

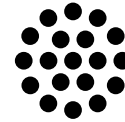


The **European Science Advisors Forum** (ESAF) was initiated in 2014 by Professor Anne Glover, who was then the science counsellor of Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Commission. The aim of ESAF is to allow the science advisors of European countries to exchange ideas and information on matters of pan-European importance before providing advice to their governments or the European Commission, to share experience and to promote a

culture of making political decisions based on science in the European Union.

The European Science Advisors Forum is an informal individual network of experts and scientists who are responsible for providing scientific advice or organising the provision of scientific advice on a national level. The Forum was convened by the EC Scientific Advice Mechanism unit. A large number of the members are leading scientists in their countries and the heads of academies of sciences and research councils. There are also some representatives of state governing bodies and university professors with relevant mandates. President of the Estonian Academy of Sciences Tarmo Soomere has been Chair of the Forum since 1 July 2020 (see esaforum.eu/).

The Estonian Academy of Sciences organises the joint activities of European academies of sciences



**International
Science Council**

In November 2021, Estonia became the Chair of the European ISC Members for 2022–2024. The association was founded twelve years ago and includes 52 ISC members located in Europe. For the first five years (2011–2015), the work of the network was led by the Finnish Academy of Sciences, and for the subsequent six years (2016–2021) by the Swiss Academy of Sciences.

Estonia's election as the Chair of this association of academies is an important recognition of the quality and visibility of our science, research organisation and science advisory activities on the entire continent. This position gives us a unique opportunity to increase Estonia's clout in the international arena and to inject more wisdom into policy-making in Europe.

Being the Chair gives us an opportunity to obtain early information about opportunities, threats and risks that may potentially influence Estonia through a filter of academic quality control, as well as to inform Estonian policy-makers in order to prevent potential problems even before they arise. The role of Chair is a good opportunity to keep topics important to Estonia and other smaller partners on the agenda and to forward important messages via sister academies. The position of Chair also allows us to mediate information about Estonian scientists and their everyday work.

The Chair term is three years, i.e. 2022–2024. It is a logical continuation of the Academy members' contribution to the development of the science ecosystem of Europe as a whole. President Tarmo Soomere fulfils the role of the Chair and Dr Erle Rikmann fulfils the duties of the Head of the Secretariat.

The Estonian Secretariat of the European ISC Members works in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs. The main tasks of the Secretariat are to coordinate the activities and events of the European ISC Members, to identify topics and tasks in the areas of work of the academies of sciences that require more detailed analysis and arrange their analysis, to organise the exchange of information between the ISC Secretariat and the local contact organisations, to ensure the representation of the priorities of European scientists in ISC's strategic plans and to facilitate the participation of European scientists in ISC's global activities and programmes.

The Annual Meeting of the European ISC Members held in June elected the president of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, Professor Anna Mauranen, and a member of the Council of the Royal Society of London, Professor Geoffrey Boulton, for their second terms of office on the Council for the coming three years. For the first time, the president of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, Professor Jūras Banys, a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences and Arts, Professor Giselinde Kuipers, and the research director of the Italian National Research Council, Professor Mario Malinconico, were elected to the Council.

The ISC's strategic objectives for the coming years are to promote smoothly functioning cross-border research in the key areas of global challenges, to increase the extent and weight of evidence-based understanding and decision-making processes on all levels of public policy, including on the level of discourses and activities, to support the constant and consistent development of the research ecosystems of all the continents, and to support the protection of academic freedom and the principles of responsible research.