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INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH *July 2014*

HORIZON 2020

In June, Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn delivered a speech at The Economist's Spain Summit. The Commissioner underlined that after a long period of economic downturn, the signs of recovery in Europe are becoming evident.



« *And at European level we have also reformed how we support research and innovation, with the new Horizon 2020 programme which has a budget of nearly 80 billion euro.* »

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn

For full speeches please visit: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-14-420_en.htm.

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to announce that two new association agreements to Horizon 2020 were signed.

You can find more information via the following links:

Israel: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-633_en.htm

Turkey: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-631_en.htm

This issue offers a wide update on activities related to China and at the last page you will also find a collection of the latest news and trends on research and innovation policy from all across the globe.

We hope you will enjoy the content as well as the new layout of our publication!

The Editors

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Focus on China:

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And many more...



Photo: Rudolf Strohmeier (center), Deputy Director-General DG RTD with (left) Linhao Chen, Head of the Chinese delegation and (right) Simon Webster, Head of Unit and Alejandro Zurita, Head of Sector, DG RTD G together with participants to the steering committee meeting

3rd Steering Committee Meeting of the Bilateral Euratom-China R&D PUNE Agreement

DG RTD hosted the 3rd Euratom-China Steering Committee meeting (SC-3) of the «Agreement between Euratom and the Government of the People's Republic of China for R&D Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy» (RD-PUNE Agreement) in Brussels on 11 June 2014. The Euratom delegation was led by DDG Mr Rudolf Stromheier and included representatives from EU Member States. The Chinese delegation was led by DDG Mr Chen Linhao, head of International Cooperation from the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). The SC-3 meeting aimed at reviewing the activities, the state of play and future prospects of cooperation on the basis of the work of four subcommittees: Fission Coordinated Actions (FCA) with RTD and the China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA) as main actors, the Nuclear Security and Safeguards (SS) with JRC and CAEA as main actors, the Fusion Energy Research (FU) with RTD and MOST as main actors, and the Nuclear Safety (NS) with JRC and the National Nuclear Safety Authority (NNSA) as main actors. Three subcommittees' meetings (FU-3, SS-2 and FCA-2) were held on the 10 of June 2014 in Brussels in advance to the SC-3 meeting. SC-3 provided policy drive to the cooperation and endorsed the main outcomes of the three subcommittees as follows:

- FU-3 updated the bilateral Fusion Work Programme 2013-2020 in support of



Photo: (l-r) EU Head of Delegation Lars Faaborg-Andersen, President José Manuel Barroso, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Minister of Science Yaakov Perry

Israeli Association to Horizon 2020 signed during President Barroso's visit to Israel

On 8 June 2014, in Jerusalem, EU Head of Delegation to the State of Israel Lars Faaborg-Andersen and Israeli Minister of Science, Technology and Space signed the agreement associating Israel to Horizon 2020. The signature took place in the presence of European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. President Barroso said: «Israel is a strong player in research and innovation and for this reason an important partner for the EU to address societal challenges of common concern, such as ageing, food safety, environment protection or cleaner energy, and to strengthen the competitiveness of our industries. I am pleased that we are signing the agreement today since it reflects the mutual importance we attach to cooperation and partnership in research and innovation». Before the signature ceremony, President Barroso visited the Weizmann Institute of Science where he met with its President Daniel Zajfman and Nobel Prize winner Ada Yonath. Following the signature ceremony, President Barroso received the title of Doctor Honoris Causa from the Hebrew University. President Barroso ended his visit to Israel with his participation in the 14th Annual Herzliya Security Conference at which he gave a speech on Europe, Israel and the future of the Middle East.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Alexandra Meir - EU Delegation in Israel
Alexandra.Meir@eeas.europa.eu

ITER and DEMO. The strategic long-term partnership on the Joint European Torus (JET) and on the Chinese CFETR tokamak will be further structured taking advantage of the some 75 running collaborative projects involving 15 European and 12 Chinese entities.

- SS-2 agreed several practical arrangements in support of the China Centre of Excellence on Nuclear Security and of the cooperation in nuclear security and safeguards, in particular on technology and methodology developments and training.

- FCA-2 agreed to complete the ongoing Fission coordinated parallel projects and to explore new modalities of cooperation based on specific provisions of the RD-

PUNE agreement, such as opening of Chinese projects/programmes to the European entities in reciprocity to the Chinese participation in Euratom programmes, and joining modules of running projects or programmes. The meeting was the occasion to review the efficient functioning and implementation of the Agreement governance as reflected on the preliminary «Three-Year Report» presented at the meeting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Alejandro Zurita Centelles - DG RTD G
Alejandro.Zurita@ec.europa.eu



Photo: Participants to the EU-China Joint S&T Steering Committee

EU-China 11th Joint S&T Steering Committee, Brussels, 12 June 2014

On 12 June 2014 Director-General for Research and Innovation Mr Robert-Jan Smits co-chaired with Chinese Vice-Minister for Science and Technology Mr Cao Jianlin the 11th EU-China Joint Steering Committee meeting on Science and Technology (JSCM). This is the comprehensive policy dialogue covering the whole spectrum of science, technology and innovation cooperation between the EU and China. Over 40 EU and Chinese delegates attended the

JSCM from the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chinese Mission to the EU, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the Natural Sciences Foundation of China, and National Remote Sensing Centre on the Chinese side, and from the European Commission Directorates General for Research and Innovation, Energy, Communications Networks, Content and Technology, Agriculture and Rural Development, Enterprise and Industry, Education and Culture, Joint Research Centre, and European Research Council, on the European side. Several other important meetings took place during the same week before the JSCM such as the Steering Committee of the R&D cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (RD-PUNE), the high level dialogue on Space Technology and Earth Observation led by DG Enterprise, the ICT Dialogue and the Task Force on Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology. The JSCM provided the synthesis for these thematic meetings and allowed the two sides to take stock of the rich on-going STI cooperation. Substantial progress was made in a number of areas building on the overall EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation adopted at the EU-China Summit in November 2013. On Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology a specific road map for action was adopted with a view to launch joint activities in the next H2020 work programme. On Sustainable Urbanisation the two sides confirmed the intention to deliver on the R&I pillar of the Urbanisation Partnership by creating links with the Joint Programming Urban

Europe and by developing a package of Sustainable Urbanisation R&I activities integrating joint actions in the areas of energy, environment, transport, ICT, and social sciences to be covered by Horizon 2020 and by the relevant Chinese programmes. On Aviation, a joint call was agreed and it is planned to be launched under Horizon 2020 work programme for 2015. Within RD-PUNE considerable progress was made on fusion research, fission research and on nuclear security and safeguards. Cooperation will be strengthened in particular on the Joint European Torus (JET) and on the future China Fusion Engineering Testing Reactor (CFETR). On Space Technology and Earth Observation it was agreed to strengthen cooperation in the fields of satellite navigation, earth observation, earth science and space exploration. The two sides also recognised the value of the well-established cooperation between the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) and Chinese partners in most of the scientific areas of the EU-China STI agenda. Innovation cooperation was also high on the agenda. In this respect two sides will continue to work on improving framework conditions, sharing best practices and identifying new cooperation mechanisms to promote innovation oriented scientific and industrial partnership.



Photo: Director-General Robert-Jan Smits and Chinese Vice-Minister for Science and Technology, Mr Cao Jianlin

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Diego Sammaritano - DG RTD C

Diego.Sammaritano@ec.europa.eu

Association to Horizon 2020 signed with Turkey

The Agreement associating Turkey to Horizon 2020 was signed in Istanbul on 4 June 2014. Director-General Robert-Jan Smits signed for the EC and also made the keynote speech at the Horizon 2020 launch event which took place on 4-5 June in Istanbul. The signing ceremony at the end of the plenary session was a good occasion, in the presence of more

than 700 participants, to underline the importance of cooperation on research and innovation between the EU and Turkey. Association will enter retroactively into effect as from 1 January 2014 as soon as Turkey has ratified the Agreement, which is foreseen by the beginning of July 2014.



Photo: Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General DG RTD, and Ahmet Yücel, Acting Undersecretary of Turkey's Ministry for EU Affairs, at the signing ceremony

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tania.Friederichs - DG RTD C
Tania.Friederichs@ec.europa.eu

Formal EU-Australia infrastructure cooperation agreements signed

Following the third [EU-Australia Workshop on Research Infrastructures](#) held in Canberra in November 2013, four formal cooperation agreements between Australian and EU facilities were signed in Brussels during May.

On 8 May collaboration memoranda of understanding involving [Euro-Bioimaging](#), the European Clinical Research Infrastructures Network (ECRIN), the European Infrastructure for Translational Medicine (EATRIS), Australia's National Imaging Facility (NIF) and Therapeutic Innovation Australia (TIA) were signed.

Then on 16 May a further MoU was signed between [EU-OPENSREEN](#) and TIA. These MoUs will help translate medical research discoveries into better diagnosis of medical conditions, new products and new drugs.



Photo: (l-r) Ms Ana Arana Antelo, DG RTD, Professor Ronald Quinn, Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies; Dr Stewart Hay, Therapeutic Innovation Australia; Ambassador Duncan Lewis; Dr Ronald Frank, Leibniz-Institut für Molekulare Pharmakologie, EU-OPENSREEN Coordinator

FOR MORE INFORMATION

John Tuckwell - EU Delegation in Australia
John.Tuckwell@eeas.europa.eu

Egyptian Students Simulating the European Council

The EU Delegation in Egypt participated in the closing conference of the «Model European Union», which is a simulation model of the European Council. The conference is part of an initiative at Assiut University aiming to build the students' research capacities through their engagement in simulation models.



Photo: Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Egypt Handing Out Certificates to the Students

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Heba Gaber - EU Delegation in Egypt
Heba.Gaber@eeas.europa.eu

The conference took place on 4 May, 2014, where as a topic for their simulation model, the students simulated the discussions of the European Council on the «Role of the EU in supporting the participation and empowerment of the Arab youth».

International Forum of Leading Aerospace Universities

In the framework of the [EU-Russia Year of Science 2014](#), the International Forum of Leading Aerospace Universities was held on 22-23 May during the ILA Berlin Air Show. It was organised by the Moscow Aviation Institute (National Research University) and supported by several organisations including the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and the European Commission. The forum gathered over 80 participants, including the heads of aerospace-specialised universities, enterprises of the aerospace sector, and experts in the field of education from the EU and CIS countries as well as from China. Discussion focused, among other things, on cooperation between universities in developing launch programmes for small satellites. Strengthening of international cooperation in the field of aerospace technologies was reflected in signing two documents between the Technical University of Berlin, Samara State Aerospace University, and the L. N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University.



Photo: Cristina Russo, RTD Director for International Cooperation and Lyudmila Ogorodova, Deputy Minister for Education and Science, Russian Federation

Tour of the Russia's Far East

Vygaudas Ušackas, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Russian Federation, visited Khabarovsk and Vladivostok as part of his tour to Russia's Far East on 3-6 June, to meet with the regional authorities, university students, and journalists. As part of his public speeches, Vygaudas Ušackas noted that EU-Russia cooperation in science, innovation, and higher education was to a mutual advantage and should continue despite the current political disagreements between the EU and Russia. Head of the EU Delegation underlined that EU-Russia cooperation in science, innovation, and higher education remains one of the important pillars in the overall relations between Russia and the European Union, and one that has consistently made a constructive contribution to it.

3rd Russian-French Forum for Agricultural Education and Science

Richard Burger, Research and Innovation Counsellor, Head of Science & Technology section at the Delegation of the European Union to the Russian Federation, participated in the 3rd Russian-French Forum for Agricultural Education and Science, giving a presentation on EU-Russia cooperation opportunities in the framework of the Horizon 2020 programme.

The Forum took place on 20-21 May, was organised by the Russian Timiryazev State Agrarian University and is included in the calendar of events of the EU-Russia Year of Science.

Among the participants were 11 French higher education institutions, 26 Russian universities, representatives of French agricultural agencies and many Russian technical institutes.

Joint EU-Russia Science and Technology Cooperation Committee Meeting

The annual meeting of the Joint EU-Russia Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) took place on 20 June 2014 in Moscow (hosted by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation). The meeting was co-chaired by Director of Science and Technology Department of the Russian Ministry of Education and Science Sergey Salikhov on the Russian side and DG RTD Director for International Cooperation Cristina Russo on the European side. A range of issues were discussed and agreed, including the status of joint thematic Working Groups, selection of Russian National Contact Points for Horizon 2020, and the implementation of the EU-Russia Year of Science 2014.

Importantly, the JSTCC operationally agreed on modalities of cooperation between the European Commission and the Ministry of Education and Science in order to increase scientific cooperation between the EU and Russia through their respective programmes, including through financing of 'bottom up' cooperation in Horizon 2020 and coordinated calls, for further detailed elaboration. This topic was recognised as being of utmost importance, and both sides expressed strong commitment to continue working in this direction in order to further facilitate cooperation between Russian and European researchers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Richard Burger - EU Delegation in Russia - Richard.Burger@eeas.europa.eu

EU-China Task Force meeting on Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology (FAB)

The 4th Task Force meeting on Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology (FAB) between the EU and China took place in Brussels on 11 June and was co-chaired by John Clarke, DG AGRI Director and by the Vice-President of the Chinese Agricultural Academy of Sciences Dr Wu Kongming. This was the first meeting of the Task Force after the signing in November 2013 of the Letter of Intent on the EU-China FAB initiative by Commissioners Geoghegan-Quinn, Ciolos, Potočnik and Borg, and by the President of CAAS and vice-minister for agriculture Li Jiayang. Within the EU-China FAB initiative the European Commission has already published in Horizon 2020 work programme for 2014/15 seven topics dedicated to EU-China collaboration. CAAS envisaged supporting the participation of Chinese entities in the projects selected under these calls. The Task Force meeting was the occasion to review the respective strategic programming cycles, discuss specific areas of mutual interest and agree on a joint roadmap towards the definition of joint actions to be included in future work programmes. Several thematic areas offering potential for future balanced cooperation based on co-funding from both sides were identified notably: plant breeding to increase global food security, possible research actions in the field of soil and land resources, urban agriculture, forestry and horticulture and food safety, authentication and traceability in agro-food products. In the coming months the two sides will hold regular dialogues with a view to agree on specific joint actions of the FAB flagship initiative under Horizon 2020 work programme for 2016/17, the CAAS Agricultural Science and Technology Innovation Programme (ASTIP) and other relevant Chinese programmes.

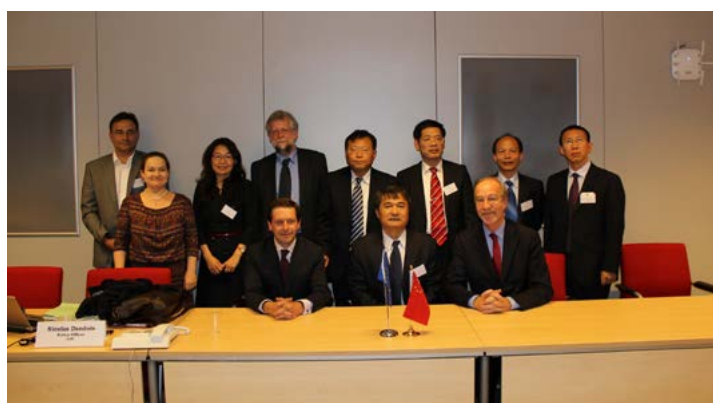


Photo: (l-r) Gergely Toth (JRC), Alexandra Lehmann (EU del Beijing), Feng Dongxin (CAAS), Dirk Pottier (DG RTD), Nicolas Dandois (DG AGRI), Dong Renjie (CAU), Wu Kongming (Vice-President CAAS), Lu Wenming (CAF), John Clarke (DG AGRI), Sun Yu-He (CAAS), Wang Shumin (CAAS)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Nicolas Dandois - DG AGRI H - Nicolas.Dandois@ec.europa.eu

EU-China Space Dialogue

The second meeting of the EU-ESA China Space Dialogue took place in Brussels (DG Enterprise's premises) on 12 June 2014. More than 50 participants gathered for this event which was chaired by the DG ENTR's Director-General, Daniel Calleja, by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of the People's Republic of China's Vice Minister, Jianlin Cao. ESA Director-General, Jean-Jacques Dordain could not attend and was represented by Frederic Nordlund, Head of International Relations. The meeting was attended as well by the Deputy Director-General for Research and Innovation, Mr Rudolf Strohmeier. Based on the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation - adopted at the 16th EU-China Summit in November 2013, both sides reviewed the cooperation areas covered by the Dialogue. In particular, on Satellite Navigation the sides took stock of the successful completion of a number of satellite navigation projects and expressed willingness to continue cooperation on civil aspects of the respective Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS). On Earth Observation the main avenue of cooperation between the EU and China is currently the multilateral forum, GEO (Group on Earth Observation). In GEO the EU is collaborating with China through several projects of the Framework Programme for Research in particular to develop a Global Agricultural Monitoring System (GEOGLAM) and a Global Mercury Observing System (GMOS). While at present there is no cooperation between the EU and China on the Copernicus programme per se, several Earth observation collaborative research projects are active under FP7. Given the interest in Earth observation of both sides, as Copernicus and China's Earth Observing program (HDEOS) become operational, the parties considered it desirable to create a joint working group on Copernicus/Earth observation with a view to better exploiting the potential for cooperation. Finally on Science and space exploration projects there is a potential for cooperation on projects of global nature, for example, space weather, NEO (Near Earth Objects), solar system exploration and Space Science.



Photo: EU-China Space Dialogue participants

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sandro D'Angelo - DG ENTR G - Sandro.Dangelo@ec.europa.eu

First Sino-European workshop on the understanding of interfaces in rechargeable batteries

A 2-day Twinning Workshop on the understanding of interfaces in rechargeable batteries took successfully place on 20 and 21 May at Tianjin University in the city of Tianjin, China.

Founded in 1895 as Peiyang University, Tianjin University (TU) was the very first university in China which is now grown into a world recognized Research University with a focus on engineering, business and sciences. The workshop was co-organised by the DG Research and Innovation's Directorate for Energy and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) with the support of Tianjin's Municipal S&T Commission.

Around 50 Chinese and European distinguished researchers and scientific experts discussed ex-situ and in-situ characterization of interfaces with the aim to find synergies for a twinning of their respective projects. Based on these first contacts, a second round workshop is planned at some point in 2015 also including experts on modelling at different scales.

EU China research and innovation collaboration in the field of energy plays a significant role since the energy challenge constitutes a priority topic not only in the EU and China but on a global scale.

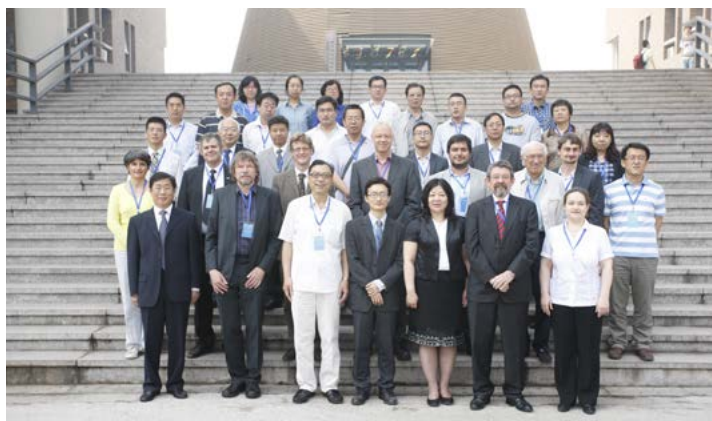


Photo: Group of researchers in front of Tianjin University

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Carlos Saraiva Martins - DG RTD G - Carlos.Saraiva-Martins@ec.europa.eu

Tour of China 2014 - consolidated Europe's position as THE strong partner of China in research and innovation

Already for the 3rd time, a comprehensive Research and Innovation Awareness Raising and Information Campaign in China – the TOUR OF CHINA 2014 edition – went through 9 major Chinese cities showcasing Europe's (EU and EU Member States) excellence in research and innovation and inviting China to make use of the unique opportunities that are offered. European S&T Counsellors from 12 EU Member States and Associated Countries (Austria, Czech, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, UK) together with the EU Delegation and EURAXESS Links China presented opportunities for research and innovation collaboration to nearly one thousand Chinese researchers, scientists and innovation stakeholders from the public and private sectors.

This year's TOUR was organised in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), one of the EU's key partners for collaborative research, and included visits to some of most famous CAS institutes across China with stops in Chengdu, Kunming, Shanghai, Hefei, Suzhou, Xiamen, Shenzhen, Guangzhou and with a Final Event in Beijing. The objective of the TOUR was to further widen the scope of existing research and innovation cooperation between the European Union and China and to strengthen the bilateral relations in a more strategic manner consolidating Europe's position as THE strong partner for China in research and innovation.

Thanks to the enthusiastic support of the Chinese hosts and the keen interest of the audience, the objective of this third edition of the TOUR OF CHINA have been fully achieved.



Photo: Philippe Vialatte making a presentation on EU-China Research & Innovation cooperation

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Philippe Vialatte - EU Delegation in China - Philippe.Vialatte@eeas.europa.eu

Key Innovative Tools to Support Technology Development in Egypt

Within the framework of the Euro-Med cooperation in research and innovation and focusing on the strategic collaboration with the EU, the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) in Egypt organised an «Innovation & Technology Demonstration Forum» on 22 May 2014. The EU Delegation participated in a panel discussion on «Key innovative tools to support Technology Development in Egypt» with particular focus on technology Incubators and renewable energy applications for local communities. The event focused on the ASRT collaborative research projects with the EU in those areas. The forum was attended by policy makers, innovation management stakeholders and relevant research & innovation networks in Egypt.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Heba Gaber - EU Delegation in Egypt

Heba.Gaber@eeas.europa.eu

'Tour of Brazil' seminar highlights on partnership initiatives between Europe and Brazil for Innovation

The Seminar «Cooperation for Innovative Technology» was held on 22nd May at the Federation of Industries of São Paulo State (Fiesp). It was the third event of the Tour of Brazil 2014.

The event was opened by the Head of EU Delegation to Brazil, the Ambassador Ana Paula Zacarias, who emphasised the importance of Innovation as the main driver to progress and competitiveness at the global level. It was attended by 200 participants including a large representation from industry. Nine speakers from different EU Member States presented national Innovation strategies for cooperation with Brazil. In addition, Horizon 2020 and EURAXESS were presented by EU representative.

The public event was followed by a panel discussion, with nine Brazilian and European experts on Innovation. They discussed the possibilities for cooperation, in several fields, between Brazil and the EU Member states. Particular focus was put on the improvement of Brazilian technological innovation system and how the partnership with Europe can help. The event was supported by the Fiesp, RTD-Brasilia, EURAXESS Links Brazil, the Chamber of Commerce France-Brazil-EUROCHAMBRES and the Institute of European Studies in Brazil.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Domenica Bumma - RTD C2 - Domenica.Bumma@ec.europa.eu or

Piero Venturi - EU Delegation in Brazil - Piero.Venturi@eeas.europa.eu

Meeting of EU-CELAC funding agencies

In early June representatives of 22 European and Latin-American and Caribbean funding agencies met in La Laguna, Tenerife, to debate a joint call under the ERANET-LAC project. The topics were proposed by the working groups of the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation, JIRI. They addressed renewable energy, bioeconomy, health, ICT and biodiversity and climate change.

The EU-CELAC Senior Officials Meeting of the JIRI that convened in Costa Rica in April narrowed the original list of over 40 different topics to 20 which formed the basis for the Tenerife meeting. There the 22 funding agencies, some of which are not formal partners of the ERA-NET but were invited to join the calls, selected topics and gave indication on the funding to be committed from their side.

The meeting successfully identified 6 topics which attracted sufficient interest. A seventh topic would need to be strengthened in order to join this first call. The total commitments identified at the meeting amounted to close to 13 million euros.

The call will be launched in mid-September this year by the participating funding agencies and will be announced on the ERANET-LAC.eu website. A second joint call will follow in 2015, for which the topics will be selected later.

The European Commission funds the ERANET-LAC network but does not commit funds to the joint calls. Thus questions on the calls should be addressed directly to the project and the participating agencies.



Photo: Representatives of the 12 European and 10 CELAC funding agencies

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Indridi Benediktsson - DG RTD C - Indridi.Benediktsson@ec.europa.eu

HORIZON 2020 seminars in Pakistan

In April 2014, two events were organised in Pakistan by the local EU Delegation, whose Deputy Head first addressed the audience. The main objective of these events was for the R&I Counsellor of the EU Delegation to India to promote Horizon 2020 and encourage Pakistani research organisations to participate in it. The numerous questions asked during these seminars demonstrated their genuine interest, as well as practical difficulties such as the identification of suitable European partners.

The first event was held on 24th April at the Lahore University of Management and Sciences (LUMS), with the participation of the Dean of Suleman Dawood School of Business, Dr. Arif Nazir Butt, in addition to about 50 faculty members and researchers.

The second event was held on 25th April at the renowned National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) in Islamabad. It was attended by more than 300 participants in NUST and broadcast to a dozen of remote institutions through a video link. Guest speakers included the Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Mr Zahid Hamid, as well as the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission, Professor Mukhtar Ahmad.

Here as well, the detailed presentation on Horizon 2020 raised considerable interest amongst the audience, as demonstrated by the many questions asked as well as informal discussions in the margins of the seminar, and subsequent email enquiries.



Photo: The event organised in NUST (Islamabad) was attended by a very large audience, including Pakistan's Federal Minister for Science and Technology

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Denis Dambois - EU Delegation in India - Denis.Dambois@eeas.europa.eu

EU - Jordan Research and Innovation Cooperation Frontiers

A joint kick-off meeting of the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon 2020 and the EU capacity-building Support to Research, Technological Development and Innovation (SRTD II) was organized by the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) in Jordan and the EU Delegation to Jordan on 9 June, 2014 in Amman. The event was opened by H.E. Dr Khaled El Shraydeh, Secretary General of HCST and H.E. Dr Joanna Wronecka, Head of EU Delegation to Jordan. Approximately 200 academics, industry experts, research institute representatives attended the event. Dr Wronecka highlighted that the new framework programme, H2020, provides an opportunity for scientists and researchers from Europe and Southern Mediterranean countries to work together to address common societal challenges. Dr Shraydeh emphasized the potential and importance of innovation to fuel economic growth and stimulate job creation; and called for focusing the cooperation on research priorities in Jordan; namely water, energy, food security and health. He highlighted that Jordan has a new innovation strategy and is embarking on establishing a national innovation center to implement this strategy. During the event, DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission presented Horizon 2020 components and structure, as well as the success of Euromed cooperation under the FP7. The participation of Jordan in H2020 will continue to be supported through different programmes, mainly by the FP7 project «EU-JordanNet II» that aims at further increasing the research cooperation between Jordan and Europe. The participation of Jordan in H2020 will also be supported by SRTD II which targets increasing Jordan's scientific and technological capacity and accelerating Jordan's integration into the European Research Area. Jordan is a participant in around 39 FP7 projects covering different collaborative research areas, as well as a number of projects under the international cooperation programme, such as MedSpring and ERANET which were presented during the event. Jordan also hosts the EU supported unique research infrastructure project in the world – SESAME which brings together scientists from its members Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Pakistan, Palestine and Turkey. EU - Jordan success stories under FP7 include projects such as KHCCBIO project on establishing the first cancer biobank in Jordan and the whole Middle East region and Bot-Era project, which set the basis for the creation of the first gene bank in Jordan and is of strategic importance in terms of food security and biodiversity preservation for the whole Fertile Crescent region and Europe. Both projects have attracted a considerable interest of European and leading international industries and organizations and are monitored closely by Members of the Jordanian Royal Family.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tanya Dimitrova - DG RTD C - Tanya.Dimitrova@ec.europa.eu or
Heba Gaber - EU Delegation in Egypt - Heba.Gaber@eeas.europa.eu

Strengthening Science, Technology and Innovation Partnerships between Europe and Canada, Brussels, 12 June

Co-organised with the Mission of Canada to the EU, EU funded FP7 project ERA-Can+ held an outstanding meeting with 29 contributions from experts of both sides of the Atlantic in order to better connect researchers, innovators, programme owners and policy makers of Canada and Europe.

Highlighting the benefits of cooperation, it was emphasised that there are tremendous opportunities in particular in the light of the upcoming Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which will simplify collaboration on many levels. Consequently it was considered as a very timely and useful opportunity to discuss how the mutual benefits can be tapped, starting from sharing expertise, opening markets, accessing knowledge, improving research quality, enhancing science diplomacy and eventually gaining a higher global profile. Both sides noted that the other geographical area was one of their priority collaboration partners and that funding cooperation mechanisms need to be prioritised and focussed. The importance of the network of National Contact Points (NCPs) was stressed.

For a detailed wrap up and all the presentations of the 12 June event, pictures and the slides are available at the [ERA-Can+ website](#). For questions you may directly address the ERA-Can Helpdesk (helpdesk@era-can.net).



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Anne Haglund Morrissey - Anne.Haglund-Morrissey@ec.europa.eu or
Wolfgang Wittke, Wolfgang.Wittke@ec.europa.eu - DG RTD C

Intensified discussion on specific topics of nanotechnology and Joint Programming Initiatives, Brussels, 13 June

The consecutive day to the ERA-Can+ event on «Strengthening Science, Technology and Innovation Partnerships between Europe and Canada» was used to deepen discussion on several levels: on thematic focus areas and on the level of policy dialogue.

Collaboration and possibilities for joint funding mechanisms were discussed in a Programme Level Cooperation meeting and at a meeting on Joint Programming Initiatives with high-level participants representing the European Commission, the Canadian Government, Canadian funding agencies and different Canadian Provinces. The importance for Canadian partners to have their funding assured before entering Horizon 2020 project consortium was highlighted. The involvement of Canada on both federal and provincial level was emphasised.

In parallel a Priority Setting Workshop on Nanotechnology was hosted by the Mission of Canada to the EU with experts from renowned research institutions in Europe and Canada who joined a discussion moderated by Nicolas Segebrth, the European Commission. Topics that were discussed included the connection of experts and facilities, the collaboration on regulation and safety, and finding ways for commercialisation of nano-products. Opportunities for Canadians in the area of nanotechnology in Horizon 2020 were identified.



Photo: Participants at Priority setting Workshop on Nanotechnology and at Programme Level Cooperation meeting

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Anne Haglund Morrissey - Anne.Haglund-Morrissey@ec.europa.eu or
Wolfgang Wittke, Wolfgang.Wittke@ec.europa.eu - DG RTD C

JRC Cooperation with Chinese partners

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) has developed active and wide-ranging scientific cooperation with numerous Chinese institutions on providing evidence for policy responses to challenges related to disaster prevention and response, nuclear safety and security, water management, food safety and security, energy and space technology. In support of the EU-China Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology Task Force, the Joint Research Centre has cooperated with Chinese partners over two decades in the field of Earth Observation. Key activities include crop monitoring and global crop forecasting, as well as land and soil cover mapping, and the Sino/EU Panel on Land and Soil holds its European secretariat at the JRC. Moreover, Chinese laboratories have participated in proficiency tests organised by JRC; related to the determination of heavy metals and pesticides in foodstuffs. The Earth observation activities also play an instrumental role in flood and drought forecasting, and contribute to the Space Dialogue with China. Since the signing in 2008 of the Agreement on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy (PUNE), China and the EU have strengthened their bilateral cooperation on nuclear safety and security, with the JRC chairing the two subcommittees on Nuclear Safety, and on Nuclear Security and Safeguards. Future cooperation envisaged by JRC will address seismic risk vulnerability assessments; construction standards; and air quality.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Anne-Mette Jensen - JRC - Anne-Mette.Jensen@ec.europa.eu

The EU-US S&T agreement has been renewed

On 13 June 2014, the United States Mission to the European Union delivered an official note to the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, informing of the agreement by the Government of the United States of America to the proposal made on 28 April 2014, in respect of the extension of the agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Government of the United States of America. The initial S&T Agreement was signed in Washington on 5 December 1997. It has been extended for a period of five years, effective from 14 October 2013, entering into force on 13 June 2014.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wolfgang Wittke - DG RTD C - Wolfgang.Wittke@ec.europa.eu

Facts & Figures

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Working Level Meeting European Commission - Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP), Brussels 16th June

This meeting was co-chaired by Cristina Russo, Director for International Cooperation in DG RTD and Director-General Geun Jae Lee of MSIP.

It aimed at going forward in increasing opportunities in several areas of cooperation: in nanotechnology (Nano-regulation and safety), energy (CO2 capture and Smart grids), information communication technology (5G, cloud and Internet of Things) and health multilateral initiatives, especially in relation to infectious diseases.

The decision was also taken to reinforce the researchers' mobility via the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, as well as under the schemes of the ERC (European Research Council). The Framework conditions for research & innovation cooperation were discussed, in respect to SMEs support on both sides. MSIP schemes and the Enterprise Europe Network help small business to make the most of the international marketplace. The outcome of the discussion will be considered for the next KOR-EU Science and Technology Joint Committee due in 2015.



Photo: Cristina Russo, Director for International Cooperation in DG RTD and Geun Jae Lee, Director-General of MSIP, together with the delegates from the services

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Pierrick Ashida-Fillon - Pierrick.Fillon@ec.europa.eu or

Dolores Cahill - Dolores.Cahill@ec.europa.eu - DG RTD C

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This page will give you a regular update on recent Research and Innovation (R&I) policy news from our network of R&I Counsellors in the EU delegations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, India, Israel, Japan, Russia, the United States (US) and the African Union (AU). A particular focus is on developments related to international cooperation. Each month different policy related themes are highlighted in relation to a number of countries to illustrate trends, similarities and different approaches. In this issue, developments related to new bilateral agreements among international partner countries, and R&I priorities of recently elected governments, which might have different impacts on international cooperation are brought up in relation to Australia, China, India, Israel and Russia. The next issue will focus on policy news from Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Japan, the US and the AU.

Policy News from the Delegations

In May, the [Israel Innovation Conference 2014 \(MIXiii\)](#) took place in Tel Aviv, where Biomed and High-tech joined hands in a new international conference format. In spite of a strong international presence, media coverage and the public pronouncements of the Chief Scientist, Aviv Hasson, were overwhelmingly devoted to Israel-China relations. The high level 350 person Chinese delegation to the conference included amongst others the Vice Premier and the Vice minister of Technology and Innovation. Among the many signed Israel-China agreements, three relate to R&I and technology cooperation. Also President Vladimir Putin's official visit in China in May resulted in increased cooperation with China. Over 50 inter-governmental agreements were signed in various areas, some of which directly relate to R&I. Other R&I developments related to Russia are the publication of two ambitious State Programmes: «Russia's Space Activities for 2013-2020» (1.8 trillion Roubles, ~€38 billion) and «Development of Aviation Industry for 2013-2025» (991

billion Roubles, ~€21 billion). Besides the mentioned agreements signed with Israel and Russia, other important R&I policy news in China is the announcement by the [Chinese Academy of Sciences \(CAS\)](#) to promote open access to scientific articles generated from publicly funded research. When implemented this could provide opportunities to European researchers to access knowledge developed in China. In addition, an increased amount of 3.05 billion Yuan (€358 million) has been allocated to key state scientific laboratories nationwide this year. An EU-China workshop is foreseen this fall in this field. Both India and Australia have recently had general elections where the new government has presented objectives and budgets for R&I. In India, the [manifesto](#) of the elected Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) highlights S&T as a key element of India's international relations for national development and security goals, which might have a positive impact on relations with Europe. Dr Jitendra Singh has been appointed Minister of State (MoS) for S&T and Earth Sciences,

while also serving as MoS for the Space and Atomic Energy departments in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet. In Australia, the first [budget](#) of the new Liberal-National Coalition Government (2014-2015) provides some positive developments for R&I, such as the decision to establish a Medical Research Future Fund in 2015, and to add resources to dementia and agricultural research, to the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy and to the Future Fellowships scheme, which, however, may now exclude European and other international researchers. Also the Australia-China Science and Research Fund has been re-funded. Yet, with the budget's focus on addressing deficits, major savings are made through reduced funding for key research agencies, for the Cooperative Research Centres Programme and for the Australian Research Council.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Anne Haglund Morrissey - DG RTD C
Anne.Haglund-Morrissey@ec.europa.eu

CONTACT US!

EDUARD PHILIPPP RILLE
Editor in Chief
Eduard.Rille@ec.europa.eu
Tel + 32 2 295 4683

VALERIE DIERCKX
Assistant Editor
Valerie.Dierckx@ec.europa.eu
Tel + 32 2 298 7748

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIRECTORATE

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