Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your letter of 26 November 2014 about the importance of independent scientific advice for the formulation of EU policies. As I have indicated on different occasions in front of the European Parliament, I am a strong believer in the necessity to ground policies in solid evidence, with the help of independent scientific advice.

I intend to further strengthen this practice in all EU policy fields and take note of your interest to contribute to it.

Contrary to what has been said, the Commission has not taken any decision to 'abolish' the position of the Chief Scientific Adviser. The mandate of the scientific adviser was linked to the mandate of the previous President of the Commission and expired with the end of his mandate on 31 October 2014.

In the meantime, I have asked Mr Carlos Moedas, Commissioner in charge of Research, Science and Innovation, to reflect and present options to me before the summer on how to better institutionalise future independent scientific advice to the Commission, based on the experience made in all Member States.

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Claude JUNCKER
President of the European Commission

Brussels,
Ares (2014) 3994108

The Earl of Selborne
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