

## **Science and Society – Some Reflections**

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Science provides knowledge that technology transforms into means of action. Their impact on society will depend on the effective use that is being made of them. Chemical and physical sciences have profoundly modified the living conditions of mankind, in particular chemistry has played a central role. Its creative power has made available a range of new materials and processes for the transformation of matter. These have often been perceived as unnatural and opposed to the natural ones. As a result the question of a control by society has become more and more actual. This requires information of the public and of decision-makers for evaluating the potential impact of technology on society as well as for preserving the necessary freedom of scientific research and of quest of knowledge.