



## **Press Information**

European Plant Science Organisation  
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# **Open letter to the President of the European Parliament to encourage society to respect independent science advice and to condemn physical attacks on scientists**

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Brussels, 04.07.2016

**EMBARGOED until Publication on 4.7.2016 at 11am CEST**

## **European research organisations call upon the European Parliament to encourage society to respect independent science advice and to condemn physical attacks on scientists**

On 7th June, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in Parma received a package containing explosive material addressed to a scientist providing independent scientific advice to EFSA. This and other recent attacks are not only attacks on individual scientists performing their duties for an agency of the European Union, and thereby serving the citizens of the EU; they are also attacks on our open and transparent society and on the scientific and intellectual process.

A large group of publicly funded researchers reacted strongly to this incident and decided to send the Open Letter to the President of the European Parliament, copied to the Vice-President as well as the President of the European Commission and the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation. We call upon the European Parliament to encourage society to respect independent science advice and to unanimously and unconditionally condemn the recent attacks on EFSA, reiterating its support for independent scientific research and investigation, and to propose measures to prevent attacks targeting scientists and/or research facilities.

The Open Letter, already signed by 35 science organisations, societies and academies, has been sent on Friday 1 July and has been published on the EPSO webpage at [www.epsoweb.org/respect-science-advice](http://www.epsoweb.org/respect-science-advice) today. An updated Open Letter will be published online on Monday 11 July to allow additional science organisations which already announced their support to sign.

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### **Useful links**

EPSO and 35 science organisations: Encourage society to respect independent science advice and to

condemn physical attacks on scientists [www.epsoweb.org/respect-science-advice](http://www.epsoweb.org/respect-science-advice) , 4.7.2016  
EPSO publications: [www.epsoweb.org/archive-epsoweb-publications-and-statements?981448774=1](http://www.epsoweb.org/archive-epsoweb-publications-and-statements?981448774=1)  
EPSO member institutes and universities: [www.epsoweb.org/membership/members](http://www.epsoweb.org/membership/members)  
EPSO representatives: [www.epsoweb.org/membership/representatives](http://www.epsoweb.org/membership/representatives)

#### **About EPSO**

EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation, is an independent academic organisation that represents more than 220 research institutes, departments and universities from 28 European countries, Australia, Japan and New Zealand, and 3.300 individuals Personal Members, representing over 28 000 people working in plant science. EPSO's mission is to improve the impact and visibility of plant science in Europe, to provide authoritative source of independent information on plant science including science advice to policy, and to promote training of plant scientists to meet the 21st century challenges in breeding, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, plant ecology and sectors related to plant science. [www.epsoweb.org](http://www.epsoweb.org)