Academies working together regionally in Europe through EASAC

IAP-EASAC Workshop on the SDGs

Leopoldina, German National Academy of Sciences

10-12 September 2018

Dr Christiane Diehl

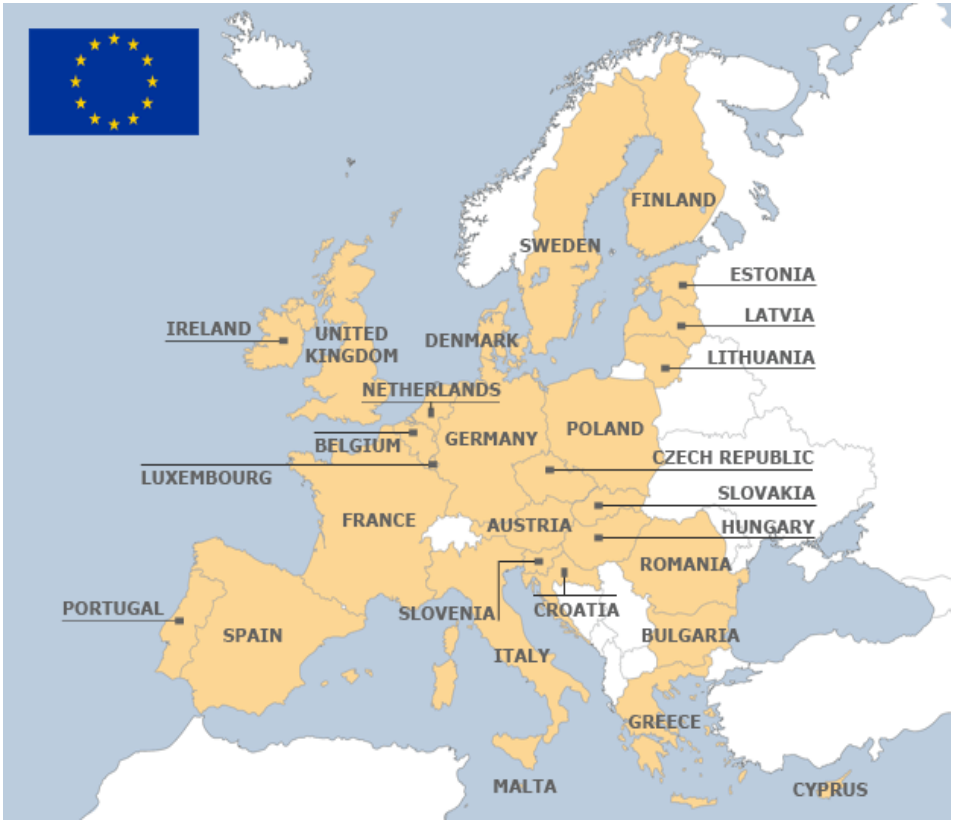
EASAC Executive Director

What is EASAC?

- EASAC = **European Academies‘ Science Advisory Council**
- **Collective voice of the National Academies of Science** of the EU member states, Norway and Switzerland
- Source of **independent scientific advice** for policy-makers in the EU‘s institutions and member states and Europe generally
- National Science Academies in the EU:
  - Networks of **scientific excellence** in Europe
  - Shared task of science-based **advice for policy and society**

EASAC membership

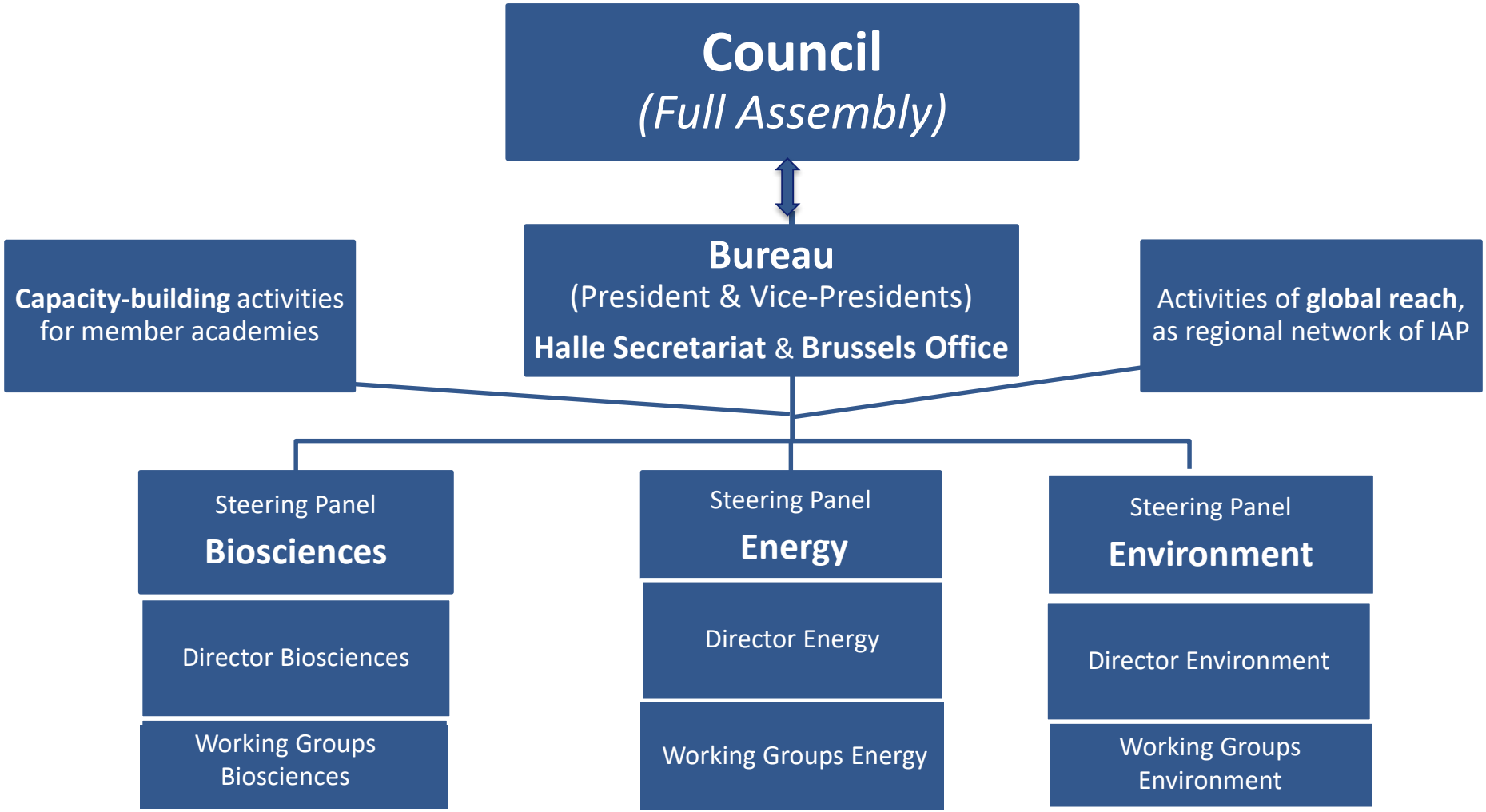
- ✓ The **25 national science academies of EU** member states (there are no national science academies in Malta and Luxemburg – Cyprus just starting)
- ✓ Also, by explicit vote, the national science academies of **Norway** and **Switzerland**
- ✓ The pan-European Academy of Science: **Academia Europaea**
- ✓ The association of all academies in geographical Europe, **ALLEA**



EASAC - What does it do ?

- "**Science for policy**": use of scientific evidence to guide EU policy making (i.e. not "policy for science")
- Detailed **analysis and recommendations** from Europe's most respected scientists
- Publications are designed for a **policy-oriented** audience, not other scientists
- **Efficient and timely** manner of offering science-based analysis and advice for policy and the public

EASAC's structure



Recent EASAC reports, statements and commentaries 1

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- EASAC and the **New Plant Breeding Techniques** (July 2018)
- Findings and recommendations from the **Smart Villages** Initiative 2014–2017 (June 2018)
- Commentary on **Forest Bioenergy and Carbon Neutrality** (June 2018)
- **Extreme Weather Events**: preparing for climate change adaptation (March 2018)
- **Negative Emission Technologies**: what role in meeting Paris Agreement targets? (Feb 2018)
- Opportunities and challenges for research on **food and nutrition security and agriculture** in Europe (Dec 2017)

Recent EASAC reports, statements and commentaries 2

European Academies Science Advisory Council

- **Homeopathic products and practices** (Sept 2017)
- Valuing **dedicated storage in electricity grids** (May 2017)
- **Multi-functionality and sustainability in the EU's forests** (April 2017)
- **Genome Editing**: scientific opportunities, public interest and policy options in the European Union (March 2017)
- **Circular Economy**: indicators and critical materials (Nov 2016)
- **Greenhouse gas footprints** of different oil feedstocks (April 2016)
- **Marine sustainability** in an age of changing oceans and seas (Jan 2016)

Some journal publications

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- Addressing decreasing vaccine coverage in the EU, The Lancet, April 2018
- Assessing Security Implications of Genome Editing, Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology, March 2018
- Action on Food Security, Chemistry and Industry, February 2018
- Scientific opportunities for food and nutrition security, The Lancet Planetary Health, January 2018
- Assessing and regulating homeopathic products, Journal of Internal Medicine, September 2017
- How should the applications of genome editing be assessed and regulated? eLife, April 2017
- Genetic gain of function, Nature, October 2015
- Antimicrobial Innovation, Nature Reviews, Oct 2014
- Time to settle the synthetic controversy, Nature, May 2014

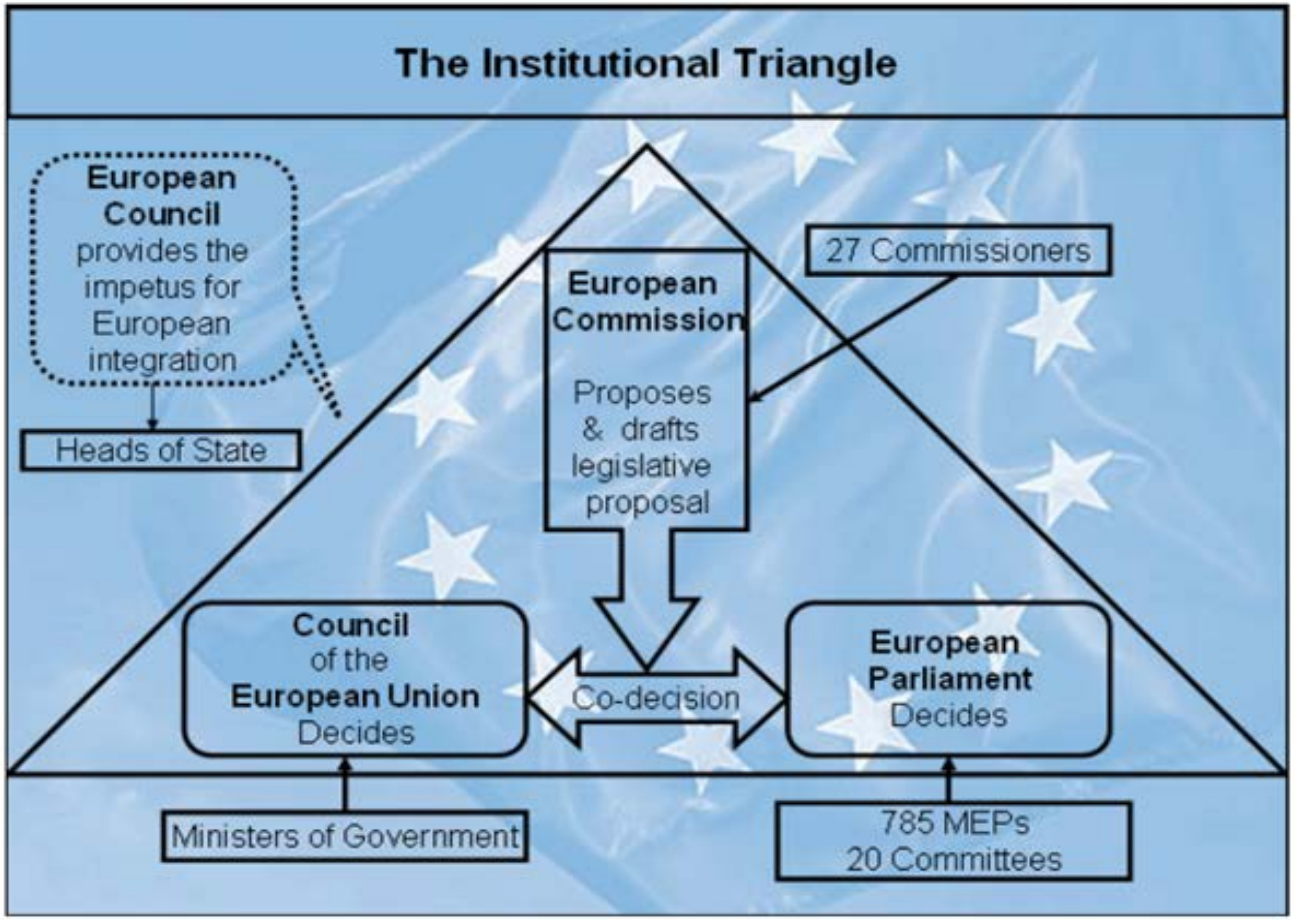
C&I Chemistry&Industry

THE LANCET

eLIFE

nature

The EU‘s Institutional Triangle



Science Advice Mechanism (SAM) of the EU Commission (in DG Research and Innovation)

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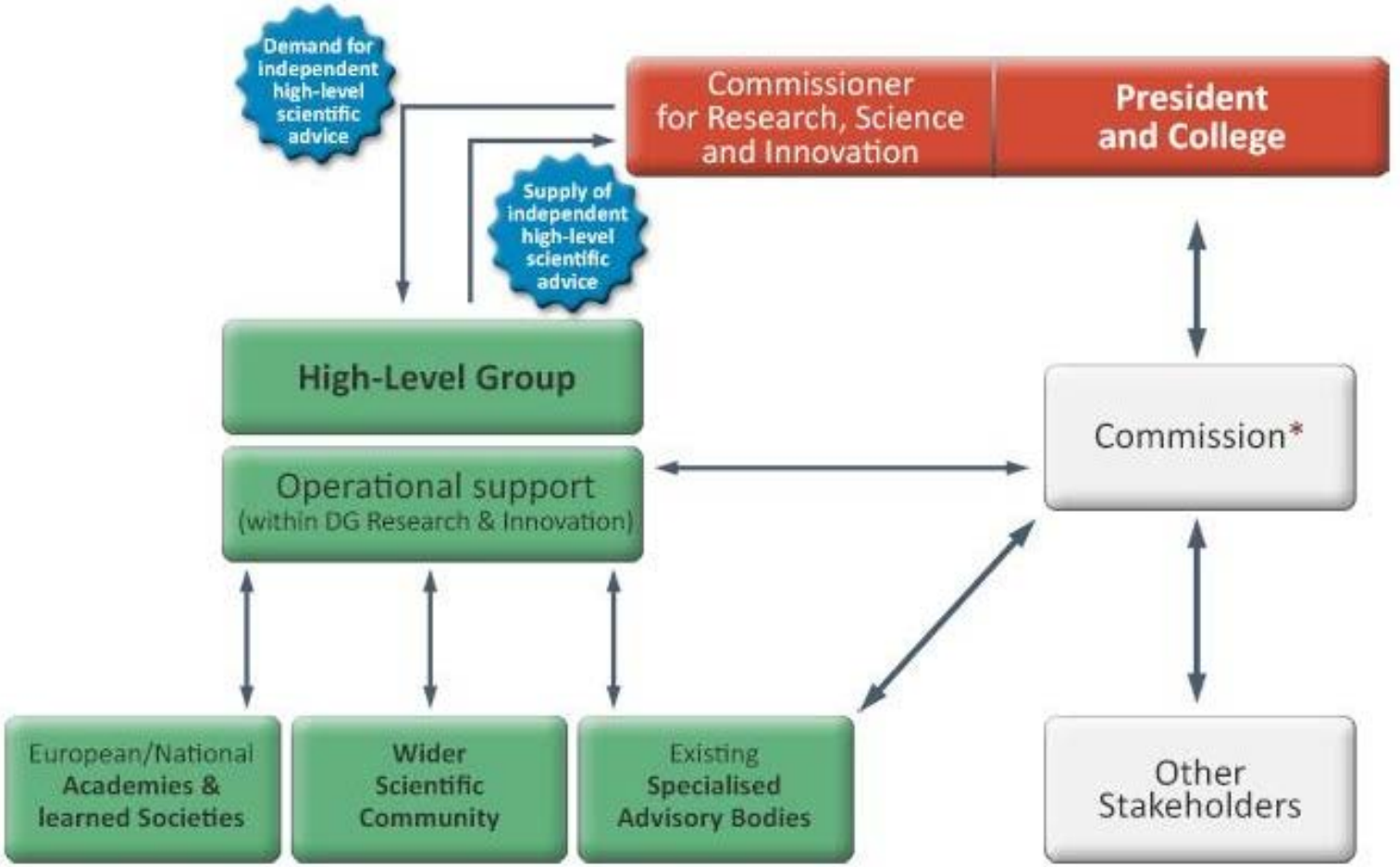

*Including the Joint Research Centre which provides in-house scientific support

European academies‘ networks

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- **ALLEA**: 57 members (in geographical Europe) and focus on ‘policy for science‘ and social sciences/humanities perspective
- **EASAC**: 29 members (national science academies of EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland), focus on natural sciences and ‘science for policy‘ on an EU level
- **FEAM**: 18 academies of medicine (and medical branches of science academies) in the EU
- **Euro-CASE**: 21 academies of engineering (and engineering brances of science academies) in Europe

- **Academia Europaea**: pan-European academy (sciences and humanities) with currently 2800 individual members

EASAC and the EU

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- The European academies are in a good position to jointly offer science-based advice because there is a direct and relevant policy audience for it, in the EU's institutions.
- Estimates say that approx. 80% of all legislation passed in individual EU member states originates in some form from the EU (directly or indirectly)
- Thus, if National Science Academies of the EU Member States want to deliver their advice where it has the biggest impact, and in the most efficient manner, this is jointly and in Brussels
- Special political weight of *united* voice of EU's MS academies
- Over the past years, EASAC has made substantial progress in delivering advice to the EU Commission and EU Parliament

Networks of academies forming IAP The InterAcademy Partnership

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Asia

Europe

iap SCIENCE RESEARCH HEALTH
the interacademy partnership

America

Africa

Addressing *global* challenges

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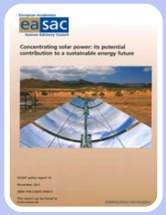
Biosciences (Using crop genetic improvement technologies for sustainable agriculture)

Environment (The current status of biofuels: their environmental impacts and future prospects)



Energy (Concentrating solar power: its potential contribution to a sustainable energy future)

So… what about the SDGs?

- So far, only little ***explicit*** connecting to the SDGs in EASAC‘s work (documents or events)
- However, practically ***all*** of what the European National Science Academies produce together in EASAC directly supports the global SDGs agenda
- Strategic question of explicit addressing of SDGs implementation in Europe by EASAC?

  ➔ Also dependent on feedback/input by members!