UK health and research community welcomes way forward for scientific advice in Europe

Health and research organisations in the UK have welcomed the announcement of a new model for ensuring scientific advice is incorporated into the EU policymaking process.

It is vital that there is a formal model for ensuring science and policy are married up. This lays the foundations for evidence-based policy that best serves patients and research. The new model for scientific advice – a formalised relationship with national academies and other scientific advisory bodies in member states, reinforced by a high-level expert group of excellent scientists – could, if properly implemented help ensure timely and independent advice is integrated into policymaking at EU level.

It is now crucial that the European Commission works to ensure that the expert panel is appointed in a timely way and on the basis of scientific excellence to allow the mechanism to become operational in the autumn, as proposed.

It will also be vital that the effectiveness of the mechanism is monitored and reported back on in a structured and transparent way.

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