

Jean Claude-Juncker  
President of the European Commission  
European Commission  
200, rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Brussels

13 November 2014

Dear President Juncker,

**Re: Science has a role in policy making and the Commission needs to ensure its place**

This has been an historic week for scientific achievement in Europe. The Rosetta mission has shown once again that the EU can lead the way in collaborative scientific endeavour.

But on the day that the Rosetta mission sent back to Earth the first ever photographs from the surface of a comet, we would like to express our concern for the new Commission's lack of commitment to science as a key player in policy making. Following the announcement of the scrapping of the Chief Scientific Adviser's role, we are calling on the Commission to propose a replacement consultative body for impartial and transparent scientific advice.

We are concerned that any scientific advice received by the Commission must be transparent, must be impartial, and must draw on a broad base of the best available evidence. The success of the much touted 'Better Regulation' agenda will depend on this.

But in the great tradition of the scientific method, we feel that the Commission cannot limit itself to one scientific source. Nor can it use scientific advice to the exclusion of all other factors. Whilst we live in a scientific age, any legislation must be inclusive of social and political considerations. We are here to legislate for the whole of society, and that must be reflected in our work.

In this regard, respect for the precautionary principle is key, and we reiterate our support for this.

If the European Political Strategy Centre is not now to include a scientific adviser, we call on the Commission to establish a transparent, independent panel for scientific advice, which will draw on a broad range of sources from the scientific community, and which will be institutionalised so it can fully contribute to the broader social and political discussions on the Commission's legislative proposals.

We look forward to hearing from you soon on how you propose to address this matter.

Yours,

Clare Moody MEP, member of ITRE, Galileo Interinstitutional Panel  
Glenis Willmott MEP, member of ENVI  
Theresa Griffin MEP, member of ITRE  
Jude Kirton-Darling MEP, member of ITRE  
Seb Dance MEP, member of ENVI