



SCIENCE DEMOCRACY & the FUTURE

BRUSSELS' SCIENCE
IN SOCIETY SALON

HOSTED BY
MARIA DA GRAÇA CARVALHO MEP
WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF
COMMISSIONER CARLOS MOEDAS

8TH OF OCTOBER 2019
TIME: 12:00-14:30



#Science4Society

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The challenging relationship between science and society is nothing new. Science and new technologies force society to challenge their value-system and how they view the world and questions the previously agreed-upon "narrative of reality". Narratives are a potent tool as they have the power of governing the life of individuals, social groups and nations. They organise the numerous facts and events into coherent, meaningful structures. Considered from this point of view, the current crisis of trust and expertise related to the decreasing trust in experts and science is not something new and unprecedented, but rather a new form of a very old challenge.

As debates around climate change, artificial intelligence and vaccines become increasingly emotional policymakers and scientists alike have had to accept that in the battle for hearts and minds of human beings, narrative will consistently outperform data in its ability to influence human thinking and motivate human action.

Yet, science and new technologies are being developed at an ever-increasing speed, upending the existing understanding of the world and requiring new thinking and debates. The need for open and honest debate about how new technologies will impact society and developing new narratives that can be shared by society and guide future decisions is more important than ever.

This is why Re-Imagine Europa has established a regular and neutral space to discuss the broader impact of new technologies on society and - going beyond the usual science-framing .

WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY EXQUISITELY DEPENDENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND YET HAVE CLEVERLY ARRANGED THINGS SO THAT ALMOST NO ONE UNDERSTANDS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

CARL SAGAN

During the first edition of the Brussels Science in Society Salon, organised together with the European Commission's Science Advice Mechanism (SAM) we explored **the possible impact on society of genome editing in agriculture**. The report outlining the key outcomes of this discussion underline the challenges that new technologies pose to old debates. New Breeding Techniques have radically changed the biotech world, yet we are applying regulation developed almost twenty years ago.

This was highlighted by the public reactions to the Court of Justice of the European Union's judgement of 25 July 2018 concerning the regulatory status of organisms obtained using new techniques of directed mutagenesis, including 'gene editing techniques', and by the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors' own-initiative statement, published 13 November 2018 .

Today's event will address these issues with Commissioner Carlos Moedas kick-starting the discussion. The event will be structured as a high-level salon to allow for real exchange and discussions. Organised as a lunch-time event, after the initial keynote speech, the participants will be seated around four different tables, each table discussing a different angle of the debate.



PROGRAMME

11:30-12:00 ● REGISTRATION AND WELCOME

Please note that it takes around 30 minutes to get through security of the European Parliament. If you have requested a badge, someone will be waiting for you at the entrance to escort you to the room.

12:00-12:05 ● INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Erika Widegren, Re-Imagine Europa

12:05-12:10 ● WELCOME ADDRESS

Maria da Graça Carvalho Member of the European Parliament

12:10-12:30 ● KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation

Q&A. Moderated by: Erika Widegren, Re-Imagine Europa

12:30 ● STARTER IS SERVED

Guests will have the opportunity to discuss the topic raised by the Commissioner in groups of eight. Each table will be organised to ensure representation from different perspectives and sectors.

13:00-13:20 ● SCIENCE ADVICE TO EUROPEAN POLICY IN A COMPLEX WORLD

Professor Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Chair of the European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisers and Former Director-General of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)

Professor Janusz Bujnicki, Professor, Head of the Laboratory of Bioinformatics and Protein Engineering, International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Warsaw

Q&A . Moderated by: Erika Widegren, Re-Imagine Europa

13:30 ● MAIN COURSE IS SERVED

Guests will have the opportunity to discuss the topic raised by the Chief Scientific Advisers.

14:00 ● COFFEE AND DESSERT IS SERVED

The main take-aways from each table will be presented to the group by the rapporteurs and the debate will open-up to a plenary discussion.

14:00-14:30 ● PLENARY DISCUSSION

● TABLE 1.

SCIENCE ADVICE TO EUROPEAN POLICY IN A COMPLEX WORLD

FACILITATOR AND RAPPORTEUR:

MARIA DA GRAÇA CARVALHO, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

● TABLE 2.

THE COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

FACILITATOR AND RAPPORTEUR:

PROFESSOR ROLF-DIETER HEUER, CHAIR OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S GROUP OF CHIEF SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS AND FORMER DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH (CERN)

● TABLE 3.

NARRATIVES, FACTS AND VALUES - HOW THE DISCUSSION ON GENOME EDITING IN AGRICULTURE IS CHANGING

FACILITATOR AND RAPPORTEUR:

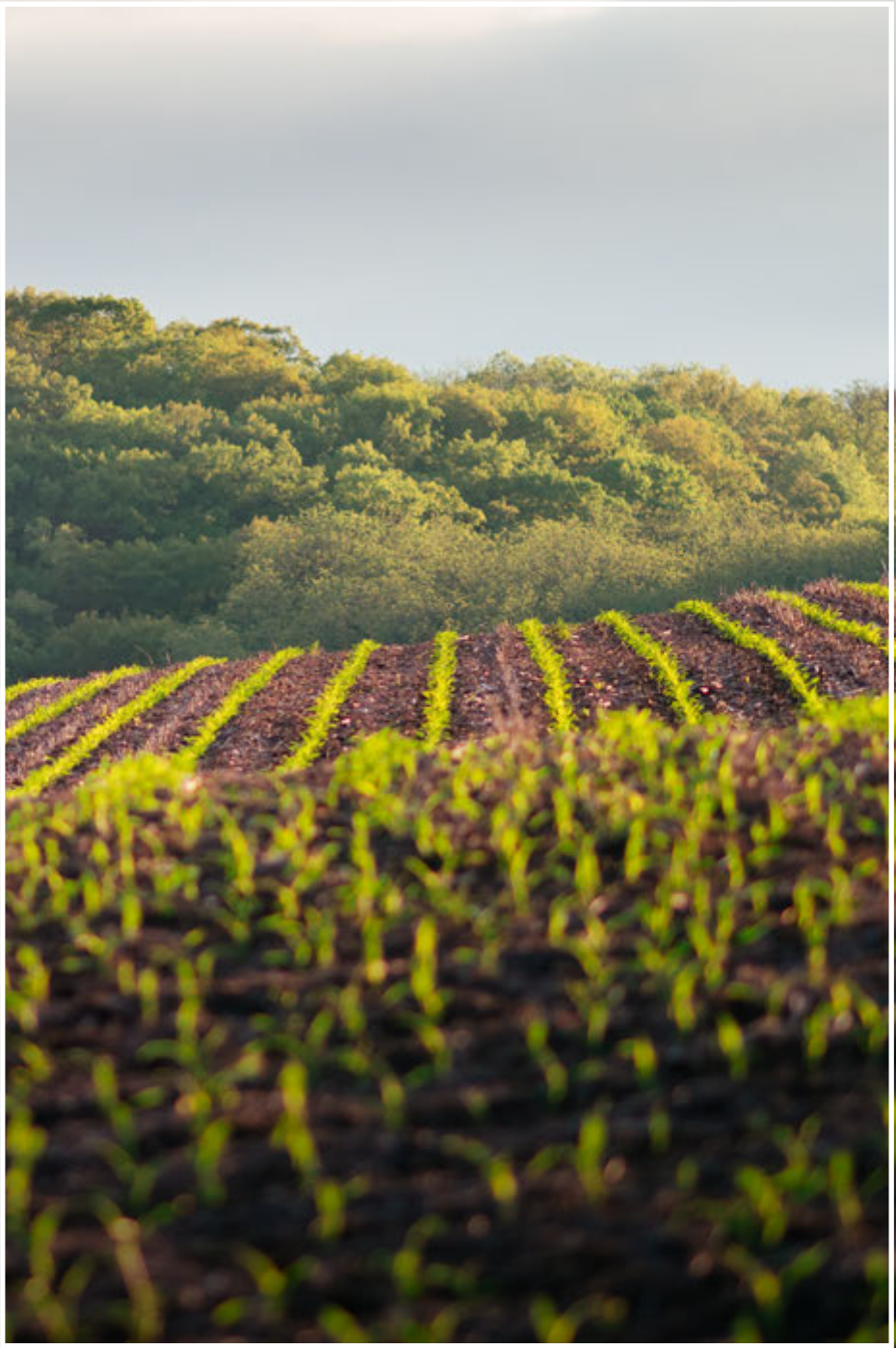
PROFESSOR DIRK INZÉ, FULL PROFESSOR AT GHENT UNIVERSITY AND SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR OF THE VIB, DEPARTMENT OF PLANT SYSTEMS BIOLOGY, MEMBER OF KVAB

● TABLE 4.

BEYOND BORDERS: EUROPEAN SCIENCE POLICY IN A GLOBAL WORLD

FACILITATOR AND RAPPORTEUR:

DR PETER KEARNS, PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATOR - ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE, ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY DIVISION, OECD



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RE-
IMAGINE
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...WHERE IDEAS BECOME REALITY