



# **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!***

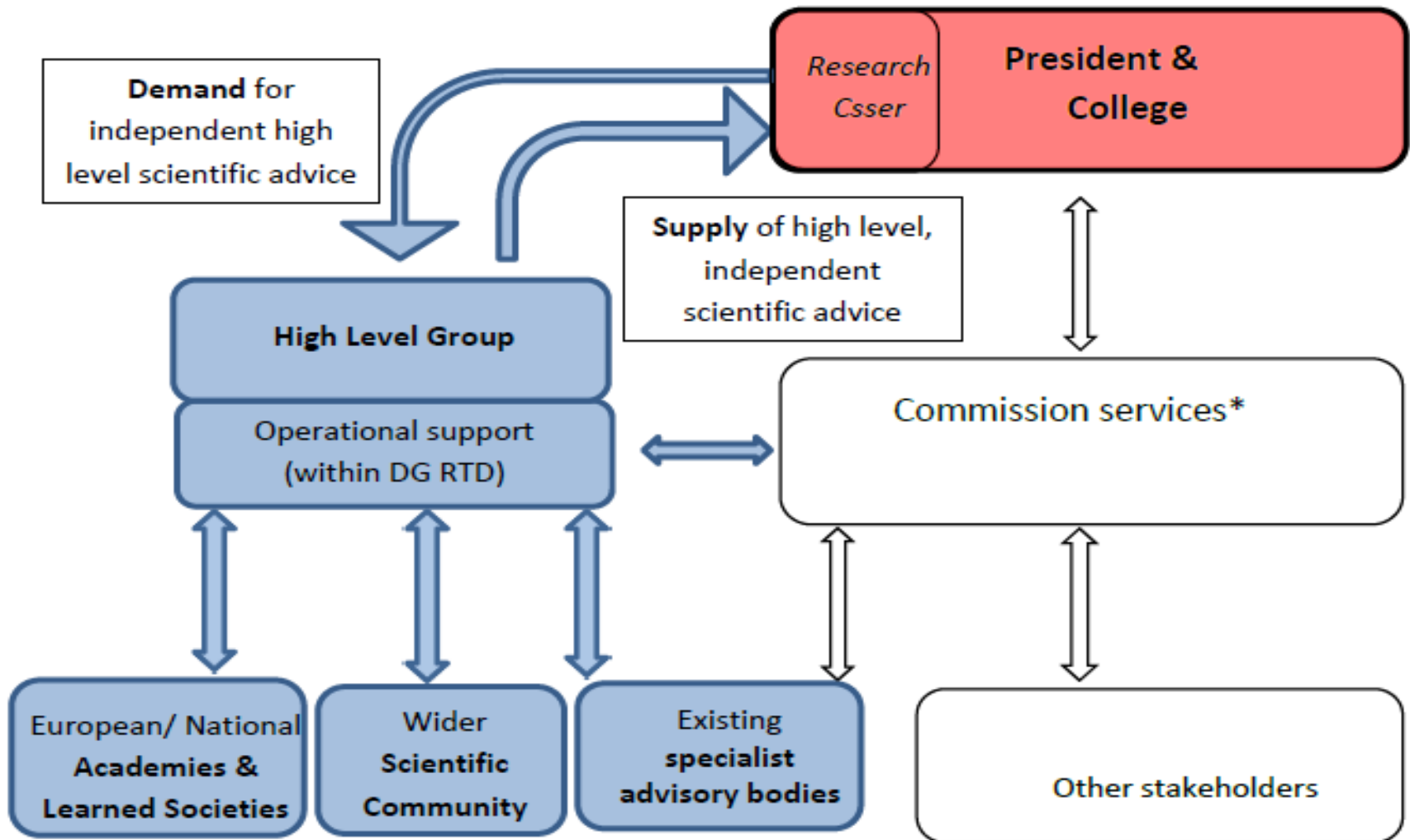
# Use of scientific advice in the Commission

- *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**