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--- by email only ---

18 December 2019

Dear Vice-President Timmermans,

We are writing as President and Vice-President of the European Academies' Science Advisory Council (EASAC) to congratulate you on your recent appointment. We also write to offer our help by providing science advice to the European Commission as you strive to deliver effective, fair, competitive and affordable policies.

EASAC is an independent voice of leading scientists in the EU, which works without EU funding when offering scientific advice to guide EU policy for the benefit of society. We are the association of the 28 national science academies of the EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland (listed at Annex A). With a potential reach of over 10,000 experts covering all scientific disciplines, we are able to mobilise Europe's best scientific minds on important and wide-ranging public policy issues. We also work with other independent academy and scientific networks, providing access and leverage outside the EU. These include the Global Young Academy and National Young Academies for early career researchers in Europe, bringing an intergenerational perspective to our work.

EASAC has an extensive track record of producing clear, high-quality and impactful advisory reports and statements for use by EU policymakers in the Commission, Parliament and Member States. Recent reports are listed at Annex B, together with online links to their summaries. Much of our work is relevant to the European Green Deal and climate action, cutting across our programme portfolios on Energy, Environment and Biosciences. Recent reports that may be of particular interest to you include:

- [Decarbonisation of transport: options and challenges](#) which reviews options for avoiding the use of motorised transport, shifting to more efficient modes, and improving vehicle performance. It emphasises that the EU will not deliver its Paris Agreement commitments without urgently phasing out fossil fuels, generating more low-carbon electricity, and containing consumer demand for oversized vehicles and aviation.
- [The imperative of climate action to protect human health in Europe](#) which sets out the multiple opportunities for adaptation to reduce health impacts and for mitigation to capitalise on the benefits of decarbonisation, if EU policymakers and the scientific community work together urgently to assess and address health effects in all sectors, and counter misinformation.
- [The multifunctionality and sustainability of EU's forests](#) which showed the inherent conflicts between EU policy actions on different aspects of forest use, and issued important conclusions with respect to biodiversity and bioenergy policies.

- [Forest bioenergy, carbon capture and storage, and carbon dioxide removal](#) which laid out more clearly the inherent conflicts between the current renewable energy directive and climate change mitigation.
- [Opportunities for soil sustainability in Europe](#) which reviewed the state of EU's soils and the threats they face, and how to ensure sustainability and greater contribution to climate change mitigation.
- [Food and nutrition security and agriculture](#) which makes it clear that Europe is not immune to the global challenges for food and nutrition security, and recommends taking a food systems approach that encompasses all the steps in supply and demand while at the same time enabling action across the critical issues for health-nutrition-agriculture-environment-climate change interfaces.
- [Negative Emissions Technologies](#), which carried out a critical analysis of the various options under consideration to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and also the role of Carbon Capture and Storage; and set priorities for R&D in these fields.
- Three reports on the [Circular Economy](#), which have looked at the basic principles, the use of indicators and critical materials and involved close working with Commission staff in their preparations for their work programmes in this area.

We are currently working on [Decarbonising Buildings and Heating](#), which is likely to be completed in early 2021, and our report on [Plastics in the circular economy](#) will be published in Spring 2020.

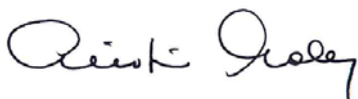
For the scoping and dissemination of our work, we engage with EU Directorates-General, the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and other leading stakeholders. At the same time, our national members work with their respective governments on the implementation of EU policies and to strengthen national policies. We are also the regional network of the global network of academies of science, engineering and medicine (the [InterAcademy Partnership or IAP](#)), which enables our work to reach global audiences.

You will know that independent expert advice is a vital part of evidence-informed policymaking, and that this is increasingly being used at local, national, regional, EU and global levels. It can also be helpful for policy implementation. Evidence-informed policymaking has never been more important. Policymakers and citizens both face unprecedented and ever more urgent global challenges in these unsettling times of “fake news”, inaccurate and/or misleading information.

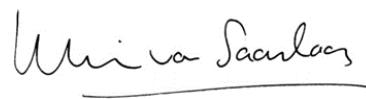
Detailed information on EASAC and our work is freely available on the EASAC website www.easac.eu and you can also get in touch with us at secretariat@easac.eu. We look forward to working with the new European Commission and Parliament in any way we can, and have already been in touch with Diederik Samsom, offering to introduce EASAC and discuss our work in the light of your Green Deal initiative.

We would be delighted to meet with you at your convenience to explore opportunities to work together, and we will be in touch early in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Christina Moberg
President, EASAC
Past President, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences



Professor Wim van Saarloos
Vice-President, EASAC
President, The Royal Netherlands
Academy of Arts and Sciences

EASAC - The affiliated network for

ANNEX A: National members of the European Academies of Science Advisory Council (EASAC)



The Austrian Academy of Sciences

www.oeaw.ac.at



The Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium

www.rasab.be



The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences

lma.lt



The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences

www.knaw.nl



The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

www.bas.bg



The Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts

info.hazu.hr



The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters

english.dnva.no



The Polish Academy of Sciences

www.pan.pl



Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts



The Czech Academy of Sciences



The Academy of Sciences of Lisbon



The Romanian Academy

www.acad.ro



The Council of Finnish Academies

www.academies.fi



The Académie des sciences, France



The Slovak Academy of Sciences



The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

www.sazu.si



The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

www.leopoldina.org



The Academy of Athens

www.academyofathens.gr



The Spanish Royal Academy of Sciences



The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

www.kva.se



The Hungarian Academy of Sciences

mta.hu



The Royal Irish Academy

www.ria.ie



The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

www.swiss-academies.ch



The Royal Society, UK

royalsociety.org



The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Italy

www.lincci.it



The Latvian Academy of Sciences

www.lza.lv

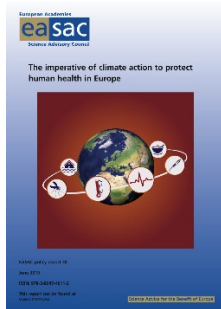


Academia Europaea

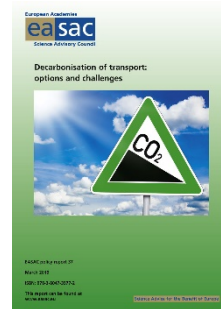
www.ae-info.org

ANNEX B: Examples of recent EASAC reports

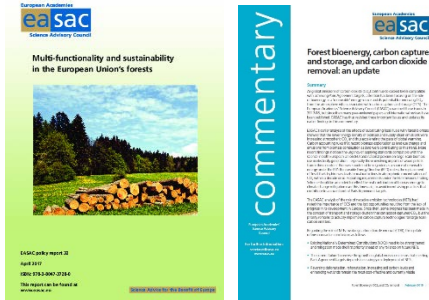
[The imperative of climate action to protect human health in Europe \(June 2019\)](#)



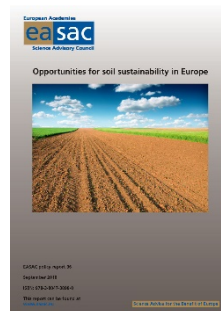
[Decarbonisation of transport: options and challenges \(March 2019\)](#)



[The multifunctionality and sustainability of EU's forests \(May 2017\) / \[Forest bioenergy, carbon capture and storage, and carbon dioxide removal \\(February 2019\\)\]\(#\)](#)



[Opportunities for soil sustainability in Europe \(September 2018\)](#)



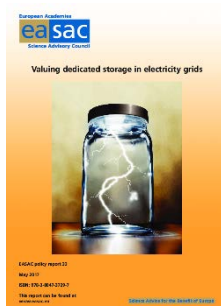
[Negative emission technologies \(February 2018\)](#)



[Food and nutrition security and agriculture \(December 2017\)](#)



[Valuing dedicated storage in electricity grids \(June 2017\)](#)



[Genome editing \(May 2017\)](#)



