



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Transition Team of the President-elect Jean-Claude Juncker

Head of the Transition Team

Brussels, **07 OCT. 2014**
JUNCKER (2014) 3269182

Dear Mr Selvagio, Mr Sebastiani and Ms Di Pietrogiacomio,

On behalf of the President-elect, Jean-Claude Juncker, thank you for your letter of 2 October 2014 to which he asked me to reply.

As already mentioned in my first letter to you, of 1 October 2014, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre (DG JRC) plays and will continue to play, a key role in providing scientific and technical support to the European Union's policy agenda. This is clearly written in the mandate of the Commissioner-designate responsible for DG JRC.

It is clear that it is only as a fully-fledged Commission Directorate-General that the JRC is able to fulfil its mission to provide the best possible, objective and independent scientific advice for EU policy making. Moving DG JRC to a different portfolio has no implications on its status, financial and human resources.

The positioning of DG JRC in the Education, Culture, Youth and Citizenship portfolio has been undertaken for a number of reasons. President-elect Juncker announced new ways of working in the Commission. The new approach and structure is about working more effectively as a team, fostering cooperation and breaking silos. Moving DG JRC into the portfolio of Education, Culture, Youth and Citizenship is part of that process and brings many advantages to DG JRC. It positions DG JRC as a member of the Research Family, while at the same time emphasises the transversal role of DG JRC which is not working exclusively for Research and Innovation policy, but

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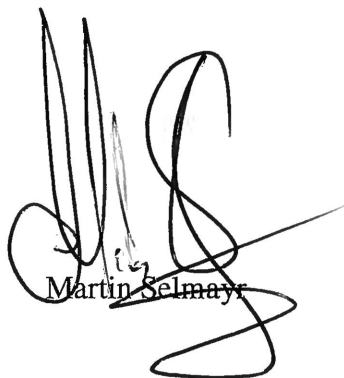
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supports all EU policies. Indeed, DG JRC's cross-cutting role is ideally suited to the silo-breaking approach foreseen by the President-elect. The services of DG JRC will be fully available to all Commissioners, including the Vice-Presidents and their Project Teams. In addition, having DG JRC in the same portfolio as the EIT also provides a huge opportunity to benefit from the synergies between the two organisations.

The President-elect is convinced that sound scientific evidence is at the core of credible and fair policies. He acknowledges that DG JRC has a long standing experience in translating science and knowledge into scientific advice for policy. He has not yet taken a decision on the appointment of a Chief Scientific Advisor. There are a number of different ways of how to organise scientific advice to policy. Some Member States favour a more collective or institutionalised approach, others prefer to have an individual scientist acting as a Chief Scientific Advisor. All options will be carefully evaluated but no matter what approach on scientific advice is decided, DG JRC will continue to have a key role.

I believe that I have addressed your concerns. The President and his team hope that we can now move together towards implementing the agenda for jobs, growth, fairness and democratic change.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Selmayr