

FLASH NOTE
6TH STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE EU-CHILE S&T COOPERATION AGREEMENT
BRUSSELS, 6 DECEMBER 2011.

The 6th Steering Committee meeting of the EU-Chile S&T Cooperation Agreement took place 6 December 2011 in Brussels, co-chaired by Isi Saragossi, Director International Cooperation of the European Commission's DG Research and Innovation, and José Miguel Aguilera, President of the National Commission for Science and Technology in Chile (CONICYT).

Recent Developments in R&I

The meeting discussed latest developments in policy and programmes in relation to science, technology and innovation.

- The EU side provided information on Europe 2020 and the Innovation Union, and the Commission proposal for Horizon 2010.
- The Chilean side explained the context, objectives, priorities and rationale of the recent policy development to develop their STI system from improving the excellence of their human resources to industrial innovation.

Current Cooperation

Chile has currently 75 participations in FP7 projects. The highest level of participation and success rate is in the IRSES part of Marie Curie Actions, the second highest participation is in ICT and e-Infrastructures followed by Environment and Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology.

Increasing Cooperation

The Commission outlined some of main principles for guiding and developing future cooperation:

1. Make better use of the "**General Opening**" of the Framework Programme as a main mode for supporting collaborative research and development in areas of common interest;
2. Make **better use of the relevant Chilean research programmes** funding fellowships and research projects to promote exchanges and cooperation with the EU;
3. Promote **cooperation at regional and bi-regional levels** in areas where such cooperation can help achieve more effectively objectives of common interest and make better use of resources.

CONICYT is planning six major projects with mandatory international cooperation in such areas as ICT, biotechnology, environment and climate change and associated issues such as disaster preparedness and biodiversity. It will also continue encouraging researcher mobility and human capital formation. Both sides agreed to seek cooperation in at least some of these areas in 2012. In particular:

- CONICYT will organise a **workshop in April 2012 with interested European research groups**.
- The Commission highlighted the forthcoming opportunities in the **2012 work programme of Marie Curie Actions**, several of which could be of significant interest to Chilean researchers.
- In the area of ICT several major information and networking events in 2012 and 2013 will contribute to maintain and strengthen the existing partnership.

In addition, Chile has the intention to build up its **astronomy capability** (a major national research priority) to take better advantage of the unique international investment in the infrastructure of several radio and optical telescopes in Atacama. In this context, it is exploring the possibility of developing industrial capacity for developing technology and equipment in partnership mode with Europe and other interested regions. CONICYT will provide more detailed information about the potential for cooperation in due course.

Bi-regional cooperation (EU-LAC)

The parties also discussed the next steps needed as co-chairs of the EU-LAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation in preparation of the forthcoming second Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in Concepción. The SOM will assess progress towards implementation of the roadmap agreed in March 2011 and agree on next steps. Both sides agreed on the need to involve more country representatives in developing the joint activities. One or more intermediary meetings by video-conference between the SOM and the next Summit are considered necessary to keep up the momentum for delivering concrete results and agree on what to report back for the next Summit tentatively re-scheduled to January 2013.

Next meeting

The next meeting will take place in a year's time in Chile and the parties agreed to have a video-conference in 6 months to review progress.