



TRANSPARENCY
INNOVATION
UNBIASED
POLICY
QUALITY
INTER-DISCIPLINARY
RESEARCH
SCIENCE
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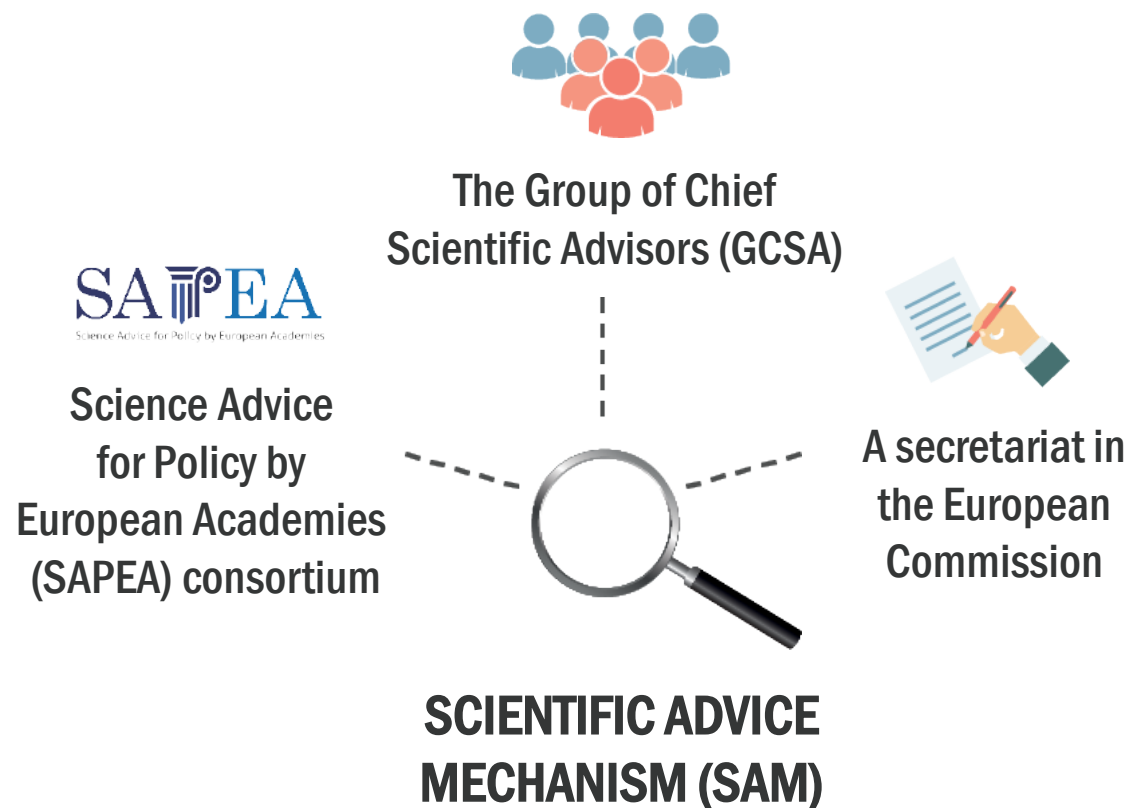
**SCIENTIFIC
EVIDENCE**

How the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors works

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European Commission, Unit RTD.03
“Chief Scientific Advisers – SAM, EGE”

This set of slides is for information only. Please refer to official documents.

How the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors works



Scientific advice for well informed policy and better regulation



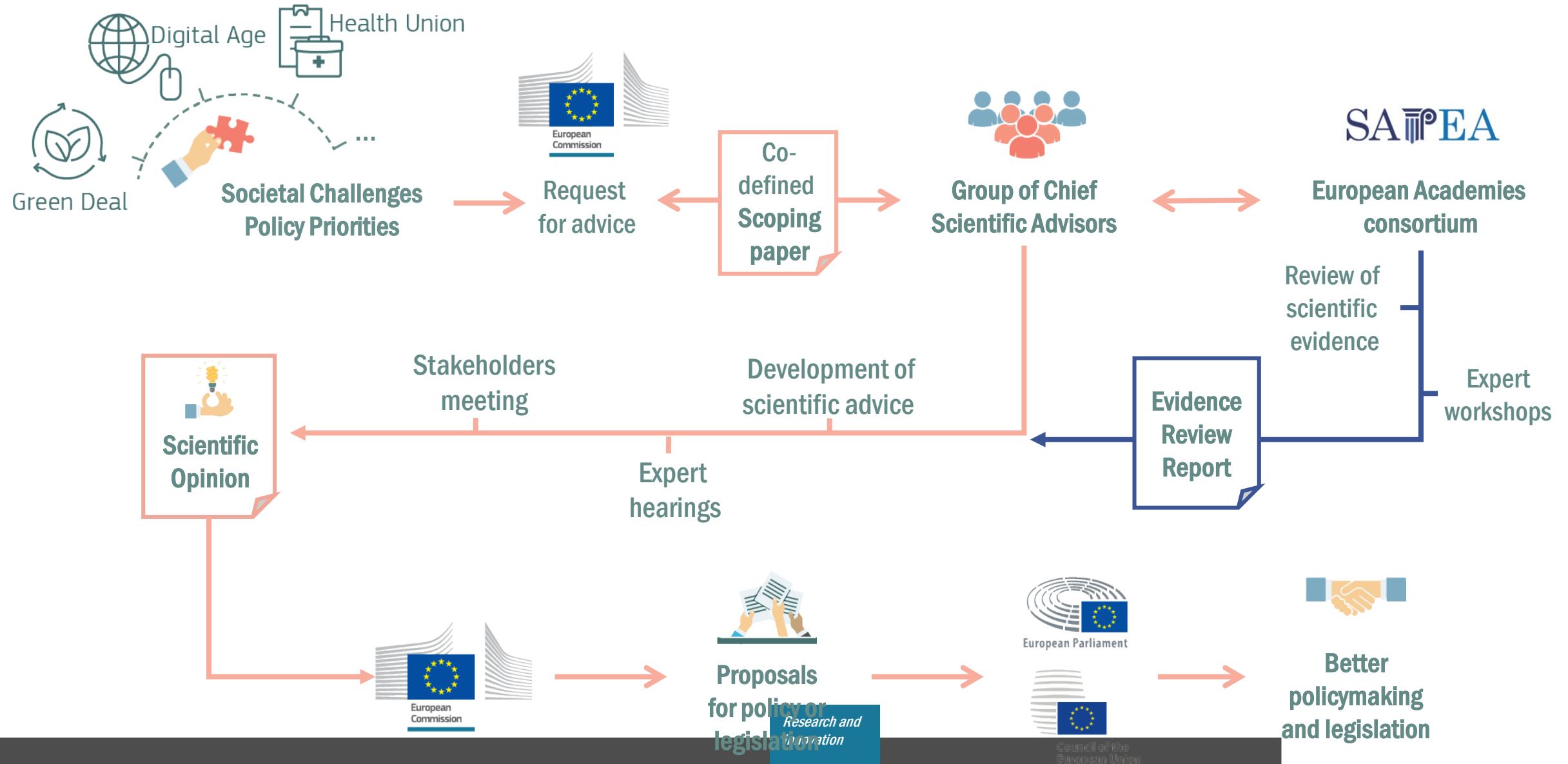
Transparent and as free from bias as possible



Complementary to other scientific advice bodies in and beyond the EU institutions

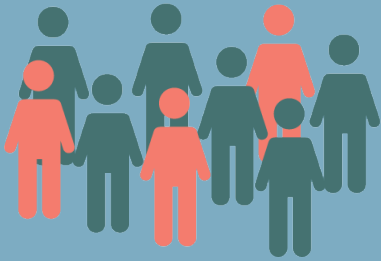
How the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors works

Version 25/03/2021



Principles of Scientific Integrity and Transparency of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors

Version 25/03/2021



Members were selected with the help of an Identification Committee composed of independent experts.

Members are contractually bound to be impartial



Appointed for a maximum of 5 years.



Members must inform the chair of any potential conflict of interest



Members act in their personal capacity, independent of institutional or political interests



Elect its own chair, sets its own agenda and adopts its own rules of procedures.

The Group of Chief Scientific Advisors as of November 2020



Nicole Grobert
Chemistry (Germany)



Carina Keskitalo
Political Sciences (Sweden)



Éva Kondorosi
Biology (Hungary)



Maarja Kruusmaa
Biorobotics (Estonia)



Alberto Melloni
History (Italy)



Nebojsa Nakicenovic
Energy Economics (Austria)

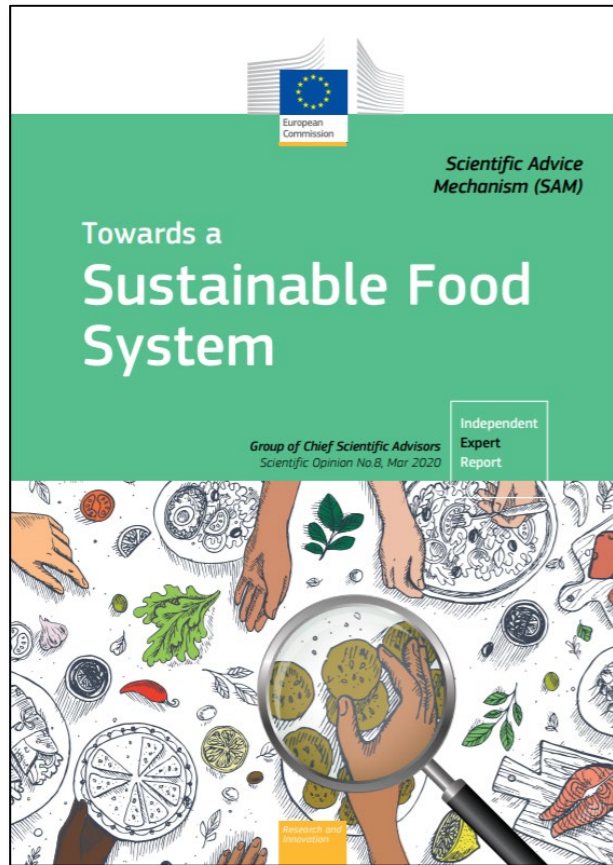


Sir Paul Nurse
Genetics (United Kingdom)

Scientific Advice of the Group from 2016 – present



Scientific Opinion on Towards a Sustainable Food System (March 2020)



ISSUE:

The EU food system provides enough and safe food with wide choice, but is not sustainable.

Challenges include increasing world population, climate change, diet-related diseases, depletion of natural resources and geo-political shocks.

QUESTION:

‘Business as usual’ is not a viable option as it will endanger natural resources, our health, the climate and the economy.

This raises the question how an inclusive, fair and timely transition to a sustainable food system can be achieved?

Scientific Opinion on Towards a Sustainable Food System (March 2020)

RECOMMENDATIONS:



Drive a **step-wise, learning-focused** policy transformation on global, EU, national, regional and local levels



Use an iterative, responsive and adaptive **policy mix**, with **binding measures** as main drivers

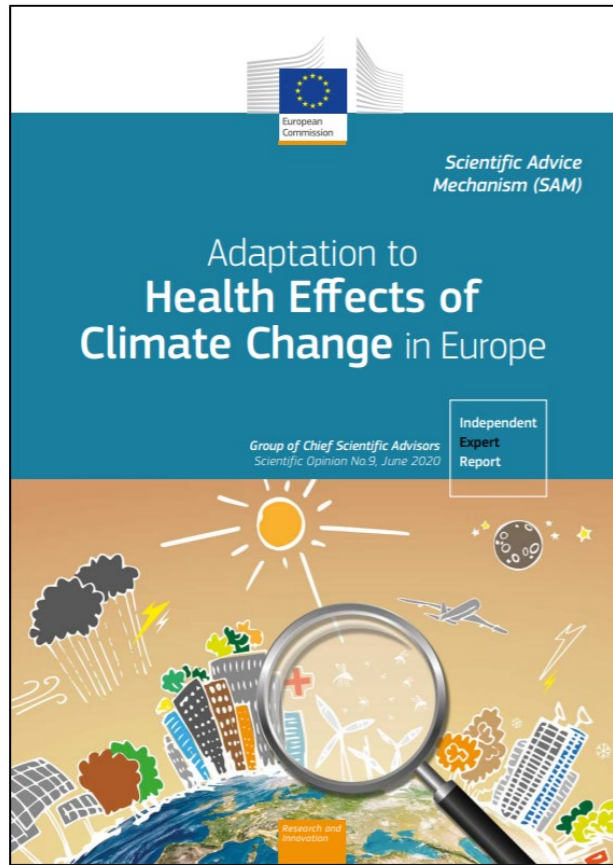


Address **power and information asymmetries** and make the **easiest choice** for citizens sustainable

IMPACT:

The scientific opinion informs the Farm to Fork Strategy of the European Green Deal.

The Adaption to Health Effects of Climate Change in Europe (June 2020)



ISSUE:

Scientific evidence shows that the climate is changing; a child born today may experience a world that is 1.5-4 °C warmer than the long-term pre-industrial average.

Negative effects on health through

- heat(waves)
- infectious and vector-borne diseases
- extreme events like floods and fires.

QUESTION:

How to adapt to inevitable consequences of climate change on our health sector?

RECOMMENDATIONS:



Integrate human health into all climate change adaptation policies across all sectors and governance levels



Design policies to support the most **vulnerable social groups and geographical areas**



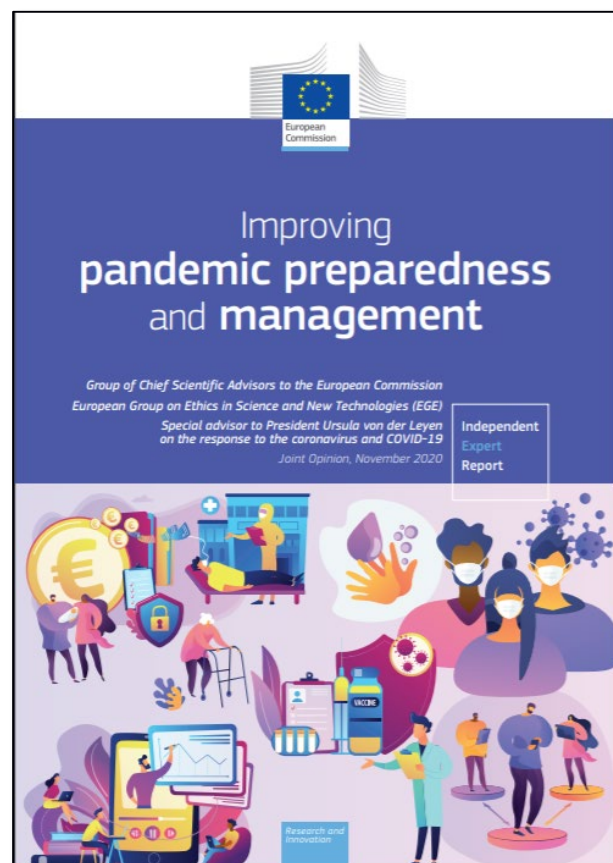
Support the capacity and preparedness of the health sector as part of broader disaster and emergency risk strategies, including surveillance, monitoring and assessment.

IMPACT:

The scientific opinion informs:

- The implementation of the European Green Deal and the EU climate law on adaptation
- The new EU adaptation strategy

Improving pandemic preparedness and management (November 2020)



ISSUE:

Scientific evidence suggests that epidemics and pandemics will become more frequent with a growing, urbanised and mobile world population. Especially transmission of infectious diseases from animals to humans is expected to become more likely, as climate change and human societies impact ecosystems

QUESTION:

How can the European Union and its Member States become better at preventing and preparing for future outbreaks of new infectious diseases?

RECOMMENDATIONS:



Support and coordinate **research on prevention, biomedical interventions and societal resilience**, during and in between outbreaks.



Strengthen **systems for preparedness and management**, including healthcare, resource sharing, education and communication systems.



Find **solidarity-based and sustainable ways of living** to lower the risk of epidemics and pandemics and mitigate their impact in the future.



Improve **collaboration across EU countries** and at the **global level** for knowledge sharing and coordination.

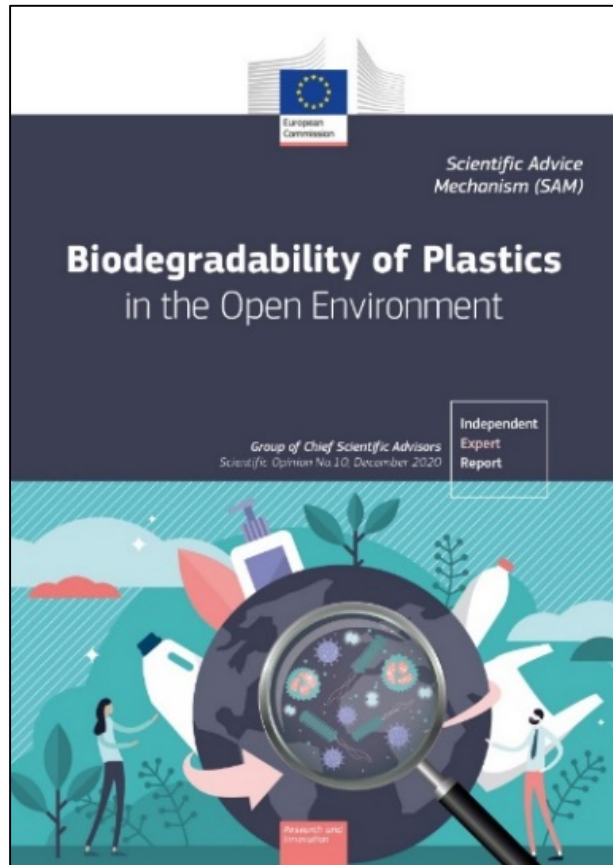


Uphold highest standards of **fundamental rights and liberties** during crises and let them guide prevention and response strategies.

IMPACT:

This Joint Opinion contributes to the European Health Union and other local, European and global debates and efforts to prevent and mitigate the harm of epidemics and pandemics.

Scientific Opinion on Biodegradability of Plastics in the Open Environment (December 2020)



ISSUE:

A growing global use of plastics has led to an increased amount of plastic waste in the environment, polluting and harming land and sea. Biodegradable plastics could be part of the solution to this problem.

QUESTION:

Biodegradable plastics only biodegrade in specific environments and under certain conditions, often generated in industrial composting facilities. In which situations could using biodegradable- instead of conventional plastics bring environmental benefits?

Scientific Opinion on Biodegradability of Plastics in the Open Environment (December 2020)

RECOMMENDATIONS:



Biodegradable plastics are **not a solution to littering**. Limit biodegradable plastics to specific uses for which reduction, reuse and recycling are not possible.



Support the development of **coherent standards for testing and certification**, assessing the biodegradation of plastic products in specific environments.



Inform consumers and manufacturers about the correct use and disposal of biodegradable plastics, for example, by putting in place a clear, **European-wide labelling system**.

IMPACT:

This Scientific Opinion informs the European Commission's forthcoming policy framework on plastics.

Thank you



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