

A WELCOME BY THE PRESIDENT



The Rt Hon Lord Jenkin of Roding

While welcoming back present members of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee to the new Parliament of 2010, I particularly wish to welcome newly elected MPs taking their seats in the House of Commons for the first time.

This Committee, the oldest All-Party Group in Parliament, has been serving the needs of Parliamentarians and of our many important and internationally recognised member organisations for over 70 years. That we are still going strong is because, not only have we adapted ourselves to the changing needs of our membership, but also because we enable informed debate on critical scientific and engineering matters affecting the whole nation. It is particularly important that we help to facilitate cross-party discussion on matters of common scientific interest, involving MPs and Peers, including the formidable body of scientific Cross-Bench Peers, working with our member organisations in the national, European or international interest.

Scientific and engineering achievements are powerful drivers for change. Parliamentarians play a vital and ever-increasing role in debating

science-based policy issues with impacts far beyond the life of any one Parliament, and they must be well-informed.

While we are looking forward to the participation in our discussions of those with scientific or engineering expertise, one of our prime functions has always been to generate interest and involvement of others who, like myself, may not share that experience. They often bring different but valued perceptions to the debates in Parliament; membership of the P&SC is one of the best ways they can inform themselves.

The Committee is planning an excellent programme of meetings in Parliament and off site visits. Please take a look at our updated website where you will find this and much more information about the Committee, including online access to recent issues of 'Science in Parliament'. Anyone accessing the site through the Parliamentary server - whether

locally or remotely will be logged in automatically. All others accessing the site remotely (including Parliamentarians through dial-up or existing broadband accounts) will need to login using the password - but once logged in, they have access to all of the same areas on the website as anyone accessing the site through the Parliamentary server. The password should be requested using the "Contact" facility provided on the website, which will be responded to on a regular basis by the Scientific Secretary, Eur Ing Professor Peter Simpson.

