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I am writing this in November because it has been a momentous week

Very few scientific experiments take ten years. But today we learned that a 300 million mile journey of an object the size of my fridge had successfully landed on a meteor travelling at more than 30,000 mph, ten years after it left Earth.

I have always had a sneaking admiration for darts players who can hit the target, or

snooker players who can skim the black into the pocket, but this is something else. Somebody likened it to throwing a hammer in the air in London and hitting a nail in Beijing!

By the time you are reading this we may have started to understand what has been uncovered about the history of the solar system, but what a story it will be.

At the same time, we discovered that the EU is dispensing with scientific advice as a basis for decision making. Anne Glover will be returning to the UK (since Scotland remains part of it!).

Anne, like all balanced scientists, has taken a positive approach to GM crops, and the Select Committee, which I chair, will be producing a report on this topic. It is little short of disgraceful that the EU

is giving in to lobbying by vested interests and I hope the science community protests loudly. Sadly, it remains the case that some politicians (including in the UK) put personal prejudice ahead of evidence based policy.

I will finish on a positive note. In 2014 we celebrated our 75th anniversary. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh has been an Honorary Member for more than 50 years, and served as our President in 1989. We were delighted that he agreed to host a reception at Buckingham Palace on 11th November to mark this. 150 representatives of our members were able to marvel at the works of art in the Picture Gallery, and to enjoy wine, canapés, music and company.

The P&SC is in good shape for its next quarter century.



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*The Committee is an Associate Parliamentary Group of members of both Houses of Parliament and British members of the European Parliament, representatives of scientific and technical institutions, industrial organisations and universities.*



Science in Parliament has two main objectives:

1. to inform the scientific and industrial communities of activities within Parliament of a scientific nature and of the progress of relevant legislation;
2. to keep Members of Parliament abreast of scientific affairs.

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