



## The New Scientific Advice Mechanism

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Dear Reader,

Facilitating the integration of evidence-based scientific advice into policymaking remains a key aspect of ALLEA's mission. Therefore, this issue's focus topic features an [overview](#) on the development of the European Commission's new Scientific Advice Mechanism since it was announced in May this year. In a very timely [interview](#) considering the recent announcement of the composition of the High Level Group, Johannes Klumpers, head of the new SAM Task Unit, kindly offers us a behind-the-scenes insight into how the new mechanism will function.

I am sure that we all remember the consternation of the scientific community when the Chief Scientific Adviser post was dissolved one year ago. Thus I am very encouraged by the strides made by the Commission in the last year to develop an effective alternative to the CSA post and am especially pleased that the academies have been singled out as a valuable source of scientific expertise.

Furthermore, we report on ALLEA's participation in recent events at the European Parliament which brought expert scientists and elected policymakers together in order to exchange ideas and explore how science and research can be better incorporated into European policymaking. In particular, ALLEA co-organised a [roundtable debate](#) on inequalities in Europe which took place at the Parliament and whose success was to a great extent due to the valuable support provided by the British Academy.

The underlying condition for providing impartial and unbiased scientific advice is the autonomy of science and scientific institutions. We plan to explore this critical issue in detail during the public scientific symposium at the next ALLEA General Assembly generously hosted by the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna from 18-19 April 2016. Don't forget to mark your calendars!

In other news, I am very pleased to report recent efforts by our ALLEA Working Groups. The Working Group Science Education, for example, co-organised the [AEMASE II Conference](#) which took place in October in Dakar, Senegal. The conference is the sequel to the May 2014 AEMASE I Conference and sought to further build on the international knowledge exchange in the field of inquiry-based science education which was initiated by AEMASE I. Meanwhile, the Permanent Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights has prepared two important new [statements](#) regarding open access and the current EU patent system. I am very grateful to our Working Group members for their commitment to sharing their expertise on ALLEA's behalf.

I wish you enjoyable reading as well as good health and much happiness in the coming year.

Kindly yours,

Günter Stock

## ALLEA Board Meetings in Edinburgh and Bern

### Board meets in June and September at the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

After being welcomed by the Presidents of the respective host Academies, the Board reviewed, inter alia, recent, current, and future ALLEA activities with a significant focus on the challenges and opportunities related to ALLEA's involvement in the new Scientific Advice Mechanism of the European Commission (SAM). Both agendas also addressed plans for the next ALLEA General Assembly, which will be held in Vienna on 18/19 April 2016, as well as the next Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values. Additionally, the Board discussed the current activities of ALLEA's five working groups, several of which have held recent meetings to discuss ongoing and future projects.

A highlight of the Edinburgh meeting took place at a reception hosted by the RSE, where presentations were given by Professor Tariq Durrani, Vice President for International Activities and ALLEA President Günter Stock to guests who included members of the Consular Corps in Edinburgh and Leith as well as fellows of the RSE, the British Academy and the Royal Society (London). Additionally, ALLEA Vice Presidents Daniela Ježová and Ed Noort represented ALLEA at the annual RSE Fellows' Summer Reception which took place that evening.

In Bern, the Board learned more about the activities of the Swiss Academies from President Thierry Courvoisier, who is also President-elect of the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC), which also belongs to the consortium of academies' organisations established in the context of SAM. A special excursion was furthermore included in the programme as the Board was invited to

visit their host's research facilities at the Jungfrauoch glacier.

**The Royal Society of Edinburgh** is Scotland's national academy. Founded in 1783, its Fellowship includes some of the best intellectual talent in academia, the professions and business. It facilitates public debate, research programmes, educational projects and strategy formulation. Its strength is its diversity and impartiality. The Society's unique multi-disciplinary approach enables it to draw from and link with a broad spectrum of expertise to advance the understanding of globally-important issues. In fulfilling its Royal Charter for the "advancement of learning and useful knowledge", the RSE is seeking to contribute to the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of Scotland.

**The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences** are an umbrella organisation, associating the Swiss Academy of Sciences, the Swiss Academy of

Humanities and Social Sciences, the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences and the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences as well as the Centre for Technology Assessment and Science et Cité. As institutions for the promotion of research, the Swiss Academies are publicly funded under the terms of the Swiss Federal Law on Research.

The four academies stand in the tradition of learned societies, with the aim of contributing scientific knowledge to help resolve societal challenges and to contribute to human and environmental well-being. They do so by accessing the scientific expertise available to them, namely their members who are individual scholars or scholars belonging to scientific unions in the different disciplines. This core business of the four academies is complemented by activities of the two centres of competence: the Centre for Technology Assessment and Science et Cité.



*The ALLEA Board in Bern (absent: Prof. Øivind Andersen)*

## Enlightenment: A Matter of Urgency

### ALLEA President delivers MacCormick European Lecture in Edinburgh

On 4 November 2015, ALLEA President Günter Stock delivered the annual MacCormick European Lecture at the [Royal Society of Edinburgh](#) on the kind invitation of RSE President Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell. In his lecture, Professor Stock reflected upon the role of academies in the age of the Enlightenment, drawing a parallel to today's contemporary academies and arguing that providing scientific advice can be viewed as a form of "modern enlightenment". Ultimately, the mandate of academies remains to enlighten – by upholding and continuing this tradition of enabling the discovery and communication of scientific knowledge. The following text encapsulates the main themes of enlightenment and the academies as conveyed by Professor Stock in his lecture.

Academies were a result and at the same time an enormous driving force of and for the Enlightenment. And hence, academies like the RSE rightly consider themselves as enlightenment societies. The German writer Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach once said, "Who doesn't know anything, has to believe everything," a modern version of the phrase used by Immanuel Kant during the Enlightenment: *sapere aude*.

Through learning how to understand, interpret, and analyse our world we have created – as Jürgen Mittelstraß calls it – a Leonardo world. It is therefore obvious that our responsibility for the future of this – our – world is enormous. Whatever the outcomes of what we have achieved might be, they can only truly be mastered with more and better information, knowledge, and science – in general,

with more wisdom. In recent years, we have learned that the great challenges ahead of us such as climate, energy, health, and inequalities, to name only a few, can only be tackled or, to say more modestly, can only be approached if we are able to combine all of the current knowledge we have and make this knowledge available in a qualitative and timely fashion.

To allow for taking the appropriate measures and developing the means to respond to these challenges, quality assurance and interdisciplinarity of the highest possible standards are the first mandates which have to be brought forward by academia and hence by academies. In a world with ever increasing knowledge, universal geniuses – if they really existed once upon a time – to whom one could conceivably delegate issues and problems are no longer available. It is civil society that needs to understand, in principle, what is needed in order to properly decide upon and implement measures.

It is exactly this responsibility which has to be accepted – not exclusively, but to a great extent – by modern academies. First, they need to help society to develop the necessary mental attitude and then show society what options and alternatives are currently available based on scientific knowledge and judgment. We call this scientific advice or, more histrionically, modern enlightenment.



*The Royal Society of Edinburgh*

This enlightenment or science-based advice is of course a global endeavour, a national endeavour, and, even more so, a European task. Currently, a European academy consortium (Academia Europaea, ALLEA, EASAC, Euro-CASE, and FEAM) is preparing, together with the European Commission, a new mechanism for scientific advice (SAM), which will be an important contribution to the improvement of European political efficiency.

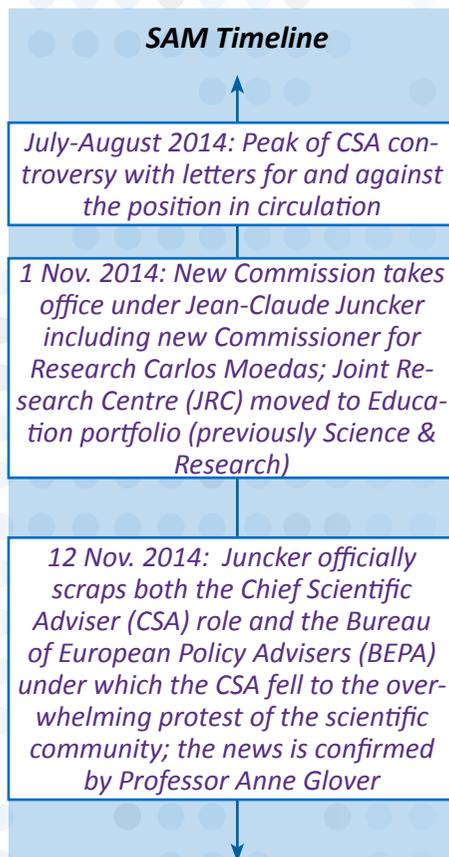
Last but not least, European academies have both a mandate and the obligation to preserve, interpret, and make available in the broadest possible sense the European cultural heritage and its relationship with the global cultural heritage. This indispensable task means that we must strive to underline and support what our predecessors have called the "soul" of Europe. Thus, the term enlightenment is neither outdated nor old-fashioned: it is the essence of modern academies.

## Building SAM

### Tracing the Development of the Scientific Advice Mechanism

A year ago in November, the newly inaugurated European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker announced the dismantling of the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) post occupied by Professor Anne Glover to the shock and overwhelming disapproval of the scientific community. The dissolution of the CSA followed several months of controversy as the position was criticised and defended by various interest groups. One year later, the Commission is close to launching the CSA replacement: the Scientific Advice Mechanism, or SAM.

In the first months after President Juncker took office, he asked the new Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, to initiate a comprehensive review of the characteristics and structures of scientific advice systems with the goal of developing a new system of scientific advice for the European Commission that would improve



upon the alleged shortcomings of the former CSA position (e.g. transparency and staff issues and disadvantages associated with concentrating power in one individual).

While Commissioner Moedas and his team performed this analysis, the European academy organisations including ALLEA understood that a crucial opportunity had opened up to demonstrate to the European institutions the value of the vast scientific knowledge base offered by the European academies. Therefore, on 26 March 2015 five European academy organisations ([Academia Europaea](#), [ALLEA](#), [EASAC](#), [Euro-CASE](#), and [FEAM](#)) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the presence of the Director-General for Science and Research Robert-Jan Smits. In the MoU, the five academy organisations declared their preparedness to collaborate in order to bring added and timely value to their activities and offer a united voice of experts from across all scientific disciplines. The MoU was intended to showcase the value of the academies' expertise in the effort to provide independent science-based policy advice enhanced through a closer collaboration of the respective partners. It thus became the basis for the formation of a new consortium comprised of the aforementioned five academy organisations. At the ALLEA General Assembly in April, Commissioner Moedas confirmed that

*“part of [the Commission’s] undertaking will be to ensure that Europe’s finest academics can be called upon to offer impartial advice. We cannot even begin to tackle democratic failures, violent radicalisation, or rising intolerance and extremism, without the collective learning, wisdom and foresight of the academic communi-*

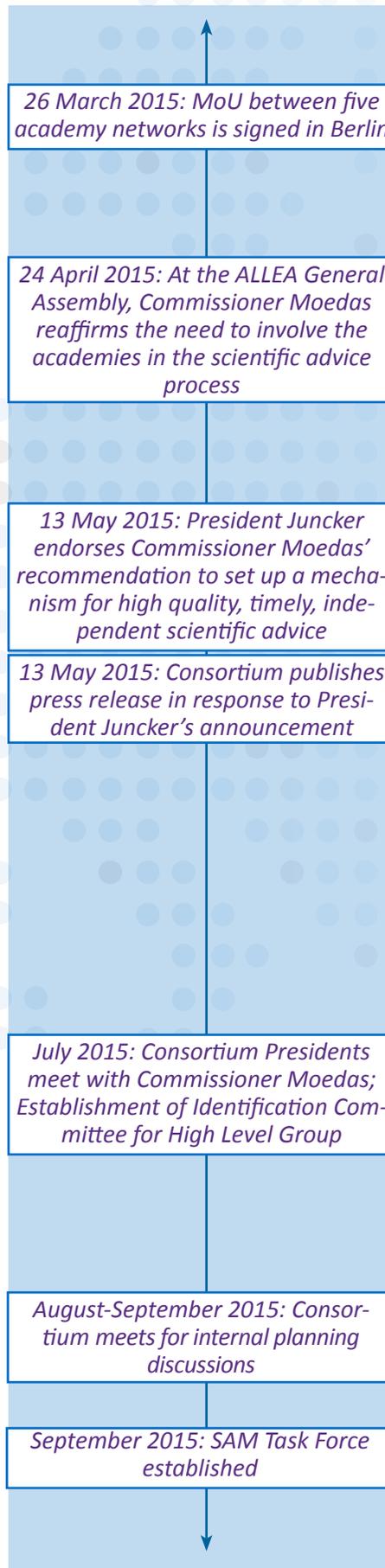


**From left to right: Reinhard Hüttl, President of Euro-CASE; Dermot Kelleher, President of FEAM (until May 2015); Günter Stock, President of ALLEA; Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General DG Research and Innovation; Jos van der Meer, President of EASAC; Sierd Cloetingh, President of Academia Europaea; Photo by Janina Amendt**

ty. The academies have traditionally played an important role in many member states, gladly providing expert opinion to governments as necessary and academies will certainly find themselves playing a more and more significant role at European level”.

The significance of the MoU was cemented in May 2015 after President Juncker officially endorsed Commissioner Moedas’ recommendation to set up an official mechanism for procuring evidence-based science policy advice. The Commission’s [press release](#) explained that the “future mechanism will draw on the wide range of scientific expertise in Europe through a close relationship with [...] academies and other bodies, coordinated by a High-Level Group of Independent Scientists”. According to Commissioner Moedas, “[i]n combination with the forthcoming proposals on better regulation, the new model for independent scientific advice will contribute to the Commission’s continued pursuit of the best possible evidence-based policy. This will be a significant step forward for an effective European Commission that delivers for citizens, and addresses the major societal challenges which Europe faces.” The consortium responded with its own [statement](#) supporting President Juncker’s endorsement of Commissioner Moedas’ proposal and emphasising the academies’ readiness to assist the Commission in building the mechanism.

In June, more details about the Scientific Advice Mechanism, or SAM, were publicly released, including a new SAM support unit within the Directorate-General for Research. In an [interview](#) with ALLEA, the head of this support unit Johannes Klumpers explains that “[the] unit’s support of the HLG [High Level Group] will be both content-based and administrative, acting as the interface between the HLG and other Commission services, their agencies and



scientific committees. The SAM unit will facilitate knowledge provision to the HLG, in particular from the science academies, learned societies, universities, research organisations and the Commission’s Joint Research Centre.” The High Level Group will report to Commissioner Moedas and oversee the SAM as well as act as the primary point of contact for the academy networks. Most promisingly, it was confirmed that the Commission will provide funding support via Horizon 2020 for the academies to collaborate on EU policy issues. The final Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016/2017 cemented this aim, stating that

“Scientific advice needs to be independent of political or institutional interests, bring together evidence and insights from different disciplines and approaches, and ensure adequate transparency. High quality scientific advice, provided at the right time in the policy cycle, will improve the quality of EU policy making. This requires improving the networking and coordination of



**Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation and ALLEA President Günter Stock; Photo courtesy of the European Commission**

academies throughout Europe, as evidence-based policy advice from academies plays a major role in policy-making processes in a large number of Member States”.

In preparation for the launch of SAM and the Horizon 2020 call, throughout last spring and summer the members of the consortium met numerous times to develop and refine the consortium objectives and working structures. The members of the consortium also engaged in dialogues with the European Commission regarding SAM, most notably at a meeting with Commissioner Moe- das on 6 July 2015. As of this news- letter release, the Horizon 2020 call was announced in October, while the composition of the High Level Group was revealed on 10 November, com-

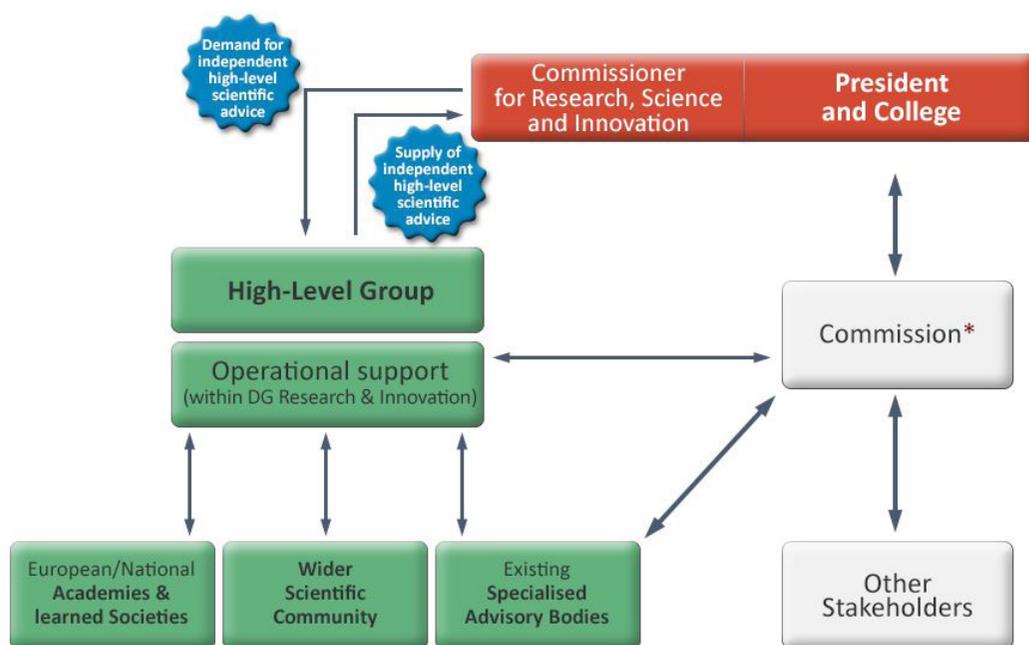


prising seven outstanding scientists from a wide range of disciplines selected by a three-person Identification Committee from a total of 162 nominations. The seven advisers come from different Member States and include three women and four men. They are expected to hold their first official meeting in early 2016, committing up to 40 days per year to the activities of the High Level Group.

In the meantime, the consortium is continuing its work towards finalising a joint application for the Horizon 2020 funds as SAM continues to be finalised.



Left: The five academy organisations comprising the new consortium



Right: Structural diagramme of SAM as provided by the European Commission on its website.

\*Including the Joint Research Centre which provides in-house scientific support

## Interview: Johannes Klumpers, Head of the SAM Unit

“The academies can play an important role in strengthening the provision of scientific advice at the European level”

*Recently, Johannes Klumpers was appointed as the head of the provisional SAM Task Force based within the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation at the European Commission. Mr. Klumpers kindly agreed to answer ALLEA’s inquiries regarding the new mechanism and the official SAM Unit.*

**ALLEA:** *You have been selected to head the SAM Task Force within the DG for Research and Innovation. Can you tell us more about the function of the Task Force, e.g. in relation to the High Level Group, DG RTD, the JRC, and the academies’ networks? Can you give us a glimpse into the duties of your role in particular?*

**Mr. Klumpers:** In fact, I am happy to report that a SAM Unit has now been established within the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, replacing the task force which was a temporary solution. As head of this new SAM unit, I will be responsible for implementing the Scientific Advice Mechanism, and for managing its activities, primarily by supporting the 7-person High Level Group of scientific advisors (HLG), by establishing a structured relationship with science academies and learned societies and, last but not least, by attentively listening to the demands for scientific advice expressed by different Commission services.

The SAM unit’s support of the HLG will be both content-based and administrative, acting as the interface between the HLG and other Commission services, their agencies and scientific committees. The SAM unit will facilitate knowledge provision to the HLG, in particular from the science academies, learned societies, univer-

sities, research organisations and the Commission’s Joint Research Centre.

The SAM unit will also manage the European Group on Ethics that was until recently hosted by the European Political Strategy Centre.

**ALLEA:** *Regarding the “demand” side of scientific advice, can you provide some insight into how the communication with other DGs in the Commission will be organised in order to identify particular issues where advice is needed?*

**Mr. Klumpers:** The Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, will be the link between the College of Commissioners and SAM and will relay the College’s needs for scientific advice to the HLG. He will agree with the High Level Group on a work programme of medium to longer term requests that will reflect both the needs expressed by the European Commission and suggestions made by the High Level Group itself. At the services level, the preparation of the work programme will be supported by regular meetings (known as “inter-service group meetings” between all relevant Directorate Generals of the European Commission. The inter-service group will serve as an exchange platform for the “demand & supply” of scientific advice.

**ALLEA:** *While the academies have already demonstrated that they can produce valuable long-term scientific advice, the academies’ consortium has been working to develop a strategy to strengthen its ability to also provide short-term or ad hoc advice. Can you offer any insight into the Task Force’s approach towards requesting*

### Johannes Klumpers

Johannes Klumpers is Head of Unit for the Scientific Advice Mechanism at DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission.

Graduating from the University of Munich, he obtained his PhD in wood chemistry in 1994 in France, before working in industrial research in the Swedish forest based industries until 1998.

Since joining the European Commission in 1998, he has enjoyed a variety of roles on issues as diverse as renewable materials, scientific culture and gender and budgetary matters.

*and procuring long-term and short-term advice from the academies?*

**Mr. Klumpers:** Both national academies in the Member States as well as their European Networks have in recent years provided important input to European policy debates. This is why Director-General for Research & Innovation, Robert-Jan Smits, was very happy earlier this year to witness the signature of a memorandum in which the different networks of academies (ALLEA, EASAC, FEAM, Euro-CASE, and Academia Europaea) decided to join forces to further expand their scientific advice activities on the European level. The European Commission is ready to support this initiative with up to six million euros by providing a grant from Horizon 2020 to a consortium of Academy networks. We expect that this support will enable the academies to significantly expand

their role at the European level, not only through comprehensive studies on issues of longer term perspectives, but also on shorter term issues, where the emphasis will be more on facilitating direct contacts between policy makers and scientists.

**ALLEA:** *In many European countries, academies already form an integral part of the national scientific advice systems. Where do you feel that the consortium of practically all academies in Europe will have added value at the European level? To what extent do the European Institutions expect the academies to provide concrete policy options which go beyond scientific assessment reports on specific issues?*

**Mr. Klumpers:** You are quite right: academies in many European countries already play a very valuable role in providing scientific advice to many governments. In an increasing number of policy areas, national governments no longer decide independently on the issues, but meet to find coordinated and coherent approaches at European level. The academies can play an important role in strengthening the provision of scientific advice at the European level.

The Scientific Advice Mechanism has not been set up to provide policy options. Its primary focus is on providing scientific evidence, which then should allow policy makers to develop policy options. It is thus unlikely, although it can of course not be excluded, that the academies will be asked to provide concrete policy options.

**ALLEA:** *Once scientific advice has been provided by the academies, could you describe how it could or will be implemented into the policymaking process?*

**Mr. Klumpers:** Scientific advice can be provided for a multitude of different situations and a great number of different questions, there is thus no standard way of how scientific advice

will be taken up. Scientific advice might help to better frame a given question or to facilitate assessing whether a policy initiative on the European level might prove constructive. In certain cases, it could help taking decisions in emergencies or on the contrary it might inspire re-orientation of long-term policy directions.

Scientific advice comes into the policy process at multiple levels: It will inform the policy preparation in the European Commission, the debates in the European Parliament and Council, and eventually the policy implementation by the European Commission. And scientific advice by the academies is not a one-time input. Choices taken during the policy preparation and adoption processes might trigger the need for further scientific advice.

**ALLEA:** *The High Level Group is expected to have a “structured relationship with scientific advisory bodies in the Member States” (source: EPRS) and with the European academies in particular. Can you provide any details as to how the relationship between the HLG and the academies will be structured?*

**Mr. Klumpers:** The High Level Group will not operate in isolation. It will regularly draw upon advice produced by academies and other scientific advisory bodies in the various Member States. The SAM unit will assist the High Level Group in interfacing with the Academies and other key institutions in the Member States. The structure of this relationship will need to grow in line with the increased activities of the academies at European level.

**ALLEA:** *The President’s Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC) was established in 2013 and dissolved*



*by President Juncker along with the CSA post. The STAC mandate “consisted of promoting evidence-based policy-making at EU level and improving the uptake of science and technology in society” (source: EPRS). What are the key similarities and differences we can expect between the former STAC and the new High Level Group?*

**Mr. Klumpers:** The Science & Technology Advisory Council (STAC) established by former Commission President Barroso was an independent and informal group of science and technology experts from academia and business. The task of the Council was to examine areas where research and innovation could contribute to Europe’s growth—with a particular focus on benefits and risks of advances in science and technology and how to address and communicate these.

The Scientific Advice Mechanism is not about Research & Innovation policies. It is about providing the best scientific evidence to help EU policy making in all policy fields. It is about the contribution science can make to European governance. It might occasionally touch on questions of economic growth or will describe benefits and risks of advances in a certain scientific field or technology but it will certainly not be limited to this.

*The written responses of Mr. Klumpers were received on 30 October 2015.*

## ALLEA-ESF-EPRS Roundtable Debate on Inequalities in Europe

*Policymakers and experts discuss one of Europe's biggest challenges*

On Tuesday, 15 September 2015, ALLEA participated in a debate on the cross-cutting topic of inequalities in Europe jointly organised with the European Science Foundation (ESF) and the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS). The event took place in the EPRS Library Reading Room on the premises of the European Parliament.

The event began with an introductory address by the ALLEA President, after which a panel of experts from both academia and the European Parliament discussed various aspects of the topic of inequalities and highlighted key examples. After the panel discussion, a debate ensued with members of the European Parliament which allowed for further examination of how

science can help the development of policies for tackling inequalities. This multifaceted topic encompasses such issues as income and wealth inequalities; employment, inequality and social policy; as well as health, regional, educational, democratic, environmental, and gender inequalities and other cross-cutting themes such as migration, identity or sustainability.

Inequalities are a profound research and policy challenge for the European Union. For example, the European Union's [2020 Strategy](#) includes a target to have at least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2020. The understanding of inequalities is also vital for many areas of research within Hori-

zon 2020. To “reverse inequalities” is furthermore a named priority for the EU in the European Council's “[Strategic Agenda for the Union in Times of Change](#)”.

In the wider context, the roundtable debate sought to explore how scientific perspectives, especially from the humanities and social sciences, can concretely contribute to developing effective approaches and solutions for major societal challenges such as inequalities. The debate on inequalities followed the successful first roundtable debate that focussed on demographic change, which was organised by ALLEA, the ESF and the EPRS in March 2015. Read more on the [EPRS blog](#).



*Clockwise from left: ALLEA Vice President Daniela Ježová; ALLEA Board Member Graham Caie; Roundtable Debate; ALLEA President Günther Stock with panel moderator Sir Roderick Floud  
All photos © European Union 2015  
- Source EP*

## Science Meets Parliaments

### *ALLEA participates in JRC-STOA initiative*

On 15 September 2015 in Brussels, leading European scientists exchanged perspectives with members of the European Parliament with the aim of promoting evidence-informed policymaking. The event offered panel sessions on numerous aspects of this topic as well as networking opportunities and bilateral meetings between scientists and Parliamentarians. ALLEA was actively engaged at the event with the ALLEA President participating in a high-level panel session and several experts nominated by ALLEA taking part in the bilateral meetings.

The opening session invited high-level panelists (including Commissioners Tibor Navracsics and Carlos Moedas as well as European Parliament Vice-President Mairead McGuinness and MEP Jerzy Buzek, who chairs the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy) to discuss what EU policy-makers expect and need from scientists and how existing communication channels between the two communi-

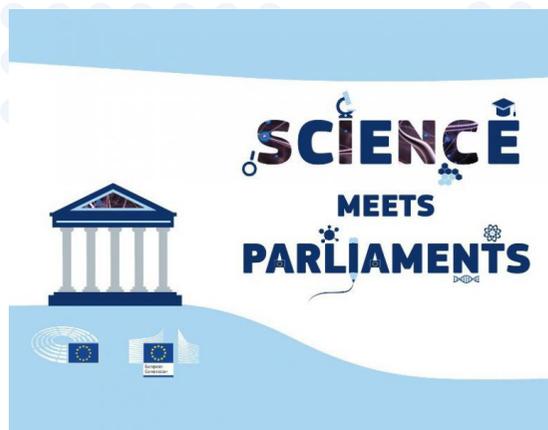
ties can be improved. The panel was followed by a session on the collaboration between Parliamentarians and scientists on the national level.

ALLEA President Günter Stock took part in the next high-level panel focussing on the perspectives of scientific organisations in response to the expectations of EU and national policymakers. Other panelists included representatives from the fellow European academy organisations EASAC and Euro-CASE. The session was moderated by Vladimír Šucha, Director-General of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and was followed by a wrap-up session as well as a presentation of the Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) MEP-Scientist Pairing Scheme 2015.

In the afternoon, two parallel sessions took place, the first being a panel on best practices of scientific advice at national level. The other session consisted of bilateral meetings between

scientists and parliamentarians to further discuss how to strengthen the connection between scientific advice and informed policymaking. Several scientists nominated by ALLEA on behalf of its Member Academies were invited to take part in this session and discussed issues such as “Plant protection and biocides regulation” and “Circular economy and resource efficiency” in face-to-face meetings with MEPs.

“Science Meets Parliaments” was co-organised by the JRC and STOA in an effort to promote evidence-informed policymaking. “It is important that EU policy-makers have a regular exchange with scientists allowing them to better understand scientists’ views on policy issues and vice versa,” stated STOA on its [website](#).



Science Meets Parliaments panel  
Photo © European Parliament

## Working Group Science Education

### Second AEMASE Conference takes place in Dakar, Senegal

The second African European Mediterranean Academies for Science Education (AEMASE) Conference (AEMASE) was held in Dakar, Senegal from the 12th to the 13th of October 2015 with the kind hospitality of the Académie des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal (ANSTS).

AEMASE is an intercontinental initiative of science academies in the geographical African-European-Mediterranean (AEM) area, a region that shares strong and ancient political and scientific links. At the origin of the idea of AEMASE lies the strong desire of several national Academies to help improve formal and informal science education (SE) as part of their mission. The partner institutions involved in this initiative are the French, Italian, Moroccan and Senegalese national Academies and the Egyptian Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

The same AEMASE partner institutions, which organised the 1st AEMASE Conference at the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in Rome in May 2014, have decided to hold alternating conferences in Europe and Africa. The second AEMASE Conference in October 2015 was therefore the logical continuation of the Rome Conference.

The President of the Conference was Prof. Ahmadou Lamine Ndiaye, President of the ANSTS. The International Scientific Committee responsible for organising the conference is constituted by Co-Chairs Prof. Ahmadou Wague from the ANSTS and Prof. Giancarlo Vecchio, Chairperson of the ALLEA Working Group on Science Education and representing the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei. Further members include Prof. Odile Macchi (Académie des Sciences, France), Prof. Beno Csapo (Hungarian Academy of Sciences), Prof. Mostapha Bousmina (Hassan II Académie des Sciences et Technologie, Morocco), Profs. Doudou Ba and Ab-

doulaye Samb (ANSTS), and Eng. Hoda El Mikaty (Bibliotheca Alexandrina).

The Conference was made possible thanks to the generous support of IAP, the ANSTS, the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, the Académie des Sciences, the Hassan II Académie des Sciences et Technologie of Morocco, and ALLEA.

The Conference gathered expert scientists on science education from many different countries including Senegal, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Morocco, Nigeria, Tanzania, South Africa, Tunisia, Italy, France, the UK, Germany, Hungary, Belgium, Argentina and Sri Lanka. The Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) was represented by its Chair, Prof. Mostapha Bousmina, who also represented IAP. ALLEA was represented by the Chair of its Working Group on Science Education, Prof. Giancarlo Vecchio. The delegates discussed various topics related to Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE), Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Science-Based Citizenship (SBC).

The Conference was organised into six Sessions. On the first day following the Opening Ceremony, Session n° 2 was dedicated to “The Role of Science Education in Development and Global View on Science Education Programmes”, Session n° 3 was dedicated to “National and International Projects and Programmes in Science Education”, and Session n° 4 to “Methods, Materials and Resources for Teacher Training and School SE Experiments”. On the second day, Session n° 5 was dedicated to “Re-

search in SE and Assessment Methods” and Session n° 6 to “E-learning and SE/WEB Connection between Schools”. Keynote speeches were given on the first day by Prof. Ahmadou Lamine Ndiaye, who spoke about science education in Africa, Prof. Odile Macchi, who discussed science education in Europe, and Prof. Norma Nudelman, whose speech focussed on science education in Latin America. On the second day, Prof. Faouzia Charfi gave a keynote lecture on “The Scientific Way of Thinking”.

The Conference was concluded in the afternoon of October 13th, when a full report on the Conference was prepared by the chairs, the moderators and the session reporters via a conclusive session in which the future of the AEMASE concept was discussed. The Conference ended with the participants’ unanimous approval of the Dakar Declaration, which called on all countries in the AEM region to urgently implement and consolidate IBSE/STEM/SBC Education programmes and on Academies and Ministries of Education to re-elaborate science education programmes to include new ways of teaching and learning.

*This report was kindly provided by ALLEA Working Group Science Education Chair Professor Giancarlo Vecchio.*



## Permanent Working Group Intellectual Property Rights

### *PWG IPR releases supplementary statement on Open Access*

Recently, the [ALLEA Permanent Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights \(IPR\)](#) elaborated a new supplementary statement on the topic on open access. The Working Group has devoted much attention to this topic in the past two years, having published a [Statement on Enhancement of Open Access to Scientific Publications in Europe](#) as well as a [Follow-Up Statement on open access](#). After taking recent laws in the Netherlands and Germany into consideration, the working group has formulated the supplementary statement that can be accessed [here](#).

In its 2013 Statement on Enhancement of Open Access to Scientific Publications in Europe, ALLEA invited the European authorities to take measures to facilitate the transition to an Open Access (OA) model for publications in scientific journals. In their supplementary state-

ment, the authors now encourage the European authorities to “advocate, or adopt a legislation on a copyright contract law provision allowing the authors of short scientific works resulting from a publicly-funded research to make their work available to the public free of charge following a reasonable period of time after the work was first published.” Thereby, the statement specifies, the deployment of the so-called Green OA model can be facilitated.

Both the Netherlands and Germany recently have adopted such provisions that give the scientific authors the right to make their article freely available despite any provision to the contrary in their contract with the publisher of the journal.

In the statement, the Working Group suggests that such authors’ rights

should apply to articles, and not to books: “[I]t should be limited to short publications resulting from publicly- and in particular EU-funded research programmes (not from private research); the free making available should happen after a reasonable period of time allowing the publisher to recoup its investment.”

Those provisions “do not create a new copyright exception [...] but only affect the assignability of the economic rights of the authors”. This supplementary statement encourages European institutions concerned with the dissemination of scientific research to consider similar measures which could be adopted at European or national level and to devote more attention to the awareness of author rights in open access models.

### *New ALLEA Statement “On the Status of the Patent System of the European Union” issued by PWG IPR*

In June 2011, ALLEA via the PWG IPR issued a Statement on “The Future Patent System of the European Union” which supported the creation of a European patent with unitary effect and the renewal of the European Commission’s efforts to harmonise employee’s invention laws as well as provide for a grace period in order to facilitate implementation of the anticipated unitary EU patenting rules.

ALLEA’s newest [statement](#) prepared by the PWG IPR revisits these issues in light of recent developments regarding EU patent regulation on the basis of the Agreement on a Unified Patent Court (UPC Agreement) signed by 25 Member States in February 2013 as well as the 2012 Unitary Patent Regulation and the 2012 Regulation on translation arrangements.

The statement welcomes the introduction of these pieces of legislation

“despite the fact that the three legal instruments constitute a complex and complicated compromise, which does not meet all the expectations and whose implementation into practice will have to overcome several hurdles”. It then proceeds to assess the difficulties and deficiencies that will arise in the course of their imminent implementation. For example, the Unitary Patent Regulation and the UPC Agreement reveal a problematic situation in which the validity of “unitary effect”-holding patents is dependent on the date of their respective Member State’s accession to the UPC Agreement.

Thus, the statement offers several recommendations for resolving these issues and emphasises that the coordination of Member States’ accession to the UPC Agreement is essential for avoiding inconsistencies and confusion related to the unitary effect

of patents. Moreover, ALLEA via the PWG IPR reaffirms its commitment to supporting the introduction of the aforementioned grace period, which still remains unaddressed in the existing legislation.

This statement will be addressed to the relevant European authorities and national governments in an effort to concretely contribute to the continuing development of the European patent system.



## Continuation of SASSH Project

### *ALLEA involved in expert discussion on academies and digitisation in the humanities*

On 2 September 2015, circa 25 experts from the fields of research funding, humanities research, and science policy met in the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, which hosts the ALLEA secretariat, for a discussion on the topic “The European Academies and Digitisation in the Humanities”.

The event began with an introduction of the “Survey and Analysis of Basic Social Science and Humanities Research at the Science Academies and Related Research Organisations of Europe” (SASSH) study recently published by ALLEA and the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities and led by Dr Camilla Leatham. The results of the study offer the first-ever overview of humanities and social sciences research at the science Academies in Europe.

After the presentation of the SASSH study, three invited experts delivered lectures on the discussion topic. Dr Julia Stamm from the European Commission showcased the opportunities and challenges for researchers in the social sciences and humanities regarding the procurement of funding and support within the current EU research funding programme Horizon 2020. Professor Claudine Moulin followed with a presentation of numerous different digital and physical research infrastructures in the social sciences and humanities. Finally, Professor Gerhard Lauer, member of the ALLEA Working Group on E-Humanities, presented examples of changes and shifts in humanities research that have been

brought by different forms of digitisation.

The meeting closed with an animated discussion addressing, among others, the questions of how joint or cooperative projects by the European Academies can be supported and which role consistent data standards can play in digital projects in the social sciences and humanities.



### *Fostering research cooperation among science academies: SASSH-follow up-project conceptualises Academies' Internet Portal*

The SASSH study that was published earlier this year is based on a survey of more than 600 SSH-projects in 76 Science Academies and related institutions (see above). As one of its most important results, a number of significant obstacles for international cooperation among SSH-projects of European science academies have been identified.

First, the researchers state that there is a lack of easily available basic information (topic, research field, contact etc.) on relevant ongoing projects abroad. Regarding the research itself, of the 80% of projects in which research data and results are stored in electronic form, in only one third of that number are these data published in an externally easily accessible way (Open Access). Though several European initiatives address these problems, the diverse digital infrastructures they provide are not sufficiently

well-known and thus not always used by researchers.

In Germany, the Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities facilitates intensive inter-academy cooperation in the humanities especially through a programme called the “Akademienprogramm” that is funded by the federal government and represents a research infrastructure that is unique in the whole of Europe. Furthermore, the Union of German Academies strives for an intensified cooperation between academies in Europe, particularly through its membership in ALLEA.

In order to achieve this aim, in a successor project to SASSH, the Union now continues the close collaboration with ALLEA in order to develop a concept for an academies portal designed to pave the way for closer research cooperation between science academies

on the European level. Based on the evidence of the SASSH study results, during the next 18 months the technical and administrative framework for an internet platform will be elaborated with three core content elements: 1), basic information about ongoing academies project in the field of SSH, 2), comprehensive information on relevant European initiatives that provide digital research tools and open data repositories, and 3), a search engine that find research data of academies SSH projects internationally.

From the outset, participatory aspects are of prime importance to guarantee that future users will embrace the new infrastructure. In the course of the project, workshops may be held to address issues of data storage, data standards and explore the numerous existing services that offer support for making research data accessible in a sustainable way.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**ALLEA General Assembly 2016 | The Austrian Academy of Sciences**  
**18-19 April 2016 | Vienna | Austria**

The topic of next year's General Assembly will focus on **"The Freedom of Scientific Research in the Face of Political and Societal Demands"**. Further to the scientific symposium, the **ALLEA Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values** will be awarded for the third time to an outstanding scholar to honour exceptional contributions to the cultural and intellectual values of Europe and to the idea of European integration and identity.

#### LEGAL INFORMATION

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Publication Date: 19 November 2015

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 Pictures by ALLEA, Ed Noort, Janina Amendt, European Commission, European Union, www.gotcredit.com, JMG /pixelio.de.  
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