

Brussels, 09 January 2019

Commissioner Carlos Moedas
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Dear Commissioner,

Subject: A Scientific Perspective on Microplastics in Nature and Society

In our Initial Statement last July entitled “A Scientific Perspective on Microplastic Pollution and its Impacts”, we announced our intention to deliver a Scientific Opinion on this topic in spring 2019, preceded by an Explanatory Note at the end of 2018 based on a review of the state-of-the-art scientific literature in the field.

In lieu of the Explanatory Note, I wish to share with you the attached Evidence Review Report by SAPEA which I and the other members of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors consider captures very well the different facets of this rather complex and emerging issue which we had in mind. We received this report as approved by the Board of SAPEA on 20 December 2018. All of the Members of the Group now agree to endorse it and to transmit it to the Commission.

The publication date of 10 Jan 2019 for this report coincides with a SAM expert workshop on the topic designed to help us identify the elements which we should prioritise in our forthcoming Scientific Opinion. I am looking forward to delivering this Opinion to the Commission in the coming months.

In the meantime, I would welcome any feedback from you and your Commissioner colleagues on this matter which you think may be relevant to our deliberations.

On behalf of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors,



Rolf Heuer - Chair
European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors