



1 EU Insight – Progress in setting up the Commission’s new scientific advice mechanism

Officially endorsed in mid-May by European Commission (EC) President Jean-Claude Juncker, decisive progress was announced in mid-September regarding the set-up of the Commission’s new instrument for delivering high quality, timely, independent scientific advice across all policy areas—the **Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM)**. (For more information on the mechanism, refer to the [June 2015 EU Insight here](#).) Coordination of SAM will be the responsibility of an independent high-level group of seven researchers appointed by the European Commission. With over 150 researchers nominated for this group, the set-up of the mechanism is right on track.

“[W]hen we come to make important policy decisions based on scientific evidence – we need independent scientific advice”. (Carlos Moedas, 15 September 2015.)

Speaking to European Parliament in mid-September, Commissioner Carlos Moedas, responsible for Science, Research and Innovation within the college of commissioners, stated that “[t]he role of the new High Level Group will be to make sure that the Commission has the best available scientific advice, wherever it comes from. It should guarantee the quality and independence of the advice provided. It should also help identify topics where independent advice is needed”.

To identify the high-level group members, two steps were taken before the summer: the appointment of an Identification Committee and the launch of an open consultation for nominations.¹ The Identification Committee, which is comprised of three members--Sir David Kind, professor Rianne Letschert and António Vitorino, began consultations in mid-July. With the closing of the consultations on 10 September, more than 150 researchers and scientists have been nominated in total. The next phase in the process will be the selection of potential high-level group members by the Identification Committee. These members will be proposed to the European Commission (by end of October). “It is my firm intention that the Group will be launched and have its first meeting before the end of the year”, stressed Moedas.

Sources and further information

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¹ Methodology used for the nominations is based on the approach followed by the European Research Council Scientific Council Identification Committee and can be accessed [here](#).



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