



A new mechanism for independent scientific advice in the European Commission

Introduction – why is a new mechanism needed?

- *Scientific evidence increasingly important for policy making, a part of Better Regulation*
- *Scientific advice needs to be independent, objective, interdisciplinary, transparent*
- *And must **take account of specific characteristic of EU policy making**, e.g.*
 - different national perspectives
 - principles of proportionality and subsidiarity

How do national governments obtain independent scientific advice?

- *In most countries: Academies of Science play a key role, also Advisory Councils/ Committees.*
- *Some countries (e.g US, UK, Ireland) appoint Chief Scientific Advisor, alongside academies and advisory bodies.*
- ***There is no single model or best practice!***

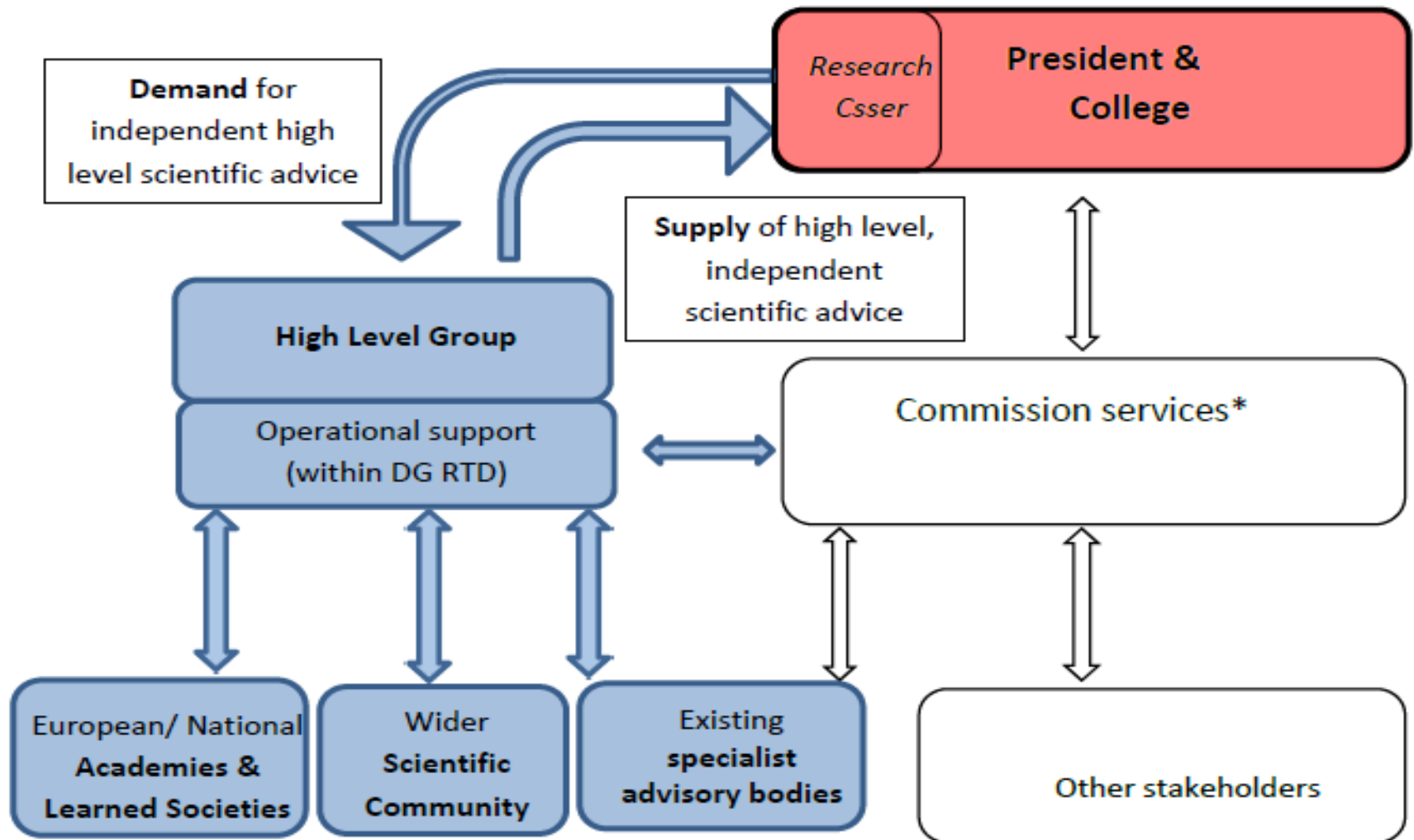
Use of scientific advice in the Commission

- *Already extensive use of scientific advice in specific policy areas:*
 - **Joint Research Centre** providing in-house scientific support
 - **Use of external experts** - groups, contracted studies, as well as standing, independent, advisory committees.
 - **Horizon 2020 finances research projects** in support of EU policies (societal challenges).
- *But lack of a mechanism to provide timely, independent, high level scientific advice to meet needs across all policy areas.*

The proposed mechanism

*Strengthen existing arrangements and bring together the supply and demand for independent scientific advice, with **two main new features**:*

- *A **structured relationship with scientific advisory bodies in Member States (e.g. national academies)** – to benefit from the wealth of knowledge and expertise*
- *Establishing a **High Level Group of eminent scientists** – to improve the interaction with scientific community, and ensure independence, scientific integrity, transparency*



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

Next steps

Launch process to appoint High Level Group (using an Identification Committee)

Provide new support for Academies and Learned Societies to collaborate on EU policy issues

Put in place operational support within European Commission (within DG Research and Innovation)

=> New mechanism operational from Autumn 2015