
*Science Advice and Policy
Development in the EU*

*The University of Tokyo
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Michael D. ROGERS*

EVENTS!

Harold Macmillan Prime Minister (1957-1963), when asked by a young journalist (after a long dinner) what is most likely to blow governments off course replied:

“Events dear boy. Events”

A Critical EU “Event” - Mad Cow Disease -

- *Mad Cow Disease (BSE) started in the UK herd around 1986*
- *First human case (vCJD) in the UK announced on 23-3-1996*
- Commission Decision 96/239, 27-3-1996, Worldwide ban on the export of British beef
- Separation of Responsibilities for Food Production from Food Safety in 1999
- EU GENERAL FOOD LAW Regulation N° 178/2002
- European Food Safety Authority – Established 2002 to provide expert advice on food safety

THE GOVERNANCE OF SCIENCE ADVICE

2001 White Paper – European Governance (2001/428)

Working Group 1b – “Democratising Expertise”

Some Important Messages

➤ Expertise increasingly sought but increasingly contested

➤ Transparency in the selection and use of expertise is essential

➤ Broadening the expertise base in policy advice is necessary

➤ Integrating expertise in all stages of risk governance

THE GOVERNANCE OF SCIENCE ADVICE

2002 Communication (2002/713)

“The Collection and Use of Expertise by the Commission”

PRINCIPLES & GUIDELINES

➤ **QUALITY**

➤ **OPENNESS**

➤ **EFFECTIVENESS**

THE GOVERNANCE OF SCIENCE ADVICE

“scientists should be on tap, but not on top”

Winston Churchill

but

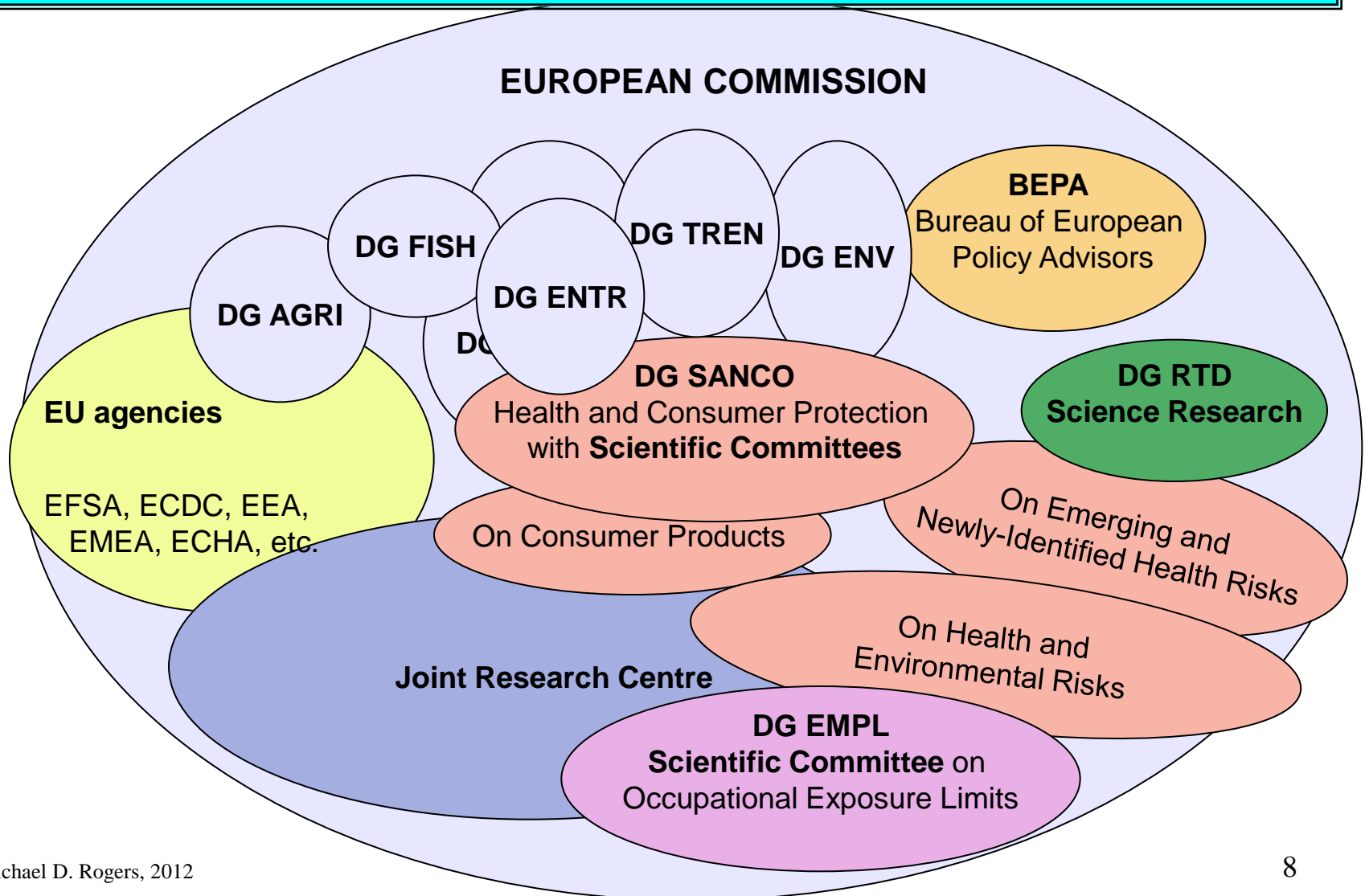
“The scientist does not claim or want to be on top, but it is not nearly enough to have him merely on tap. In most cases the executive authority will not be able to see for himself when the scientist should be called in or what questions he should be asked”

J.D. Bernal

There must be a Clear Distinction between Advice and Action

- Between Risk Assessment and Risk Management
- The Policy Maker has to Balance the Economy, Equity and Environmental Dimensions (the three “E”s)
- The Expert is concerned only with the state of knowledge and the uncertainties in this knowledge
- However, a strict separation between those that ask the question and those who provide the answer brings its own problems (cf. EFSA)

Science in EU Policy Development



“The EFSA Model”

The European Commission

“Asking the Questions”

- Is it the right question? -

Strict Separation

EFSA

“Providing the Answers”

- Do they have the right experts? -

ADVICE ► ACTION
or
ACTION ► ADVICE!

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
and
HESC Research

➤ *“We do not end some lives for the medical benefit of others. For me, this is a matter of conviction”*

(President Bush, 12.8 2001)

Advice for Policy

**“Situating the
Appreciation”**

OR

**“Appreciating the
Situation”**

How Not To Do It!

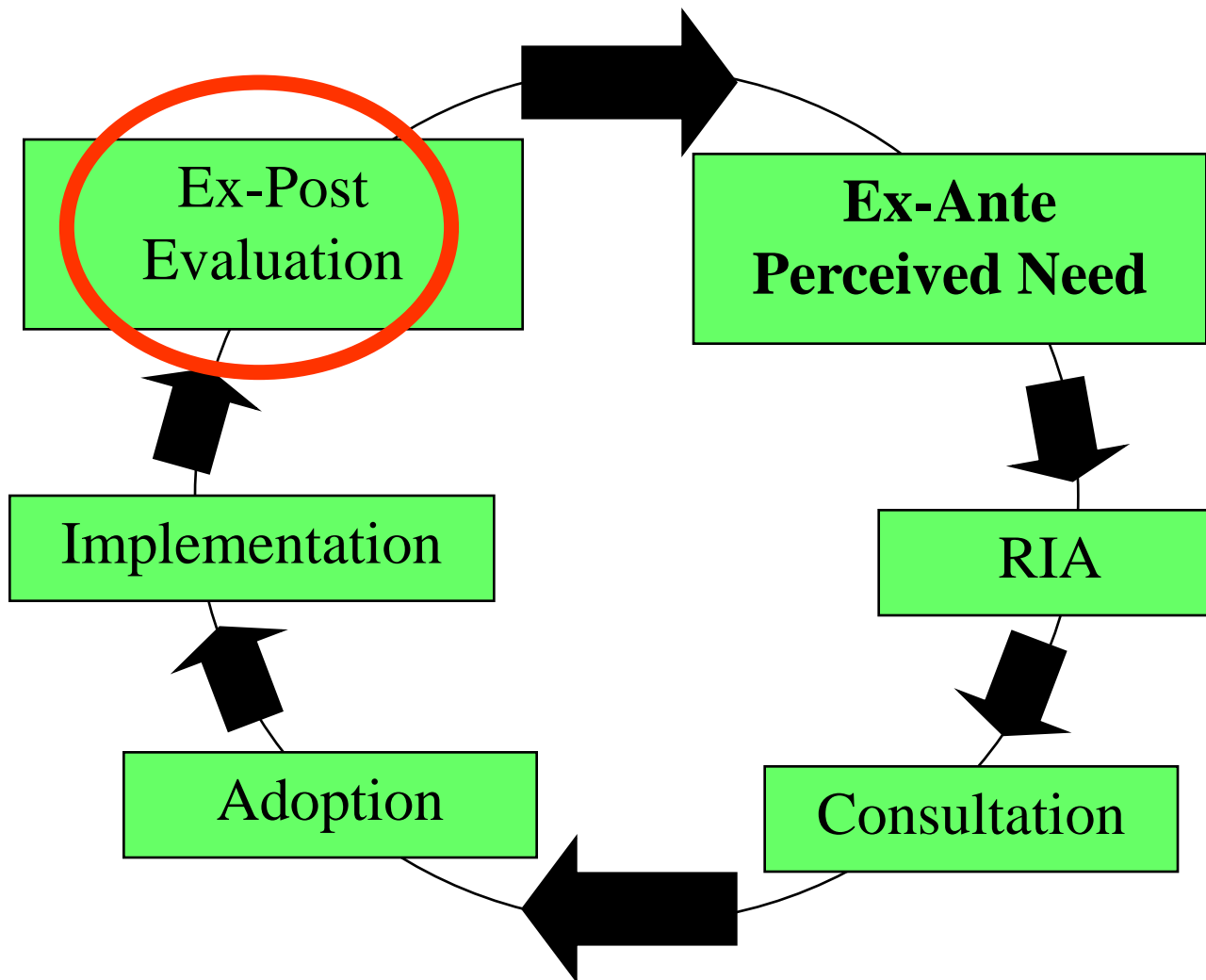
**The UK Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs
Advises UK government on drug related Issues**

**The UK government changed the classification of
cannabis from "Class C" to "Class B"**

**Professor Nutt, Chair of the Council, said the decision
was not based on their scientific evidence and that
cannabis was less dangerous than alcohol**

**The Minister said this crossed the line from advising to
campaigning and that he had no choice but to ask for
Professor Nutt's resignation (not on "top")**

“SMARTER” REGULATIONS



The Need for More Experts!

WE ALL WANT TO IMPROVE RISK REGULATION!

SO MAKE USE OF THE EXPERT COMMUNITY!

WE DON'T WANT TO BE “ON TOP”

but

*WE DO WANT TO BE HEARD AND TO MAKE A USEFUL
CONTRIBUTION TO THE REGULATORY PROCESS. EXPERTISE IS A
SCARCE COMMODITY AND MOVING FROM CHURCHILL TO BERNAL
“IN MOST CASES THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY WILL NOT BE ABLE
TO SEE FOR HIMSELF WHEN THE SCIENTIST SHOULD BE CALLED
IN OR WHAT QUESTIONS HE SHOULD BE ASKED”*