President Juncker
European Commission
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26 November 2014

The role of the Chief Scientific Adviser

The European Union Select Committee, at its meeting on 25 November, discussed the discontinuation of the role of Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) to the President of the Commission. The House of Lords Science and Technology Committee has also discussed this matter, and this letter reflects the views of both Committees.

The role of CSA, in our view, underlined the value of impartial and transparent scientific advice to the President of the Commission. This in turn reflected the immense contribution of research and innovation (and the Commission's support for such research by means of Horizon 2020) to the long-term prosperity of Europe. We had therefore hoped that the role would be confirmed under your Presidency.

Going forward, we consider the following duties, which have been performed by the CSA, to be crucial, notwithstanding the discontinuation of the role itself:

- Advising the President of the Commission on any aspect of science and technology;
- Liaising with other science advisory bodies of the Commission, in the Member States and beyond, to ensure a coherent scientific message;
- Acting as an early warning function, looking into science and technology foresight and spotting developments that may represent an opportunity or threat for Europe;
- Promoting the European culture of science and technology;
- Chairing the Science and Technology Advisory Council.

We would be grateful to know what steps you are taking to ensure that these essential functions of the CSA continue to be available to the Commission. This information will assist both our Committees in scrutinising the many policy areas in which the provision of independent scientific advice is vital.

I am copying this letter to the Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Carlos Moedas.

Lord Boswell of Aynho
Chairman of the European Union Committee

The Earl of Selborne
Chairman of the Science and Technology Committee.