

Mr Jean-Claude Juncker  
President-Designate  
European Commission  
200 Rue de la Loi  
1049 Brussels  
BELGIUM

From the President Paul Nurse

4 August 2014  
Our ref: PN/TMcB/JB

Dear President-Designate

I am writing to you to convey the Royal Society's support for the continuation and strengthening of the role of European Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA).

Independent expert advice is a vital part of policymaking and it is important that the post of the European CSA is retained to provide authoritative advice to the President and other parts of the European Commission.

At the same time, the post should be strengthened and better resourced so that the CSA can access and communicate the best available information and advice from Europe's scientific, engineering, social science and humanities communities. It should also be better integrated with the Commission's Directorate Generals, the Joint Research Centre, STOA and the European Parliament Research Service.

It is important that the European CSA is appointed by and reports to the President. European academy networks, such as the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC), and individual Academies as well as others, are well placed to help identify suitable candidates.

With additional resources and the support of Europe's scientific academies the CSA could work more effectively with the Commission's Directorate Generals and other bodies to strengthen independent expert advice in European policy making. This objective might also be achieved by including the CSA on the Commission's Impact Assessment Board and the Bureau of European Policy Advisers.

The European Commission should underline the importance of independent expert advice to policy making by adopting and promoting an open and transparent approach to the scientific advisory process.



President Sir Paul Nurse  
Executive Director Dr Julie Maxton

Founded in 1660, the Royal Society is the independent scientific academy of the UK, dedicated to promoting excellence in science.

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Strengthening the role of independent expert advice is important for European policymakers and citizens and the Royal Society is willing to assist in any way it can.

Yours sincerely

*Paul Nurse*

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