

Ispra, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014

TO THE ATTENTION OF

MR J.C. JUNCKER – PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Subject: Independent Scientific Advice for policy support

Dear Mr Juncker,

In our last letter sent to you on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, we questioned the unclear overlapping of the roles of the Chief Scientific Adviser and the Joint Research Centre. In your reply you informed us that a discussion about the CSA position was still ongoing, and you reassured us about the continued key role of the JRC in scientific policy advice.

Yesterday we learned from press reports of your decision to suppress the function of the EU Chief Scientific Adviser. Having already appreciated the clarity of your reply to our previous communication regarding the JRC repositioning in the new Commission, we now welcome this development which provides an unambiguous answer to our last question.

We support your reported trust in independent scientific advice. However, it appears that you have not yet decided how to “institutionalise” this function.

As the Commission's in-house science service, the Joint Research Centre's mission is to provide EU policies with independent, evidence-based scientific and technical support to our fellow DGs throughout the whole policy cycle. This makes the JRC the *de facto* scientific adviser, already present within the Commission.

Currently this already existing institutional solution is not fully exploited. Your recent decision leaves space to a new possibility in which the JRC could see its central role in the policy making process reinforced by creating a formal link with the newly established European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC).

We are confident that you will take our consideration into account and we would welcome any comments you may have.

Yours faithfully,

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