

Brussels, 15 October 2019  
Sent by email only  
eacr@eacr.cz

Dear Professor Zuna,

On behalf of the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism Group of Chief Scientific Advisors<sup>1</sup>, I would like to convey to you my gratitude and appreciation for the contribution made by *Professor Josef Steidl* to our Scientific Opinion, "Environmental and Health Risks of Microplastic Pollution"<sup>2</sup>, which was published on 30 April 2019. *Professor Josef Steidl* is one of the authors of the SAPEA<sup>3</sup> consortium's evidence review report, "A Scientific Perspective on Microplastics in Nature and Society"<sup>4</sup>. This report was published on 10 January 2019 and underpins many of the recommendations we make in our opinion and in doing so strengthens the case for these to be taken into account by the College of European Commissioners in future policy making in this area.

As you will be aware, there has been significant media attention devoted to this subject and quite some public concern in recent years. This is even more important as the views and understanding of citizens of the seriousness of microplastic pollution are susceptible to how the media portray the issue and underlying scientific facts. With this Scientific Opinion, we attempt to bring a more sober and strictly scientifically grounded and measured discussion into the debate including insights from the behavioural and social sciences.

The participation of scientists such as *Professor Josef Steidl* in this work has been crucial for the independence, quality and relevance of the scientific advice provided. My fellow chief scientific advisors and I 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 I am keen to underline the vital importance of his participation. Recognition of this kind of work is very important, not only to remind the public and policy stakeholders 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.

I 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,



Rolf Heuer  
Chair of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors  
and former Director-General of CERN

Cc: Sir Paul Nurse, Prof. Dykstra, Prof. Grobert, Prof. Bujnicki, Prof. Keskitalo, Prof. Fortunato, Prof. Petersen, Prof. Cloetingh, Prof. Loprieno, Prof. Griffin, Prof. Charpentier, Prof. Courvoisier, Prof. Hüttl, Prof. Koelmans, Prof. Pahl, Prof. Backhaus, Dr Bessa, Prof. van Calster, Dr Contzen, Dr Cronin, Prof. Galloway, Prof. Hart, Dr Henderson, Prof. Kalčíková, Prof. Kelly, Dr Kolodziejczyk, Prof. Marku, Prof. Poortinga, Prof. Rillig, Prof. Van Sebille, Prof. Steg, Prof. Steidl, Dr Steinhorst, Prof. Syberg, Prof. Thompson, Prof. Wagner, Prof. van Wezel, Dr Wyles, Dr Wright, Dr Whyte, Dr Tschirhart, M Hielscher, M Gavigan, Mrs Boavida, Mrs Ascher.

<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/research/sam/index.cfm?pg=hlg>

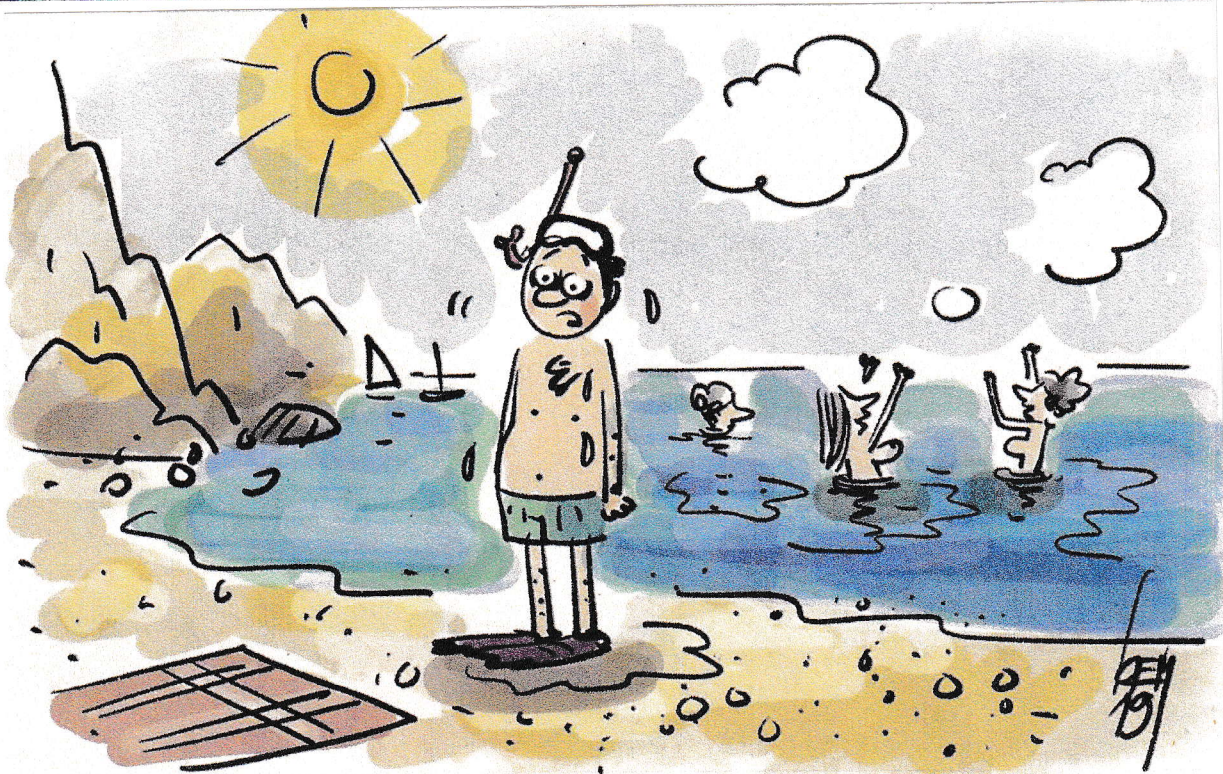
<sup>2</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/research/sam/index.cfm?pg=pollution>

<sup>3</sup> Science Advice for Policy by European Academies

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.sapea.info/wp-content/uploads/report.pdf>



Řešitelský kolektiv projektu „A Scientific Perspective on Micro-Plastics in Nature and Society“  
Foto: The Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Amsterdam, říjen 2018 (člen IA ČR prof. J. Steidl ve 2. řadě, 3. zleva).



Tak je to pravda, moře je plné plastů... a silikonu.

Koupil jsem si v supermarketu makrelu a požádal pokladní o plastovou tašku.  
Odpověď zněla: tu už máte v ní.