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**Science Europe Scientific Advisory Committee Elects a New Chair**

*(Brussels, 22 October 2016)* At a recent meeting of the Science Europe Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in Brussels on 16 November, Professor Ola Erstad, Head of Department of Education at Oslo University, was elected as the new Chair of this cross-disciplinary sounding board.

Professor Erstad is an international leading researcher focusing on digital literacy but firmly rooted in the wider social and cultural context of learning beyond the technological aspects. His areas of research expertise are learning, technology and education, and children and youth in modern society. Commenting on his appointment, Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch, Head of Research Affairs at Science Europe, added, “with his experience, Professor Ola Erstad is an ideal Chair who brings important knowledge to the table when discussing topics such as Open Science, Open Innovation, and the value and impact of science”.

The SAC comprises 30 active researchers from 16 countries representing a variety of career stages and demonstrating a wide spread of research disciplines (including new and emerging fields), excellence in their represented research field, and a 50-50 gender balance. They provide scientifically independent advice to Science Europe on key European research policy topics and on the implications of EU legislative and regulatory developments.

Supporting Professor Erstad in his role as Chair of the SAC will be two Vice-Chairs, Susanne Siebentritt, Professor of Physics and Head of the Laboratory for Photovoltaics at the University of Luxembourg, and Professor Igor Emri, Director of Center for Experimental Mechanics at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

**Notes to Editors**

Science Europe is an association of major European research funding and research performing organisations in 27 countries, established in 2011 to promote the collective interest of its members and to foster collaboration between them. For more information see: [www.scienceeurope.org](http://www.scienceeurope.org).

In November 2015, Science Europe Member Organisations established a new cross-disciplinary Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). The SAC replaces the six individual Scientific Committees that ran from 2012 to 2015. Discover the profiles of the SAC members here: <http://www.scienceeurope.org/sac/members/>.

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