

FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE IN EUROPE

Edited by James Wilsdon and Robert Doubleday

April 2015



[Science & Environment](#)

Researchers 'appalled' as EU chief scientist role is axed

By Matt McGrath
Environment correspondent, BBC News

🕒 13 November 2014 | [Science & Environment](#)



NATURE | NEWS



European Commission scraps chief scientific adviser post

It is not yet clear what mechanism the commission will use as a replacement.

[Declan Butler](#)

13 November 2014

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Science policy
Political science

The EU needs good science policy. But does that mean it needs a Chief Scientific Adviser?

The new head of the EU Commission is being challenged over whether to continue with the post of EU Chief Scientific Adviser. **Doug Parr** explains why

Doug Parr

Friday 29 August 2014 14.38 BST

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A woman walks past the entrance of the European Council headquarters in Brussels. Photograph: YVES HERMAN/REUTERS

The new head of the EU Commission is being challenged over whether to continue with the post of EU Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) originally created by outgoing President Barroso. [Controversy has emerged](#) over whether the post helps or hinders the EU incorporating the best science into policy.

An [initial letter](#) setting out some of the issues and calling for the post to be abolished was signed by nine non-governmental organisations. There was a [strong reaction from other groups](#) and scientists who equated the call for the abolition of the CSA post as being an attack on the “integrity and independence of

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SCIENCE ADVICE TO GOVERNMENTS

As policy experts gather in Auckland this week for the first global conference on science advice to governments, a *Nature* news feature explores advisers' experiences in three recent crises. Meanwhile, *Nature* and *Scientific American* bring together highlights of their rich archives on the relationships between scientists, policy-makers and the public.

Image credit: WHP/Alamy

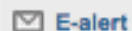
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INGSA provides a forum for policy makers, practitioners, academies, and academics to share experience, build capacity and develop theoretical and practical approaches to the use of scientific evidence in informing policy at all levels of government.

It shall operate through:

- Exchanging lessons, evidence and new concepts through conferences, workshops and a website;
- Collaborating with other organisations where there are common or overlapping interests;
- Assisting the development of advisory systems through capacity-building workshops;
- Producing articles and discussion papers based on comparative research into the science and art of scientific advice.

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OECD calls for common principles for developing and communicating scientific advice

23/04/2015 - Governments would benefit from agreeing common principles for developing and communicating scientific advice, both in crisis situations and for long-term policymaking, according to a new OECD report. In light of recent controversies around science advice, the report proposes a checklist for countries to follow to ensure science advisory processes are effective and trustworthy.

[Scientific Advice for Policymaking: The Role and Responsibility of Expert Bodies and Individual Scientists](#) cites examples of recent events where science advice has been called into question, including the Ebola crisis, the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster and the 2009 earthquake at L'Aquila in Italy.

The report says governments need to clearly define the remit of scientific advice, by demarcating advisory roles from policy decision-making roles, and defining from the outset the legal responsibilities and potential liability of advisors. The scientific advisory process should also seek to mitigate controversies by introducing procedures to declare and verify conflicts of interest and by explicitly determining how to engage participation from non-scientists and civil society.

"If we want science to help answer the complex and controversial questions being asked by policymakers, the media and the public, we need scientific advice to be effective, transparent and legitimate," said OECD Director of Science, Technology and Innovation Andrew Wyckoff. "This new set of principles is designed to help governments create the conditions for scientific advice to be used to improve policy-making across a range of areas."

The report, produced by the [OECD Global Science Forum](#), examines the fallout from disconnected science advice from one country to another and the risks of contradictory national positions. It finds that in today's inter-connected world, where social media and the Internet can drive much faster and louder reactions to events like natural disasters or epidemics, and countries come under harsh scrutiny for the advice they give, more co-operation and pooling of information among experts is needed.



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Moedas © European Union, 2015

16 January 2015

Commissioner to examine new ways of delivering independent scientific advice

The European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, will investigate new options for providing impartial scientific guidance, according to a report by *Science Business*.

The commissioner will present a list of options to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker by the summer and will investigate the 'best practices' used around the world.



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24/04/15



EFSD negotiations begin
23/04/15



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**CSAs as 'charismatic megafauna'
within ecosystems of expertise**



Linking scientific advice to wider developments in evidence-informed policy



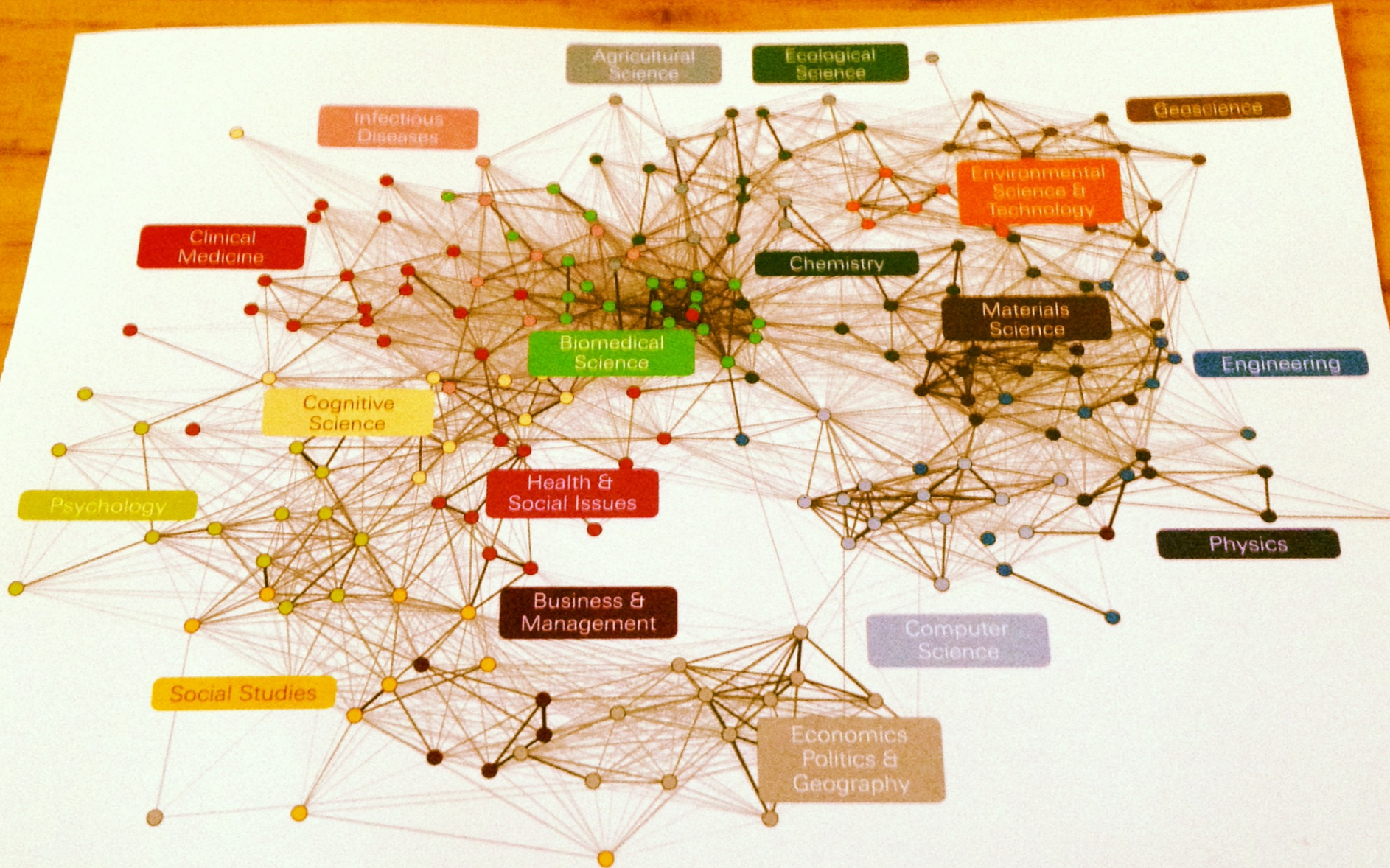
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Developing a more robust 'science of scientific advice'



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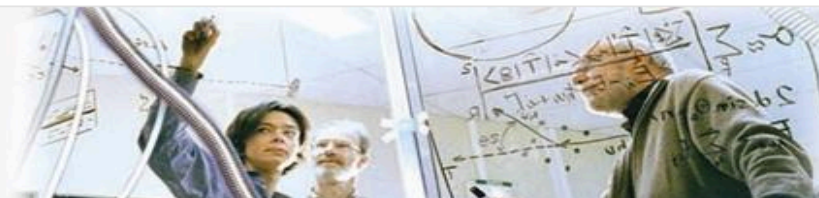
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