



# Memorandum of Understanding

between

**Academia Europaea**  
*(The Academy of Europe)*

**ALLEA**  
*(The European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities)*

**EASAC**  
*(The Association of the National Science Academies of EU Member States)*

**Euro-CASE**  
*(The European Council of Academies of Applied Sciences, Technologies and Engineering)*

**FEAM**  
*(The Federation of European Academies of Medicine)*

signed in the city of Berlin on 26 March 2015

## Memorandum of Understanding between the European academies' organisations

### Memorandum of Understanding for closer collaboration between the European academies' organisations Academia Europaea, ALLEA, EASAC, Euro-CASE and FEAM

(Duration: December 2014 to December 2017)

1.) Academia Europaea, ALLEA, EASAC, Euro-CASE and FEAM are academies or networks of academies in Europe of the following composition:

**Academia Europaea:** The Pan-European Academy of Humanities, Letters and Sciences, currently composed of approximately 3,000 individual members.

**ALLEA** (All European Academies): Federation of over 50 Academies of Sciences and Humanities in more than 40 countries from the Council of Europe region covering all scientific disciplines, with a particular engagement in the fields of social sciences and humanities.

**EASAC** (European Academies' Science Advisory Council): Association of all National Academies of Science of EU Member States, as well as the National Science Academies of Norway and Switzerland. Its focus is on science-based policy advice to the European Commission and the European Parliament in the fields of Environment, Energy and Biosciences (public health and agriculture).

**Euro-CASE** (European Council of Academies of Applied Sciences, Technologies and Engineering): Organisation of National Academies of Engineering, Applied Sciences and Technology, currently from 22 European countries, with a unique relationship to industry, mainly engaged in applied research and engineering, particularly relating to technology, innovation, energy and sustainability policies.

**FEAM** (Federation of European Academies of Medicine): The European umbrella group currently including 18 National Academies of Medicine and Medical Sections of National Academies of Science. Its focus is in the areas of human and animal medicine, biomedical research, education, and health, with a European dimension.

2.) The organisations Academia Europaea, ALLEA, EASAC, Euro-CASE and FEAM recognise the following:

- That the lives of European citizens, and citizens worldwide, are increasingly influenced by **developments and progress in research** – in the sciences, medicine, engineering/technology and social sciences.
- Consequently, there is a great **need for independent information and advice** to society and policy-makers which is given from a position without any vested interests by outstanding experts from the sciences, biomedical and health, engineering/technology and social sciences.
- Many of the questions which are of interest and importance to European societies on a national, regional and global level are 'cross-cutting' or **inter-disciplinary**, meaning that a range of experts needs to be involved in order to give information and advice.

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- The academies in Europe have had a 'renaissance' over the past 25 years and have developed many useful and interesting activities through which they can fulfil the role of **independent expert advisory groups**.
- The EU has developed into a major political force on the European continent. In order to maintain and enhance their role in the processes of developing policies, the scientific communities need to further strengthen their interaction and cooperation at the European level so that they can most efficiently feed expert advice directly into the **EU processes of developing policies**.
- For European societies and policy-makers, it would be useful to have a clear and **united voice of experts** from science, health, technology, and social sciences to help advance the public debate about benefits and risks and help policy formulation – whether on a national, EU or Europe-wide level.

3.) The organisations Academia Europaea, ALLEA, EASAC, Euro-CASE and FEAM declare their preparedness to collaborate with one another when the following conditions are given:

- When they agree that they can significantly jointly contribute to topics of relevance to European policy-making.
- When they can guarantee the independence of their processes and conclusions (free of ideological, political, commercial and other financial interests).
- When their work is supported by adequate additional funding made available for the collaboration.

It is understood that in certain cases the expertise of only two or three networks would be needed for a collaboration.

4.) These are some next steps to enhance the exchange of information between the networks and to prepare the foundation for future collaborations:

- The networks can build on and further improve their horizon-scanning activities.
- The networks can build on those established working relationships that already exist among them, e.g. in the mutual observer status of FEAM and EASAC.
- The networks could furthermore continue to build on the exchange of information at senior level by having regular meetings of their Presidents, one Vice-President (or other senior representative) and one member of staff.
- Beyond the contact at senior level, at staff level the academies' networks could establish regular meetings and exchange planning documents, especially regarding upcoming working groups, workshops and events.
- The academies' networks could furthermore use *ad hoc* opportunities to make joint statements, such as the letter of support for the Chief Scientific Advisor to the European Commission President in July 2014.
- The academies' networks are committed to working together to further promote the dialogue with the institutions of the EU on the basis of what has already been achieved so far.