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PER EMAIL ONLY

email: sfeyo@fe.up.pt

Dear Professor Feyo de Azevedo,

On behalf of the European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors and on behalf of the European Commission, we would like to convey to you our gratitude and appreciation for the contribution made by members of the Working Group of Science Advice to Policy by European Academies (SAPEA) to the Scientific Opinion, "*Successful and timely uptake of Artificial Intelligence in science in the EU*"[1], which was published on 15 April 2024. Professor Arlindo Oliveira is one of the contributors to the SAPEA consortium's Evidence Review Report[2], informing this Scientific Opinion, also published on 15 April 2024.

Artificial intelligence has the potential to revolutionise scientific discovery, accelerate research progress, boost innovation, and improve researchers' productivity. It can strengthen the EU's position in science and ultimately contribute to solving Europe's societal challenges. Nonetheless, the use of AI in science also presents obstacles and risks. For example, the opacity of the commercial AI sector makes it difficult to obtain the transparent, reproducible scientific results that are essential to robust science in an open society. Furthermore, the efficacy of many existing AI models is compromised by the quality of data used for their training.

The Commission has prioritised the strategic deployment of AI, ensuring it aligns with European values such as trustworthiness, ethical standards, and human oversight. The Commission is supporting AI through funding, infrastructure, and a harmonised regulatory framework, by allocating funding to AI research and development, supporting the AI ecosystem by giving startups and researchers access to the necessary infrastructure and business support, and via the EU AI Act, providing regulatory clarity and guaranteeing trustworthiness. EU lawmakers agreed that AI systems used for the sole purpose of research and innovation should be exempted from the regulation. However, the EU currently has no dedicated and systemic policy to facilitate the uptake of AI in science despite being among the most active global players in Al and having a powerful

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[1] Successful and timely uptake of artificial intelligence in science in the EU - Publications Office of the EU (europa.eu)

[2] AI in science evidence review report – Scientific Advice Mechanism

and dynamic research community. Moreover, while the rewards of successfully adopting AI are promising, the threat of Europe lagging behind other global players is major.

This Scientific Opinion and Evidence Review Report underpinning many of the recommendations in the Opinion will guide the Commission in developing and implementing policies that promote the responsible and effective integration of AI into research and innovation, thus ensuring that Europe remains at the forefront of scientific excellence and innovation in the digital age.

The participation of the scientists of the SAPEA Working Group has been crucial for the independence, quality and relevance of the scientific advice provided. We are very grateful that they have participated voluntarily. We are aware that such work is not easily captured by traditional scientific/academic metrics and impact criteria and that is also why we are keen to underline the vital importance of their participation. Recognition of this kind of work is very important, not only to remind the public and policy makers of the importance of scientific evidence for effective policy making, but also within the academic world to ensure that the best scientists continue to contribute to this process.

We hope you share these sentiments and that, as a result, you will continue to look favourably on the participation of your academic staff in such public service work.

Yours sincerely,

Nicole Grobert

Chair of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors

Professor of Nanomaterials, University of Oxford

Annabelle Ascher

Secretariat of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors

DG Research & Innovation, Science Policy, Advice and Ethics

c.c.:   Rudolf Hielscher, Stefan Constantinescu, Nebojša Nakićenović, Naomi Ellemers, Maarja Kruusmaa, Eric F. Lambin, Alberto Melloni, Eva Zažímalová, Gilles Laroche, Karen Fabbri, Ingrid Zegers, Marie Franquin, Arlindo Oliveira