

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH *November 2014*

HORIZON 2020

On 30 September, Carlos Moedas, Commissioner-designate in charge of Research, Science and Innovation, was auditioned by the European Parliament. He successfully sailed through his hearing and the new Commission was confirmed by vote on 22 October.



« We should also aim higher in terms of international engagement with the rest of the world by fostering science diplomacy and international cooperation. »

Carlos Moedas

More info on the hearings at: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=commissioner-moedas-hearings>

Dear Reader,

There wouldn't be any better way to celebrate this **50th issue of the International Research newsletter** than by welcoming a new Commission and sharing the news that the Nobel Prize in Economic Science goes to Professor Jean Tirole.

He was awarded for his analysis of market power and regulation. Since 2009, the work of Jean Tirole has been funded by the European Research Council (ERC). Professor Tirole is the third ERC grantee to be a Nobel laureate in this year's awards! The other two ERC grantee laureates are May-Britt and Edvard I. Moser from Norway. They were awarded for their discoveries of cells that constitute a positioning system in the brain.

We hope you will enjoy reading this extra-large 50th issue compiling worthy information.

Best regards,

The Editors

IN THIS ISSUE

- > Carlos Moedas: the new face of Research, Science and Innovation
- > Director for International Cooperation promotes H2020 in Peru
- > 7th EU-Mexico Joint Committee
- > Open Science Days in Montenegro
- > Workshop on science, technology and innovation performance of China

And many more...



Photo: Carlos Moedas, the newly appointed Commissioner for research, science and innovation

Carlos Moedas: The new face of research, science and innovation

On the past 22 October, the European Parliament gave its strong [support to the new European Commission](#). Following the European Council's appointment, the new Commission took office on 1 November.

On the [Political Guidelines](#) presented in Strasbourg in July, President Juncker stressed the importance of research and innovation (R&I) for job creation and economic growth. [International cooperation in research and innovation](#) was not forgotten by President Juncker that expects the European Union to confirm its position as a global actor.

[Carlos Manuel Félix Moedas](#) is the new European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation. Born in Beja (Portugal) in 1970, Commissioner Moedas holds a degree in civil engineering and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Harvard Business School. In 2011, Mr Moedas was elected to the Portuguese Parliament and appointed as Secretary of State.

On the [hearing](#) on 30 September, the Commissioner answered the 45 questions from the European Parliament's

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) committee members. In the opening statement, Commissioner Moedas set the three priorities for his mandate:

- to advance with the creation of the framework conditions that enable the full potential of European research, science and innovation;
- to ensure that Horizon 2020 is implemented in the most effective and efficient way;
- to defend the value of excellence in science and research.

To deliver on these three priorities, Commissioner Moedas considers that **'it is essential that we step up our engagement with the rest of the world by fostering science diplomacy and international cooperation'**.

Previous to the hearing and answering a set of [written questions](#) posed by the European Parliament, Commissioner Moedas explained how his past experience was relevant for his new tasks: 'I spent 18 years working in different sectors, from environment, water supply and treatment, to the financial industry and real estate.'

Regarding his appointment, Commissioner Moedas said: 'I take this challenge with enthusiasm and confidence'. And added, in the closing remarks: 'If confirmed, I

stand ready to place all my energy and all my skills at the service of research, science and innovation as the bedrock of sustainable growth in Europe and for all European citizens.'



Photo: The first group photo of the College of the Juncker Commission after the confirmation vote by the EP during the plenary session of 20-23 October 2014

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Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn awarded twice in recognition of her major contribution to R&I

On 26 September, Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn was awarded the **Légion d'honneur** by the French government. The Commissioner received the medal from the French Secretary of State for Higher Education and Research, Geneviève Fioraso, during a ceremony in Brussels in the margins of the Competitiveness Council. This award is France's highest and best known national distinction. Again it recognises the Commissioner's valuable contribution to the European project and her major role in the set-up of Horizon 2020. 'Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn successfully won the support of the 28 EU governments at a time of tight budgetary constraint. This official recognition from the French government is thus truly deserved regarding her commitment to European development, innovation and progress' said Geneviève Fioraso, the French Secretary of State for Higher Education and Research.

Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn received the **European Institute's Transatlantic Leadership Award** at the 2014 Annual Ambassadors' Dinner on 2 October. With the award, the European Institute recognises her role in reviving the transatlantic R&I dialogue and the vision with which she has helped shape the EU's research agenda with Horizon 2020. In her keynote speech, Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn praised the extensive EU-US research and science partnership saying 'there are no two partners in the world better suited to collaboration.' Noting the rich, deep and diverse cooperation between European and US scientists and innovators, she said, 'We have solid foundations upon which to build an even stronger partnership, leading to potentially enormous rewards. This can happen if we work together towards more strategic cooperation, increasing the scale and scope of our common efforts.' The Commissioner stressed the importance of sustained investment in collaborative science and innovation for growth and jobs and for solving global challenges. She also pointed out how this could be a key part of achieving the high ambition and expectation for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) by, for example, 'informing decision-making and ensuring safer foods and medicines and better quality goods and services.'



Photo: (l) Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn receiving the European Institute's Transatlantic Leadership Award from Jacqueline Grapin (r) Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn receiving the Légion d'Honneur from Geneviève Fioraso

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Fifth EU-Japan policy forum 'Science 2.0: Science in transition' Kyoto, 4 October 2014

This year's forum concerned the emergent topic of 'Science 2.0', whereby the norms and practices are giving way to a new way of doing science as a result of new computing power, social and professional networks, big-data, globalisation, and a culture of sharing. At the event, Director-General Robert-Jan Smits, together with Yuko Harayama from Japan's Council for Science, Technology and Innovation, gave policy briefs on their first-hand experiences of recent developments in their respective science, technology and innovation (STI) policies. They were joined by around 40 other high-level policy-making participants, funding agency leaders, academics and industrial representatives from Europe and Japan. These included Bulgarian Minister for Education and Science R. Kolarova, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) President M. Nakamura, ERC President J-P. Bourguignon, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Global Science Forum Chairman H. Nagano, and others. Together they discussed the issues associated with the evolution of the scientific enterprise, such as how research should be evaluated, how research practices and the implications of 'Science 2.0' differ across scientific fields, open access to data and publications, ethical issues and privacy, new alternative funding streams, the increasing importance of science for citizens, the role of public engagement, and how such framework conditions have become an area of research cooperation in their own right.



Photo: 5th EU-Japan Policy Forum, International Conference Center, Kyoto

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Science and technology for society forum

On 5 October, Director-General Robert-Jan Smits participated in the 11th science and technology for society (STS) forum in Kyoto. During a plenary session on R&I, he highlighted Horizon 2020's novelties in addressing societal challenges, linking R&I (notably its support to SMEs) and doubling the budget on frontier research. He also emphasised the openness of Horizon 2020 to international participation. He finally stressed the need to strengthen international cooperation on the framework conditions for conducting research. During his visit to Kyoto, Robert-Jan Smits participated in various bilateral meetings. He exchanged views on implementing STI policies with the executive members of the Council for Science Technology and Innovation of Japan who are preparing Japan's fifth science and technology (S&T) basic plan. Together with Deputy Minister Tsuchiya of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), they explored ways to enhance EU-Japan R&I cooperation and how to increase participation of Japanese researchers in Horizon 2020. Finally, together with ERC President Bourguignon and Professor Anzai, President of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, they discussed potential synergies between Japan's fundamental research programmes and Horizon 2020, notably with the ERC.

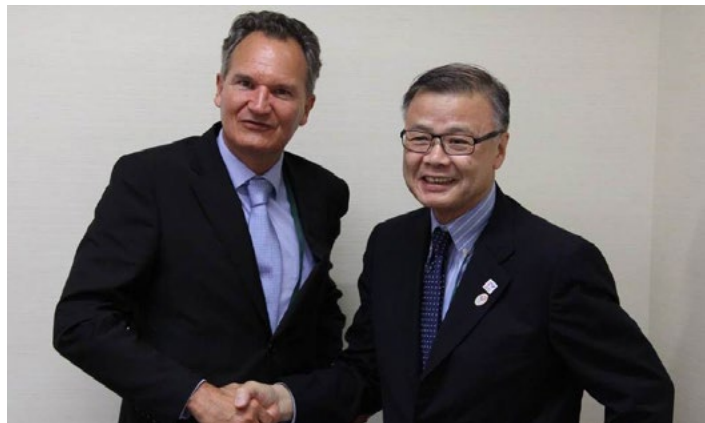


Photo: Meeting with Sadayuki Tsuchiya, Deputy Minister at Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

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Open Science Days in Montenegro

In the European Science Week, a full week of Open Science Days took place from 22 to 26 September in Montenegro. Wolfgang Bartscher, Deputy Director-General opened the event congratulating Montenegro for this initiative for which they received the first successful Horizon 2020 grant for Researchers' Night. He also encouraged Montenegro to take full advantage of its association to Horizon 2020.

The Minister for Science of Montenegro, Professor Sanja Vlahović, thanked the European Commission for supporting the event and underlined the importance of science and research for her country, in terms of economic development and competitiveness. This is why it is also essential to invest in attracting students to science. During the opening, a visit took place, in the presence of Professor Luigi Nicolas, President of the National Research Council (CNR) of Italy, to the exposition 'Italia Del Futuro', presenting some of the most important examples of scientific excellence of Italy. The next day we attended, in the presence of the Montenegrin Ministers for Science and Information Technology, the fourth knowledge factory at the University of Donja-Gorica-UDG which allowed seeing the technology-driven inventions and creations from the students and pupils themselves.



Photo: Pupils attending the 4th Knowledge Factory at the University of Donja-Gorica-UDG

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New practical guide to EU funding opportunities for research and innovation

Competitive European regions through research and innovation

Research and innovation are the heart of the Europe 2020 strategy. This updated practical guide allows potential beneficiaries to quickly identify exactly how they can access European funding at any stage of a project. Free to download! <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/new-practical-guide-to-eu-funding-opportunities-for-research-and-innovation-pbK13011001/>

Seventh EU-Mexico Joint Committee - Consolidating Cooperation

The seventh EU-Mexico joint committee meeting hosted by the National Council for Science and Technology (Conacyt) took place in Mexico City on 14 October 2014. It was preceded, on 13 October 2013, by a conference at the National University of Mexico (UNAM) with a presentation of funding opportunities of Horizon 2020 in the area of social sciences and humanities and various technical meetings, in particular, in the fields of energy and health. A specific meeting with the Director-General for Technical and Scientific Cooperation of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs also took place in order to review scientific cooperation in the wider context of EU-Mexican relations, and a high-level event (with Enrique Cabrero Mendoza, Director-General of the National Council of Science and Technology in Conacyt), for the launch of the future Internet public-private partnership in Mexico also was organised. In the context of the seventh EU-Mexico Joint Steering Committee meeting, both parties agreed to continue developing common principles and adequate framework conditions needed to create a level playing field for researchers from Mexico and the European Union to cooperate with each other on the basis of mutual interest. In this respect, Conacyt confirmed its commitment to continue to finance Mexican institutions and researchers participating in the Horizon 2020 calls to which we gave our full concurrence. In terms of thematic focus, both delegations agreed to step up cooperation in the key areas of geothermal energy research (with possibilities of developing cooperation in other areas of renewable energies), information and innovation and communication technologies (collaboration in the Fiware technologies for research and experimental purposes in Mexico) and a bilateral cooperation between the Joint Research Centre and the Mexican National Centre for Disaster Management on disaster risk management, with an initial focus on cyclones. In health-related research, Mexico confirmed its full commitment in the activities of the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD) with special interest in diabetes, and, upon our strong insistence, they committed to launch the 2014 call very soon. The importance of the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R) was also highlighted on both sides and, again upon our insistence, Mexico committed to move forward on the possibility of joining their action. The meeting was also an occasion to underline Conacyt interest in deepening cooperation and possibly concluding an implementing arrangement with the ERC in order to increase the number of Mexican researchers to team up with successful ERC grantees. Finally, the committee took stock of progress on various ongoing activities as possible future developments in the area of intelligent manufacturing systems and also of the result of the review of the S&T agreement.

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Director for International Cooperation promotes H2020 in Peru

The objective of the visit of Director Cristina Russo to Peru was to participate in an information event on Horizon 2020 in Lima with the aim of increasing awareness of Peruvian researchers and other stakeholders on funding opportunities under Horizon 2020. The event, which was followed by a technical seminar on 'how to participate' in Horizon 2020, was organised by our delegation, in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and the National Council for Science and Technology (Concytec). Complementing efforts and synergies between both the Latin America, Caribbean and European Union Network on Research and Innovation (ALCUE NET) and Incontact 2020 projects, EU and Latin American experts from both projects gave a two-day training session on Horizon 2020 funding opportunities to an audience of 200 researchers from main Peruvian research institutes and universities from all regions of the country, representatives of the private sector and also representatives of Peruvian institutions and EU Member States. Feedback by participants was very positive. The event had good echoes in the press and with the government. A side meeting was organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and offered the possibility to exchange with some leading figures of the local and regional R&I community and to discuss possible follow-up, within Horizon 2020, of a study carried out by the Directorate-General for Regional Policy on innovation in Peru. This was also discussed in a separate meeting in the Cuzco region where the study had been carried out, in which we also made a more general presentation of the opportunities of Horizon 2020, 'Open to the world'. Peru is undergoing profound changes to its science, technology and innovation framework with the intention to strengthen its competitiveness through the new programme called CienCiActiva, generating a more favourable climate for research and development in Peru. The President, Dr Gisella Orjeda, whose personal commitment was key for success, agreed with Director Cristina Russo on the need to follow up in order to increase cooperation in R&I and therefore proposed to include a point on EU-Peru cooperation in R&I on the agenda of the upcoming high-level dialogue.



Photo: (l-r) I. Horejs, C. Russo, R. Barrios and G. Orjeda

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The fifth Kobe University Brussels European Centre symposium: Innovation, environment, and globalisation - Latest EU-Japan research collaboration

On 14 October, Deputy Director-General Wolfgang Burtcher participated at the EU-Japan research symposium 'Innovation, environment, and globalisation — Latest EU-Japan research collaboration', organised by Kobe University (Japan). In the opening session, the new Ambassador of Japan to the European Union, H. E. Keiichi Katakami presented the latest developments related to science, technology and innovation in Japan and explained that the topics of the symposium — environment, innovation and globalisation — also are top priorities in Japan. The Japanese Comprehensive Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation has major external dimensions, and he expressed the wish that the EU and Japan further increase their already substantial cooperation. Deputy Director-General Burtcher presented the openness of Horizon 2020 to Japanese researchers and research organisations, and highlighted the benefits of and strong potential for strengthened cooperation with Japan in R&I. Other speakers at the opening session were Professor Hideki Fukuda, President of Kobe University, and Dr Toshiyasu Ichioka, project coordinator of the EU seventh framework programme BILAT project, Japan-EU Partnership in Innovation, Science and Technology (Jeupiste) (co-organiser of the symposium), at the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation. The speakers were introduced by Professor Hiroshi Takeda, Executive Vice-President for Research, Kobe University. This was the fifth symposium of this kind, organised to introduce the latest research results and applications in S&T from Japanese universities and partner institutions in Europe and to have a view of future collaboration for the benefit of society, in particular under Horizon 2020. Topics addressed included innovation, bioproduction, water and climate change; important areas in Horizon 2020. A special lecture at the symposium was made by Nobel Laureate, Professor Luc Montagnier.



Photo: (l) H. E. Ambassador K. Katakami and (r) Deputy Director-General W. Burtcher at the opening session of the EU-Japan research symposium, 14 October 2014

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Opportunities for the EU and China to jointly tackle environmental and urbanisation challenges through research and innovation

During his recent visit to China, Kurt Vandenberghe, Director of the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation's Directorate for Climate Action and Resource Efficiency, witnessed the relevance, potential and opportunities of engaging with China on R&I actions, tackling, in particular, challenges like urbanisation and water. The main objective of Director Vandenberghe's visit from 6 to 11 October was to attend the International Group of Funding Agencies for Global Change Research (IGFA)/Belmont Forum - the meeting of high-level representatives from major funding agencies across the globe which is guided by the so-called Belmont challenge, i.e. to deliver knowledge needed for action to avoid and adapt to detrimental environmental change including extremely hazardous events.

Kurt Vandenberghe's China visit offered opportunities to meet important Chinese and European governmental, academic, public and private sector stakeholders, gather feedback from experts on the ground on key policy developments and screen opportunities and challenges for an EU-China R&I flagship initiative in sustainable urbanisation. There are excellent opportunities for the EU to demonstrate solutions to tackle societal challenges in an integrated, systemic and trans-disciplinary way combining research, industry and government stakeholders — and to link possible European and Chinese demonstration actions that could induce transforming technological developments and systemic eco-innovations into real applications and trigger a mutual policy-learning process.

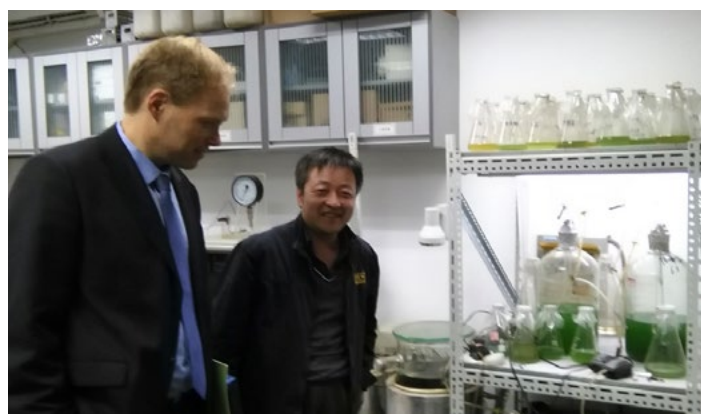


Photo: Kurt Vandenberghe during a laboratory visit at Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences

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Tour of Brazil: Opportunities for cooperation between Europe and the state of Santa Catarina

The EU Delegation in Brazil in partnership with the B.Bice+ project and the Foundation for Research and Innovation of the State of Santa Catarina (Fapesc) held on 9 October, in Florianópolis, the workshop 'Opportunities for cooperation between actors of innovation in Europe and the State of Santa Catarina'. The participants were researchers and entrepreneurs aiming to spread the cooperation opportunities with the European Union and its Member States. The new EU framework programme, Horizon 2020, was presented, with a focus on innovation, as well as the support offered by Euraxess to mobile researchers. Representatives of Belgium, the Czech Republic, Italy, Slovenia and Slovakia also presented the cooperation opportunities in their respective countries.

Bioeconomy Forum

The third Bioeconomy forum of the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry (CNI) and the Business Mobilisation for Innovation (MEI) was held in São Paulo on 23 October. The event focused on the evaluation of practices and public policies as main factors to determine the viability of a conducive and attractive environment for new businesses in the bioeconomy field. The head of the R&I sector of the EU Delegation in Brazil, Dr Piero Venturi, attended the event to talk about the bioeconomy policy in Europe.

Brazilian Week of Science and Technology

The European Union participated for the second time in the national Week of Science and Technology, presenting a stand on the EU-Brazil cooperation in science and technology for social development, between 13 and 19 October, in Brasília. A seminar on study opportunities in Europe was held by the European Union and its Member States: the Czech Republic, Ireland, France, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden. The EU Ambassador to Brazil, Ana Paula Zacarias, was present at the official opening along with the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation.



Photo: The Head of EU Delegation in Brazil, Ana Paula Zacarias (centre) and the Minister of ST&I (on her left side of the picture) at the opening of the National Science and Technology Week 2014.

EURAXESS science slam 2014

The final of the science slam organised by Euraxess Links Brazil was held on 10 October in Rio de Janeiro. This flagship event focused on science communication, which is held yearly in the six Euraxess Links locations (Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Brazil, China, India, Japan and North America). Five preselected candidates presented their research in a creative way. The winner was a PhD candidate from the University of São Paulo. She decided to use theatre to present her research in a creative and accessible way. The event was opened by Ana Paula Zacarias, Head of EU Delegation in Brazil, European Research Area (ERA) member countries, such as Belgium, Germany, Ireland and Switzerland were present. The Brazilian Government was represented by the director of the department of popularisation and dissemination of S&T of the Brazilian Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry, who put forward an invitation for the next edition of the Euraxess science slams.



Photo: Five candidates selected to the final of the Science Slam 2014.

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Smart grid Brazil 2014

The opening of the 'Smart grid Brazil 2014' workshop took place on 20 October. The event aimed to present the mapping of smart grid projects in Brazil and abroad. The EU Ambassador in Brazil, Ana Paula Zacarias, attended the opening along with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of Brazilian institutions of the energy sector. On 21 October, there was a session about smart grids in Europe. The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Union, Denmark, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom presented their projects and state of play in terms of smart grids and renewable energy. The event was an initiative of Brazilian institutions and ministries connected to the electricity chain in partnership with the EU-Brazil Sector Dialogue Facility.

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Progress made in developing an EU-Africa high-level policy dialogue roadmap with first focus on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture

Addis Ababa, 6-8 October 2014

Since its endorsement by the Heads of State and Government at the EU-Africa Summit 2014, an EU-Africa high-level policy dialogue (HLPD) expert working group has been tasked to develop a roadmap towards creating a long-term jointly financed R&I partnership with a first focus on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. The second meeting of the expert group took place in Addis Ababa, back-to-back with a meeting of the EU-Africa HLPD bureau. Several policy-makers from European and African countries (Germany, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Burkina Faso, Burundi, South Africa), as well as the European Commission's Research and Innovation DG, Agriculture and Rural Development DG and Development and Cooperation DG, the African Union Commission's Human Resources Science and Technology Department (HRST), the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) and the Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA) came together for a three-day meeting with the European and African experts. Great progress was achieved in developing the draft roadmap that is divided into two distinctive sections. One covering the 'what' of the partnership, with a current focus on three vertical pillars: sustainable intensification, agriculture and food systems for nutrition, and expansion and improving agricultural markets and trade, and one horizontal cross-cutting pillar: innovation, capacity-building and research infrastructures. A second section deals with the 'how' of the partnerships and looks at current models and instruments, stakeholders and monitoring and evaluation. The draft roadmap is expected to be ready in November after which an extensive consultation phase is planned by the EU-Africa HLPD bureau. The final version of the roadmap is expected to be ready by April 2015.



Photo: Members of the EU-Africa HLPD Bureau and expert working group

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EU-South Africa policy dialogue support project Esastap Plus holds its second annual meeting

Rome, 25-26 September 2014

Esastap Plus supports the deepening of scientific and technological cooperation between the EU and South Africa, with a special focus on innovation. This is achieved by supporting South Africa's participation in Horizon 2020, but also by promoting reciprocal European participation in South African programmes. Specific input is provided to enrich the bilateral policy dialogue, notably to identify priority areas for mutually beneficial cooperation. A major focus is to target coordination of Member States' and associated countries' research policies and programmes vis-à-vis South Africa, encouraging the development of new joint initiatives implemented by several countries. Synergy between different EU cooperation initiatives is also encouraged, e.g. between development cooperation and research programmes. The second annual meeting served to review Esastap Plus major initiatives and look ahead to the final year of the project. Esastap Plus has supported several innovative actions such as twinning between [research organisations](#), twinning between [Technology Transfer Offices](#), and a [Global Innovation Award](#). The European Union and South Africa have long been committed to strategic cooperation in S&T, dating back to their 1996 cooperation agreement, which facilitated cooperation under the European Union framework programmes. Moreover, South Africa has concluded several bilateral cooperation agreements with EU Member States, and will through the Esastap Plus project promote reciprocity of the South African and European Union programmes.



Photo: ESASTAP Plus – ESASTAP Plus consortium partners

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Or visit <http://www.esastap.org.za>

AEU–US cooperation in marine and arctic research receives a boost

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) organised two meetings on marine research, a strategic priority for EU–US cooperation, in Washington DC, at the embassy of France. The first event was a ‘marine stakeholders’ meeting on 30 September, attended by academic, business and government representatives. The objective was to widen awareness and participation in the transatlantic marine and maritime-related R&I alliance. The second event was a meeting of the EU–US marine research working group, which took place on 1 October, co-chaired by the European Commission and the NOAA. The discussions focused on the progress and next steps for its work streams on ocean stressors, aquaculture, ocean observations, microbial ecology and ocean literacy. It also discussed a science plan on the North Atlantic–Arctic system that is being developed by the EU–US–Canadian research community. Support for the plan will be provided by the EU, via Horizon 2020 blue growth calls for proposals, and will be coordinated with activities and funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the NOAA.



Photo: Marine Research Working Group discussing strategic priorities for EU-US-Canada cooperation

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Horizon 2020 roadshow in Australia rolls-on

The EU Delegation in Canberra continues to provide Horizon 2020 information events throughout Australia on the opportunities for collaboration between European and Australian researchers. Recent events have included Hobart on 23 September, hosted by the University of Tasmania with around 50 researchers and administrators attending; Brisbane on 10 October, hosted by the University of Queensland with nearly 150 participants; and Newcastle on 15 October, hosted by the University of Newcastle involving over 70 persons.

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EU–Japan cyberspace dialogue and space dialogue and forum

The European Union and Japan held their first dialogue on cyber security in Tokyo on 6 October. The meeting focused on how to address the growing challenges to maintaining a safe, open and secure cyberspace; and how to protect human rights online. The two sides considered the norms, rules and principles to be applied in cyberspace. They also discussed cooperation on tackling cybercrime. On 7 October, the first official EU–Japan space dialogue co-chaired by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European External Action Service (EEAS) took place in Tokyo. The following day, the ‘EU–Japan space policy forum’ brought together representatives of Japanese ministries and agencies, the EU Delegation, the European Commission (Enterprise and Industry DG), the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, the Japanese and European industrial and research communities, to explore opportunities for closer cooperation in the areas of: Earth observation, satellite navigation applications and services, space transportation and space security. Two testimonies of seventh framework programme projects (high-speed key technologies for future air transport — Hikari, and innovative thermal management concepts for thermal protection of future space vehicles — THOR) were presented by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. L. Karapiperis gave a presentation on research cooperation opportunities under Horizon 2020.

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ERC President Bourguignon meeting Korean Minister Choi and Korean researchers

President of the ERC, Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, paid a visit to the Republic of Korea in August 2014. Here he met with Mr Yanghee Choi, the Korean Minister for Science, ICT and Future Planning, and participated in the International Congress for Mathematicians (ICM) held in Seoul. During the ICM, President Bourguignon hosted a meeting with Korean researchers who are candidates for ERC grants, where he explained about Horizon 2020 and the ERC’s plans to increase cooperation. He also contributed to an ERC-oriented event entitled ‘Forum on R&D programmes’, and there were flash-info sessions outlining the main features of ERC funding schemes and opportunities, with ERC staff and grantees available to answer questions. The basis of the visit is the signature in December 2013 of the implementing arrangement of the EU–Korea scientific and technological cooperation agreement that boosts opportunities for early-career Korean scientists to come to Europe to join the research teams of ERC grantees.

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EU–CELAC cooperation in STI: First ERANet-LAC joint call is now open

On 16 September 2014, 20 European and Latin American and Caribbean funding agencies launched the first transnational call under the Network of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean Countries on Joint Innovation and Research Activities (ERANet-LAC) project. The objective of the joint call is to develop cooperative R&I activities between the European Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The first ERANet-LAC joint call brings together the multidisciplinary expertise of 20 partners from 17 EU–CELAC member countries: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey and Uruguay. Their total commitments amount to 11.4 million euro. The scope of the call includes the following thematic fields: biodiversity/climate, bioeconomy, energy and health. The topics were selected by the 20 participating funding organisations out of a pool of topics proposed by the working groups of the EU–CELAC senior officials meeting (SOM), which were created to implement the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI). Detailed information on the topics, the call text and the application guidelines are published under: http://eranet-lac.eu/Joint_Calls.php. The deadline for the submission of proposals is 27 November 2014. A second joint call is planned to be launched in 2015. In addition to the joint calls, ERANet-LAC is presently implementing ‘pilot coordination actions’ promoting mutual opening and coordination of existing European, Latin American and Caribbean R&I programmes and infrastructures. In the scope of these actions, ERANet-LAC offers technical and financial support for strategic meetings in order to establish a long-lasting frame for the [coordination of programmes](#). ERANet-LAC is a network of the European Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on joint innovation and research activities funded by the European Commission for a period of three-and-a-half years (2013–17).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Marie Skłodowska-Curie: EU-Russia researchers’ mobility forum

Eighty participants attended the EU–Russia researchers’ mobility forum organised in Brussels on 25 September 2014. The event was entirely dedicated to mobile researchers - the crucial link for scientific cooperation, knowledge transfer and creation of lasting partnerships.

To illustrate the benefits of mobility and opportunities for mobile researchers, the event showcased Marie Skłodowska-Curie success stories of collaboration in various scientific disciplines: health, climate change and nanotechnologies. By addressing some of the most important present and future challenges, it opened up the space for discussion of the recent findings and breakthroughs across scientific disciplines.

The forum offered an opportunity to inform on EU and Russian R&I programmes and provided an excellent platform for exchange of experiences and building on productive and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Researchers benefited from various networking opportunities, including a dedicated poster session and an elevator pitch session which aimed at an even greater impact and more dynamic presentation of research projects and results.



Photo: Participants of the EU-Russia Researchers’ Mobility Forum

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Photo: Cristina Russo delivering the opening speech at the H2020 Open to the World event for Latin American and Caribbean countries

‘Horizon 2020 – Open to the World’ event for Latin American and Caribbean countries

On October 23rd the Commission organised a lunch event addressed to the diplomatic corps of countries of Latin-America and the Caribbean based in Brussels. The event was well attended with 21 countries represented. Ms Cristina Russo, Director for International Cooperation at DG RTD opened the meeting followed by an address from His Excellency Mr Istvan Alfaro Solano, Ambassador of Costa Rica, the current CELAC presidency. The event was instrumental in raising awareness of opportunities for researchers and institutions from the CELAC countries to participate in Horizon 2020 projects.

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EU–Russia Year of Science at the open innovations forum

The third open innovations forum and exhibition took place in Moscow on 14 to 16 October 2014. It is the biggest annual event in Russia in the field of innovation held under the auspices of the Government of the Russian Federation. According to the organisers, this year the forum and the exhibition were attended by over 15 000 people from 70 countries, and the programme included more than 160 events. The partner country of this year's forum was China, with Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang taking part in the main plenary session, together with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. The programme of the forum also included a special 'EU–Russia Year of Science event' — a session organised by the EU Delegation to Russia and devoted to international cooperation in science and innovation in response to global societal challenges, and in search of opportunities for future economic growth. Keynote speakers of the session included the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Russian Federation Ambassador Vygaudas Ušackas and Russian Deputy Minister for Education and Science Lyudmila Ogorodova. All speakers recognised R&I as essential ingredients of any approach that seeks to address today's global challenges and to take advantage of the opportunities offered by globalisation, and they emphasised the importance of international partnerships in these areas, for both scientific and commercial reasons. Joint activities in R&I based on the principle of mutual benefit and aiming to solve societal challenges should, according to the speakers, not be unduly politicised and should continue to be free of political turbulence. They also pointed to the consistently constructive contribution which cooperation in such areas as science, higher education and culture make to overall relations between countries. Separate discussion items were the links between higher education and R&D as well as barriers to international cooperation and ways to overcome them.



Photo: The third open innovations forum and exhibition in Moscow

FOR MORE INFORMATION (ALL PAGE)

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EU Delegation in Russia

VUZPROMEXPO 2014

On 29 and 30 September 2014, the second annual national exhibition-forum 'Vuzpromexpo 2014: Russian science — the foundation of industrialisation' took place in Moscow. The event was organised by the Russian Ministry of Education and Science, the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade, and the Russian Ministry of Economic Development. More than 100 universities and more than 80 enterprises participated in the event. The main purpose was to demonstrate scientific developments aimed to modernise Russian industry and to establish closer interaction between domestic and international businesses and Russian universities. On the first day of the forum, the EU Delegation to Russia (R. Burger, Research and Innovation Counsellor) took part in the session 'Mechanism to improve cooperation between Russian universities and international business', organised by the Association of European Businesses in Russia (AEB) and the 'New Eurasia' Foundation, with a presentation of Horizon 2020 and a contribution to the discussions. On the forum's second day, Georges Van Goethem (RTD — Fission Energy Unit) presented the planned activities and priority areas of the ENEN-RU II project 'Strengthening of cooperation and exchange for nuclear education and training between the European Union and the Russian Federation', supported by the seventh framework programme Euratom Fission-2013 programme, in which 11 EU Member States and 6 Russian organisations take part.

Information day, 'Horizon 2020 and international researchers' mobility: EU supporting tools' — 6 October 2014

The Russian National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE) hosted an information day, 'Horizon 2020 and international researchers' mobility: EU supporting tools', organised within the seventh framework programme BILAT-RUS-Advance project. The EU Delegation to Russia participated in the event with a presentation on the Horizon 2020 programme and opportunities for cooperation with Russia in R&I areas. Other presentations covered in more detail Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions and the ERC grant schemes, as well as such issues as intellectual property rights and technology transfer in relation to academic mobility, and Euraxess services. Opportunities for cooperation with the EU under the Russian Federal Targeted R&D Programme were also presented. Presentations were made by the Russian national contact points for R&I cooperation with the EU in food and agricultural biotechnology, environment and climate change, research infrastructures, and aeronautics. In total, over 60 representatives of research and academic communities from Russia and the EU took part in the workshop. The presentations were followed by a question-and-answer session, which allowed the audience to clarify such issues as opportunities for financial support of Russian teams' participation in projects under Horizon 2020 and the Russian Federal Targeted R&D Programme, rules for participation in individual fellowships under Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, intellectual property rights ownership and distribution, etc.

Destination Europe conference in Atlanta - US

The Chair of the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation, Dan Andrée, opened the eighth Destination Europe conference on 17 October 2014 on the GeorgiaTech campus, in Atlanta, Georgia. Attendees from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, France and Sweden participated in the event which was organised by the European Commission.

The 165 participants in the highly interactive event, ranged from PhD students to graduate students and professors as well as representatives of academic networks in the US who wanted to learn more about research opportunities in Europe.

The programme also included presentations of R&I opportunities offered at EU level such as Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, the ERC and Horizon 2020, as well as the support offered by Euraxess to mobile researchers. An exhibition area was also available to explain in more detail the various support mechanisms.

Destination Europe events showcase the exciting R&I culture in Europe and the opportunities available to researchers, from anywhere in the world, interested in working here. They provide direct access to experts from European research organisations, universities, funding agencies and European Commission services who present programmes and initiatives designed to attract researchers to Europe as well as providing information about the help available for the practicalities of moving to Europe (scientific visa, mobility centres, etc.).



Photo: Some of the speakers at the Atlanta event, from FR, DE, Euraxess, REA, DG EAC and DG RTD.

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or visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=atlanta-event-2014>

South Africa joins the Eureka network as third associated country

The European Research Coordination Agency (Eureka) is a European intergovernmental network dedicated to promoting, supporting and stimulating industrial transnational research, development and innovation. One of its missions is the internationalisation of cooperation for innovation. With its increasing presence across the globe, Eureka contributes to stimulate business and growth in its member countries, and becomes a key international player in innovation.

The partnership agreement between the Republic of South Africa and Eureka on collaboration in innovation funding and support was signed under the Norwegian Chairmanship of Eureka by Ms Mæland, Minister for Trade and Industry of Norway representing Eureka and Ms Naledi Pandor, Minister for Science and Technology of the Republic of South Africa. As the first African country to join Eureka, the Republic of South Africa extends the presence of Eureka to four continents with the Republic of Korea in Asia and Canada in North America being also Eureka-associated countries.

The agreement will secure networking opportunities between innovative firms and research organisations from South Africa and Eureka member countries, in order to develop joint research projects in a bottom-up approach. These collaborations will provide easier access for the jointly developed products to European and African markets.

The South African Department of Science and Technology will be host to the national Eureka contact office. It will facilitate the start-up and operation of Eureka projects and lead companies through their next stages of development.

With innovation in the water sector being one of the main priorities of South Africa, Acqueau, the Eureka cluster for water technologies, has already initiated several projects between European and South African partners.

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(C) S. Altevogt - DFG

EU China aviation research collaboration ready for take-off

Since 2005, the EU has been engaged in research cooperation in the field of aeronautics research with China. Various support actions such as the AeroChina 1 and 2 and GRAIN have been implemented and brought together aeronautics experts from both sides. In the Seventh Framework Programme, a first coordinated call for proposals in 2010 by the Research & Innovation DG and the Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technologies (MIIT) led to two jointly financed research projects, 'Manipulation of Reynolds stress for separation control and drag reduction (MARS)' and 'Casting of large titanium structures (COLTS)', where European industry was working together with the research organisations and Chinese partners on common research topics. Collaboration in aviation research has moreover been recognised as an important focal topic for the EU-China innovation cooperation dialogue. The currently ongoing support action, greener aviation international network 2 (GRAIN 2), gathers experts on the two sides to strengthen cooperation, exchanges and fora on the future trends in areas of interest to the greening of the aeronautic sector. The Horizon 2020 work programme 2014-15 of the Transport Challenge includes a topic on international cooperation. Following consultations with industry and research organisations, both sides identified topics of joint interest and mutual benefit. Consequently, a [coordinated Call for Proposals](#) with MIIT under the topic 'International cooperation in aeronautics with China' has been announced and will be open by December 2014. Research collaboration in aviation adds great value to the policy dialogue and regulatory exchanges between the EU and China in aviation led by the European Commission Mobility and Transport DG.

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The European Commission becomes co-chair of the Belmont Forum 2015

The [Belmont Forum](#) was created in 2009 as an informal high-level group of the world's major and emerging funders of global environmental change research and international science councils by initiative of the UK and the US, with the specific objective of launching operational actions. The European Commission is among its founding members, represented by the Director of Directorate I. This coordinated effort represents a commitment to a collective research action agenda to co-design, co-develop and co-deliver a research programme on the complex relations between humans and the Earth. During its 2014 meeting that gathered in Beijing on 8-10 October, the European Commission was nominated, as of February 2015, as a co-chair. In its new position, the Commission will also be able to steer more closely the development of the [Future Earth initiative](#). During the meeting, the funding agencies discussed a new governance structure for the Belmont Forum that would allow for a more structured and professional organisation, openness to new members and increased transparency and accountability. As in every annual meeting, progress of ongoing collaborative research actions (CRAs), i.e. joint calls for proposals on topics decided on an annual basis, as well as new CRAs to be engaged in 2015, were discussed. The funders also committed to launch, in 2015, a scoping exercise on consumption patterns and the water-food-energy nexus in the urban context, which has been endorsed by most members of the Belmont Forum and to launch a multi-annual programme on transformation to sustainability, for which an engagement with donors will also be explored. Support to the organisation of training on transdisciplinarity will also be granted by some agencies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Upcoming events

10 years ERA-NET Bioenergy - Research results and future strategies

11 November 2014 - Hanover - Germany - For more information please click [here!](#)

Utilising academic research in policymaking: Horizon Scanning, trend analysis & policy effectiveness seminar

25 November 2014 - London - UK - For more information please click [here!](#)

Societal Challenges Need Knowledge-based Solutions - 1st CAAST-Net Plus stakeholder forum

24-25 November 2014 - Entebbe - Uganda - For more information please click [here](#)

H2020 Calls update

Developing new world-class Research Infrastructures

Deadline for submission: 14-01-2015 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

For more information on this call and other calls click [here](#).

World RePORT: A health research database for Africa⁽¹⁾

Over the past decade, global concern to address the disproportionate burden of disease and mortality in low-income countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, has led to a substantial influx of funding for research. The heads of nine major health international research funding organisations (HIRO)⁽²⁾ recognised the need to develop a public tool to track these international research activities and to share results. This should allow the identification of gaps or areas where there may be a duplication of effort. It could also enable local investigators to develop regional collaborations. The ultimate goal of the [World RePORT](#) is to encourage the emergence of more vibrant, competitive and self-sustaining research communities in these settings. It can lead to improved treatment, prevention, and ultimately better health and quality of life. The tool is freely available online. Projects can be searched by keyword and country, funding organisation or topic. Other details, where available, include project title, abstract, principal investigator and organisation, city and country, as well as hyperlinks. The tool, which is updated on an annual basis, is currently hosted at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and managed through a steering committee of the agencies providing data that includes the European Commission DG RTD. The report includes information about EU-funded research under the Seventh Framework Programme and the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership Programme (EDCTP). The map has been expanded in 2013 to include south-east Asia and Pacific regions, and to include more funders such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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(1) Extracted from article published in [The Lancet](#)

(2) The heads of international research organisations (HIROs) launching the World Report: US National Institutes for Health (NIHs), Canadian Institutes of Health Research, European Commission, Max Planck Society, UK Medical Research Council, National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm), Institut Pasteur, Swedish International Development Agency and Wellcome Trust. Other organisations providing data are the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trial Partnership (EDCTP) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

Workshop on science, technology and innovation performance of China successfully held

On 14 October, the EU Delegation in Beijing hosted a workshop which was organised in collaboration with Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (SPI). The workshop aimed at presenting and discussing the results of the European Commission-funded study, 'Science, technology and innovation (STI) performance of China', to a targeted group of European and Chinese stakeholders. The study was carried out by the SPI, The United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) and the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), with the support of Tsinghua University and the Renmin University of China. It assessed the evolution of the STI performance of China and analysed its impact on the productivity and competitiveness of China as well as on global and EU markets. The workshop presented the study findings in particular related to measurement and indicators of innovation performance and framework conditions for innovation. More than 50 European and Chinese key stakeholders attended the workshop and discussed and commented on, in a lively manner, the presented findings which illustrated the path of China's endeavours towards becoming a major global player in R&I.



Photo: Laurent Bochereau, Science Counsellor at EU Delegation Beijing, and Sara Medina, Member of the Board of Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (SPI)

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How to contribute to the International Research Newsletter?

Should you wish to contribute to the next issue of our publication, kindly send us:

- An article relating your event (maximum 2200 characters - spaces included - with picture - 2500 characters without picture);
- A good quality picture (free of rights).

Do not forget to mention the title of the article and the caption of the picture, and a Commission internal contact point.

Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn addresses the transatlantic ocean business community

In New York City, on 29 September, Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn delivered the opening speech at the World Ocean Council (WOC) Business Forum on Ocean Policy and Planning. The forum seeks to catalyse informed, coordinated and proactive ocean business community engagement in the ocean policy and planning efforts that will significantly impact future ocean economic activity. In her comments, the Commissioner emphasised that the Atlantic Ocean is a common heritage, a shared resource and a joint responsibility. She also underlined that research provides valuable support to crucial EU policies, such as the integrated maritime policy and common fisheries policy, as well as international cooperation such as UN negotiations on an implementing agreement for the law of the sea, or the creation of a UN sustainable development goal on the ocean. In addition to traditional industries such as fishing, valuable new economic opportunities exist in marine biotechnologies, mineral extraction and renewable energies. The EU is supporting such developments, as well as responsible stewardship of the environment and climate through Horizon 2020.

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EU director for Bioeconomy promotes EU Research in Washington DC

On 1 October, Dr John Bell, Director for Bioeconomy in the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation within the European Commission, presented the EU strategy for bioeconomy, at the EU Delegation to the USA in Washington DC. The presentation targeted a mixed audience of about 60 representatives from US government departments and Congress, academics, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and EU R&I counsellors. Introduced by the EU Ambassador to the US, Joao Vale de Almeida, the event highlighted the economic stakes raised by R&I on biotechnologies and promoted international cooperation opportunities offered by the Horizon 2020 programme.



Photo: John Bell, Director for Bioeconomy in DG RTD, presenting the EU strategy for bioeconomy, in Washington DC

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Four EU–Japan joint research projects developing new technologies for high-speed networks in highly-dense user areas

On 17 October, in Brussels, four EU–Japan joint research projects in ICT were announced in a joint symposium between the Communications Networks, Content and Technology DG, the Japanese Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and the National Institute for Information and Communication Technology. RAPID will use innovative radio network architectures to advance 5G technology and allow smart phone Internet download of more than 1Gbps bandwidth to users in crowded public areas by 2017. iKaaS will develop a smart and secure platform for smart cities based on big data resources collected from Internet of Things (IoT) sensing environments. Safari will develop programmable optical hardware for novel multi-flow transport functions scalable to at least 400Gbps/channel. Festival will provide joint EU–Japan IoT experimentation platforms.

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ERRATUM

An error occurred in the article on the EU–Brazil technology and innovation forum and tour of Brazil in the previous issue of our newsletter.

The article should have read: 'The EU Ambassador to Brazil, Maria Paula Zacarias, and the Head of the R&I Section of the EU Delegation to Brazil, Piero Venturi, participated in the events, together with representatives of 18 EU Member States focused on cooperation with Brazil: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.'

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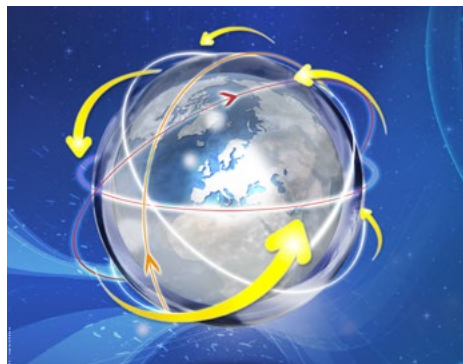
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Open to the World!



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This page provides 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, Korea, Russia, the United States (US) and the African Union (AU). With a particular focus on international cooperation, different policy related themes are highlighted in relation to a number of countries to illustrate trends, similarities and different approaches. This issue covers policy news from Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Japan, Korea and the AU.

Policy News from the Delegations

In **Brazil** Dilma Rousseff has been reelected as president for a second mandate with 51,6% of the votes. The main focus of her new programme for S&T is the construction of a «knowledge society», to stimulate education, S&T and innovation to increase productivity and competitiveness. The [Knowledge Platforms Programme](#) which was launched in June is now being structured in detail. Investment in S&T increased during her first mandate when she also launched the flagship programme Science without Borders (100.000 Brazilian students and researchers to go abroad). This has opened opportunities but has also been criticized for using up resources from other programmes.

In **Japan** the changes in Prime Minister Shizo Abe's ministerial team have had an impact on the STI sector: In the [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology](#) (MEXT), Hakubun Shimomura is retained as Minister of MEXT, Motoyuki Fujii is now State Minister, Tomohiro Yamamoto is vice-minister and Yasuo Kishimoto has been appointed Deputy Director-General of its S&T Policy Bureau. Shunichi Yamaguchi is new Minister of State for S&T Policy, also supervising the [Council for Science, Technology and Innovation](#) (CSTI). Yoichi Miyazawa is the new [Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry](#) (METI). The S&T related budget request for FY2015 stands at 4,029.7 billion JPY (11.1% above last fiscal year). [Riken](#) is the only R&D institution under

MEXT to suffer a budget cut.

In **Egypt**, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has appointed a new [Presidential Advisory Council](#) made up of academics and experts to provide non-traditional solutions for issues facing Egypt. The Council will have a vital role in advising on national projects, such as the project to create a parallel channel to the Suez Canal and the project to develop Egypt's road network. The initiative is perceived as a signal of El Sisi's emphasis on STI in addressing Egypt's societal challenges.

Scientists at **Canada's** [National Microbiology Laboratory](#) (NML) have developed an experimental Ebola vaccine, VSV-EBOV, which now is being tested on humans. The Canadian government owns the intellectual property of the vaccine and has licensed the rights to [NewLink Genetics](#) through its wholly owned subsidiary BioProtection Systems to arrange the human clinical trials at the [Walter Reed Army Institute](#) of Research in Silver Spring, US. At least five clinical trials will soon be underway in the United States, Germany, Switzerland and in an unnamed African country. The results of the first phase are expected by December, and it is hoped the vaccine can be deployed shortly after.

In **Korea**, the twelfth meeting of the [Conference of the Parties \(COP12\)](#) to the 7th Convention on Biological Diversity with its theme of Biodiversity for Sustainable Development was held in Pyeongchang province from 29 September to 17 October 2014, with participants from 194 governments, heads of relevant organisations and NGOs. The COP12 undertook a mid-term review of the implementation of the [Strategic Plan for](#)

[Biodiversity 2011-2020](#) and adopted the milestones for the [Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#), as well as the [Gwangwon Declaration](#) at the end of the high-level segment meeting.

On 13-14 October in Luanda, **Angola**, the EU Delegation organised a Horizon 2020 workshop in collaboration with the Ministry of S&T in Angola and the EU Counsellor for R&I to the African Union, with the support of the EU FP7 [CAAST-Net](#) plus project and DG RTD. The workshop was opened by the Angolan Minister of S&T, Dr Maria Cândida Pereira Teixeira and Head of the EU Delegation to Angola, Mr Gordon Kricke, and the need for a network of NCPs was addressed. Following the workshop, the first [Angola-EU Ministerial meeting](#) on 17 October in Brussels acknowledged the workshop as an important contribution to exchange activities and awareness-raising on R&I and participation opportunities in Horizon 2020. With regard to R&I, the ministers agreed to develop activities to strengthen capacities and training of human resources, to enhance mobility of scientists and innovators and to promote access to knowledge in various areas, acknowledging the essential role of STI for the socio-economic transformation, poverty reduction and sustainable development. The importance of enhancing STI cooperation and of nominating an NCP for the effective participation of Angola in Horizon 2020 was stressed.

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