Permanent Working Group Science & Ethics met in Stockholm

The [ALLEA permanent Working Group on Science & Ethics](#) held its first meeting of 2016 in the exquisite premises of the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities on 18 and 19 February. Following a dinner with academy Vice-President Professor Anders Andrén, the group had a busy schedule for the second day of the meeting, including the election of a new chair and a discussion about a potential update of the [ALLEA-ESF European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#).

The meeting welcomed the attendance of the Chair of the ALLEA Permanent Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights, Professor Joseph Straus. He came to Stockholm to offer valuable input on issues surrounding open access and the patentability of plants. Professor Straus' attendance is a further sign of continued cooperation between ALLEA working groups, a development that is intended to continue in the future.

A particular welcome was also extended to the new members of the working group, Els van Damme from the The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts and Maura Hiney from the Royal Irish Academy.

In one of the first decisions of the day, the Chair of the working group, Professor Göran Hermerén was re-elected to chair the group for another three years. The participants thanked Göran Hermerén for his work and he voiced appreciation for the support and is optimistic the working group will continue to provide work of importance for the scientific community in general and for ALLEA and the member academies in particular.

Another important item on the meeting's agenda was the consideration of a potential update for the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity. The original document was released in 2010 together with the European Science Foundation (ESF) and the members of the group agreed that an update and the inclusion of new issues would be highly desirable. The group will now look into potential amendments to



the code, taking into consideration related documents that have been published since the original publication of the code. Results are intended to be presented at the fifth World Conference on Research Integrity in Amsterdam at the end of May 2017.

The next meeting of the working group is planned for autumn 2016 in a yet to be decided location.

Queen Lovisa Ulrika founded the [Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities](#) 20 March

1753 to promote research and other activities in the humanities, theology, law, and social science disciplines, as well as stewardship of cultural heritage sites.

The Academy's aims are:

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The **next issue** of the ALLEA newsletter will be published in Summer 2016 and will provide a detailed documentation of the General Assembly and about the latest developments in ALLEA.

LEGAL INFORMATION

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Independent from political, commercial and ideological interests, ALLEA contributes to the improvement of framework conditions under which science and scholarship excel. Together with its Member Academies, ALLEA holds a unique position to address the full range of structural and policy issues facing Europe in science, research and innovation, and informs European policy and society through evidence based advice. In its foundation, ALLEA is guided by a common understanding of Europe tied together by cultural, historical, social and political factors as well as by scientific and economic reasons.

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