

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH *February 2015*

HORIZON 2020

In January, the Commissioner visited [CERN](#) (European Organisation for Nuclear Research) in Meyrin, Switzerland. The EC and CERN have been cooperating for many years, demonstrating the excellency and capacities of the EU Research Area.



«*To advance as a competitive global partner, we need the world's best to make Europe their laboratory.*»

Carlos Moedas

For full speech please visit: <http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/moedas/announcements>

Dear Reader,

8 associated countries to H2020 will benefit from the new grants [announced by the EU](#) that will help bridge the research excellence gap between Member States and strengthen competitiveness and growth across Europe. The new «[Teaming](#)» tool used to award the grants will increase investment in countries with lower research excellence rankings by teaming them up with high-calibre institutions from all over Europe. For Teaming calls on the Participants portal [click here](#).

[Eight projects](#) working on vaccine and diagnostics to overcome the current EBOLA crisis are currently run under the new Ebola+ programme of the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) and funded jointly by the European Commission and the European pharmaceutical industry with a total of €215 million.

Best regards,

The Editors

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European Research Council President, Professor Bourguignon, travels to South Africa

Prof. Bourguignon travelled to South Africa in January 2015 to raise awareness of the ERC and its funding opportunities amongst the South African research community. During the visit, Professor Bourguignon met the Minister of Science and Technology in South Africa, Minister Naledi Pandor and senior officials of the [Department of Science and Technology](#) (DST). He also met the President of the country's National Research Foundation (NRF), Dr. Albert van Jaarsveld and senior officials of the NRF. The ERC and the NRF are currently preparing a new cooperation programme which will provide funding for young South African researchers to undertake short-term visits to Europe with current ERC grant holders. On 13 January 2015, Professor Bourguignon spoke at a seminar to present partnership opportunities between South African and European researchers. This seminar was hosted by the South African Department of Science and Technology in collaboration with the National Research Foundation (NRF) and with the support of [ESASTAP Plus](#) (Strengthening Technology, Research and Innovation Cooperation between Europe and South Africa). ESASTAP Plus is a platform dedicated to supporting research and innovation cooperation between South Africa and the European Union and funded under the EU's seventh Framework Programme. ERC grants are very prestigious and provide funding for advanced as well as younger researchers in research institutions in Europe and its Associated Countries. According to ERC rules, grant-holders can work a significant amount of time per year outside Europe, which means that they can maintain an affiliation with their countries of origin. Based at the University of Bergen in Norway, Professor Christopher Henshilwood was awarded a €2.5 million ERC Advanced grant in 2009, and concurrently holds a South African Research Chair position at the University of the Witwatersrand. Professor Henshilwood is an archaeologist working on the early evolution of human behaviours among Homo sapiens and Homo neanderthalensis in southern Africa and Europe respectively.



Photo: President of the ERC, Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, making a presentation on opportunities for South African researchers

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EU meets the US at the Transportation Research Board

From 11-15 January, a DG RTD Delegation attended the 94th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board, in Washington DC, focusing on the implementation of the International Cooperation Strategy for Transport Research and Innovation, developing cooperation activities particularly between the EU and the US. The Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting covers more than 5000 presentations in nearly 750 sessions and workshops addressing topics of interest to more than 12000 policy makers, practitioners, researchers and representatives of government, industry and academic institutions. Several additional meetings took place beside the main event, such as the preparatory meeting for the 3rd EU-US Symposium for transportation research on Road Vehicle Automation, which will take place in Washington on 14-15 April 2015, the 3rd meeting of the Steering Group for the Implementing Arrangement for Cooperative Activities in the field of research, development, technology and innovation applied to all modes of transport and meetings with the Federal Highway Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration and the US Department of Transport's Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office. In the presence of the Head of the EU Delegation to the US, Ambassador O'Sullivan, the extension of the Implementing Arrangement for Cooperative Activities in the field of Research on Information and Communication Technologies Applications to Road Transport between the European Commission and the US Department of Transport was formalised on 16 January.



Photo: David O'Sullivan, EU Ambassador to the US, and Gregory Winfree, Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, US Department of Transportation, presenting the extended Implementing Arrangement

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or visit <http://www.trb.org/AnnualMeeting2015/annualmeeting2015.aspx>

EU–USA Innovation Conference

On 14–15 January 2015, the BILAT USA 2.0 project welcomed its stakeholders in Brussels to the EU-US Innovation Conference. The focus of the conference was on the innovation dimension, learning from examples of best practice in innovation cooperation, including academia-academia collaboration and academia-industry partnerships.

Robert Burmanjer, Head of Unit within the European Commission, Directorate General Research and Innovation opened the conference together with Jennifer Haskell, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Cooperation at the US Department of State. “To achieve scale and scope, unnecessary duplication as well as fragmentation must be reduced. Essential to success will be the building of partnerships between scientific disciplines, academia and industry, the public and private sectors and across borders” stated Robert Burmanjer in his opening speech.

More than 120 policy makers were present, as well as representatives of funding agencies, research institutes, and innovation organisations from Europe and the US. They participated in various expert roundtables and panels over the two days, reflecting the high level of interest for EU-US cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation.

The event was organised by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency as Partner of the [Bilat US 2.0](#) project and was hosted by the regional representation of Nordrhein-Westfalen.



Photo: Opening of the EU-US Innovation Conference by Robert Burmanjer (Head of Unit North America, Latin America and Caribbean, DG RTD, European Commission)

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Trilateral EU/US/Canada workshop on Arctic Research

A trilateral workshop organised by the EU, USA and Canada was co-sponsored by the Bilat US 2.0 and the ERA-Can + projects was held at the 9th Arctic Frontiers conference in Tromsø, Norway, on 21 January 2015. The objective was to explore potential areas of trilateral scientific cooperation among similar fields of activity. The event also hosted the signing ceremony of the statement of purpose of the EU/US and the EU/Canada Working Groups on Arctic research. The 50 participants discussed potential priority areas of, and methods to intensify, scientific cooperation amongst the three parties. Breakout sessions focused on topics such as Arctic observation systems, data sharing, Arctic research infrastructure including ice-breaker coordination, impact of Arctic changes on the weather and climate, impacts of climate change on Arctic ecosystems, and related socio economic risks and opportunities. The workshop was co-chaired by Andrea Tilche from the European Commission, Fran Ulmer from the US, and Martin Raillard from Canada. The three delegations were composed of eminent scientists representing major networks and key on-going research projects, in particular multilateral projects which already support international cooperation, together with science-policy officials representing governmental departments and funding agencies. The day before the workshop, President Obama signed an executive order establishing a new US national committee for Arctic policy that aims to improve coordination among several federal agencies headed by the Office of Science and Technology Policy at the [White House](#). In 2014, two bilateral Working Groups on the Arctic have been created, EU-US and EU-Canada, in the framework of the Transatlantic Ocean Research Alliance launched with the Galway Statement of 24 April 2013.



Photo: Andrea Tilche, European Commission DG RTD Head of Unit «Climate Action and Earth Observation», Fran Ulmer chair of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission and Martin Raillard, Chief Scientist for the Canadian High Arctic Research Station

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Arab Forum for Scientific Research and Sustainable Development Sharja, United Arab Emirates



The Forum, organised by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) on 18-22 December 2014, was a major event on research and innovation in the Arab world. Around 120 researchers, policy makers and business organisations attended. The Forum dedicated three sessions to international cooperation, namely on Arab-European cooperation, Arab-Japanese-cooperation, and Arab-US cooperation.

The lively discussion on Horizon 2020 – following a presentation by Angela Liberatore on behalf of DG Research and Innovation – addressed the following: how to better involve young scientists (a strong ‘target group’ of the conference) and the private sector (still a low key actor in most Arab R&I), how to further facilitate VISA in relation to initiatives supported by the Framework Programme, and ethical and gender aspects.

The issue of indicators for R&I was also addressed. The European Investment Bank contributed to this session.

Another interesting issue discussed in a dedicated session of the Forum was the role of scientific diasporas in enhancing research and innovation in both home and host countries. Examples presented included Zewail City – established by the Egyptian Nobel Laureate in Chemistry – and return grants schemes in some EU countries, schemes designed to counteract brain drain and facilitate brain circulation. This is a subject that could deserve further attention in international and, more specifically, EU-Arab countries cooperation.

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PACE-NET + First Bi-Regional Platform held in Auckland

The Pacific-Europe Network for Science, Technology and Innovation (PACE-NET +) held its first bi-regional policy dialogue platform in New Zealand on 10-11 December 2014. The main goal of PACE-Net + is to strengthen cooperation in science, technology and innovation (STI) and to support the bi-regional policy dialogue between the EU and the Pacific countries and territories, and within the Pacific region. The Pacific is a long-term partner of the EU and is on the front line of major global challenges such as climate change and is a source of key natural resources. More than 80 policy-makers, officials and scientists participated in this event focusing on the development of a regional strategic framework on STI, and on its contribution to the global EU-Pacific partnership. The outcomes of 6 thematic Think Tanks that were held in 2014 in the fields of Health, Food Security, Climate Change & Natural Resources, were delivered and contributed to policy recommendations for science, development and innovation. Participants identified priority actions that will strengthen the EU-Pacific partnership, including the optimization of cooperation opportunities. The outcomes of this first platform will allow stakeholders to draw up the next steps to be implemented in order to develop a long term Pacific-EU institutionalized dialogue in STI. The future platforms in Brussels in June 2015 and in Fiji in 2016 will constitute two important milestones for this bi-regional dialogue.



Photo: Group of participants to the PACE-NET + bi-regional policy dialogue platform

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Research publication

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Successful Completion of Validation Test of the Lithium Test Loop of the Broader Approach Project IFMIF/EVEDA

A special ceremony was held at the Japan Atomic Energy Agency's Research and Development Centre in Oarai, Ibaragi Prefecture, to mark the successful completion of the validation test of the Lithium Test Loop, an important milestone towards the Broader Approach IFMIF/EVEDA (International Fusion Materials Irradiation Facility/Engineering Validation and Engineering Design Activities) project. The loop is the world's largest with IFMIF-relevant quantities of Lithium.

The ultimate objective of the project is to prepare the construction of a future-materials test facility using neutrons which will have the flux and energy that future fusion energy reactors are expected to create. In addition to members of the Japanese and European research teams (based both in Europe and Japan) and several academic experts who had contributed to the effort, the event was attended by the EU and Italian S&T Counsellors and a MEXT representative in charge of ITER.

In his introductory address, the EU S&T Counsellor congratulated the joint teams for the successful validation test, despite the many challenges faced, in particular the damage inflicted by the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. He also recalled that there had been other successes for IFMIF/EVEDA in 2014 as well, with the Linear IFMIF Prototype Accelerator (LIPAc) starting its installation and commissioning phase at Rokkasho, in northern Japan. He concluded by confirming Europe's firm commitment to the success of the Broader Approach activities, in close collaboration with Japan.



Photo: Celebration of Successful Completion of Validation Test of IFMIF/EVEDA Lithium Test Loop

FOR MORE INFORMATION (ALL PAGE)

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EU Delegation to Japan

Ushering in a New Year of intensified EU-Japan cooperation in STI

On 22 January the S&T Section of the Delegation of the EU to Japan organised for the third time an S&T New Year's Reception. Close to 150 high-level guests represented all major stakeholders relevant for STI in Japan including Government Ministries and the Diet, funding agencies, academia, Japanese and European research institutions, and industry conducting R&D in Japan. This prime STI networking event was also attended by representatives of the S&T Diplomatic Circle in Japan and EU Member States' S&T Counsellors. European Union Ambassador to Japan Viorel Isticioaia-Budura stressed the growing weight and visibility of STI co-operation in EU-Japan relations. Mr Sadayuki Tsuchiya, Deputy Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology presented major developments in Japan's STI landscape, reforms carried out in universities and the importance of strengthening international research co-operation. Dr Kazuo Kyuma, Executive Member of the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation, Cabinet Office, focused on the implementation of the Comprehensive STI Strategy and recent establishment of two major programs, SIP and ImpACT. Dr Kyuma recognised the importance of H2020 as a reference point in the preparations of Japan's next S&T Basic Plan that will start in 2016. Professor Takashi Onishi, President of Science Council also stressed the importance of international cooperation in S&T, highlighted recent initiatives of the Council related to the enhancement of research integrity in Japan as well as the Council's inclusion in the new distributed Secretariat of Future Earth. Some important milestones for the EU-Japan STI collaboration in 2015 will include the elaboration of a possible Japanese scheme to provide financial support for the participation of Japanese researchers in H2020 open call projects, a possible cooperation agreement between the JSPS and the ERC on researcher mobility, the EU-Japan Summit in Tokyo, the Joint Committee Meeting on Scientific and Technological Cooperation in Brussels, the international conference for the launch of the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development in March (to which the European Commission has been invited to participate), the publication of the 2016-2017 H2020 Work Programme in July, and the annual EU-Japan Science Policy Forum in Kyoto in October.



Photo: Ushering in another year of fruitful cooperation in Research and Innovation - EU Delegation's S&T New Year's Reception - 22 January 2015

EU booth promotes Horizon 2020 at the China International High Tech Fair in Shenzhen

The 16th China International High Tech Fair (CHTF), one of China's most important S&T exhibitions, was held in Shenzhen - South China's major industrial, financial and innovation hub - from 16 to 21 November. Responding to the Fair's motto of "Innovation and Green Growth" the EU Delegation to China joined the international pavilion with a prominently displayed booth organized in excellent cooperation with Brussels Capital Region and Brussels Invest & Export. The booth displayed the benefits of collaborating with Europe in research and innovation and presented opportunities offered by Horizon 2020, the ERC, and EURAXESS Links but also the services provided by EU funded initiatives like the Dragon Star Project, the EU SME Centre, the China IPR SME Helpdesk and the IP Key project. Under the patronage of Vice Premier Liu Yandong, Chinese Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang, and 10 other central Ministries and Commissions, CHTF has become an important window for China's high-tech sector and plays an important role in commercialization, industrialization and internationalization of high-tech achievements as well as promotion of economic and technological exchanges and cooperation between different countries and regions. Many visitors and innovators from China and other countries inquired at the EU booth about the possibilities for investing in or doing technological cooperation with Europe. Moreover, the EU Delegation's S&T Section and the China Science and Technology Exchange Center (CSTEC) under the Ministry of Science and Technology jointly held a dedicated info session on the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020. Representatives from both institutions promoted together the EU Framework Programme and the National Contact Point of China demonstrated in practice how collaboration between both sides is for mutual benefit and serves common interest for the EU and China.



Photo: EU Booth at China International High Tech Fair

Seminar on Framework Conditions for Innovation held at the EU Delegation in China

At the end of last year, the EU Delegation in Beijing, the EU Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC) and the UK Embassy jointly organised a Seminar on Framework Conditions for Innovation. The event, hosted at the EU Delegation, followed the compilation of the UK Embassy's paper on IP policy and the EUCCC's Annual Position Paper. The seminar aimed at discussing how framework conditions impact research and innovation collaboration with China and sought to identify possible common issues that the EU, the EU Member States and China can jointly address to help create win-win solutions for both sides. The EU has already developed various mechanisms to address the issues of framework conditions with China, such as the EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue launched 2 years ago. The 1st high level Innovation Cooperation Dialogue meeting agreed to improve framework conditions related to innovation cooperation, identified thematic priority sectors of common interest and established an Expert Task Force on Innovation Cooperation which held its second meeting in Brussels. The EU Delegation's trade section takes part in many regulatory dialogues, such as the IP Dialogue. EUCCC stressed the importance of facilitating international mobility for young scientists and researchers in order to increase the scientific attractiveness of China. The results of the seminar's discussion will contribute to the preparation of the next EU China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue, the revision of market access priorities and other relevant EU-level Dialogues related to framework conditions.



Photo: Seminar on Framework Conditions for Innovation at EU Delegation China

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**our world
our dignity
our future**



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Next EDCTP programme to continue delivering life-saving solutions for sub-Saharan Africa

The second programme of the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP2) will carry on the life-saving work of EDCTP1 which aimed to accelerate the development of drugs, vaccines, microbicides and diagnostics against poverty-related diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. It funded clinical trials in sub-Saharan Africa with a focus on phase II and III of clinical development. EDCTP1 also supported capacity building and networking in order to create an enabling environment for clinical trials in sub-Saharan Africa in line with international standards of scientific, ethical and clinical conduct. The programme has been hugely successful. Under EDCTP1, a total of 254 projects were financially supported. The projects included 100 clinical trials: 30 on HIV/AIDS, 27 on tuberculosis (TB), 9 on HIV/TB co-infection and 34 on malaria. While 73 projects are still on-going, positive results have been achieved. A study of highly active antiretroviral therapy during pregnancy and breastfeeding, for example, demonstrated a 43 percent reduction in HIV infections in infants and more than 50 percent reduction of mother-to-child transmission during breastfeeding. A malaria trial (4ABC) was conducted at 12 centres in seven

sub-Saharan African countries. More than 10,000 children between 6 and 59 months old were screened, and a total of 4116 children were included in the study and treated. Three novel artemisinin-based combination drugs were found to be effective in treating children with a certain type of malaria. EDCTP1 has also provided 514 career and training awards to African scientists, including 56 career development and senior fellowships. Almost all senior fellows continued working in their respective countries after the expiration of the grant. More than 1300 research collaborators in Africa and almost 800 in Europe have cooperated so far in EDCTP-funded activities. Building on the success of EDCTP1 the scale and scope of EDCTP2 has been expanded. EDCTP2 involves a total budget of more than €1.3 billion, including €683 million from both the EU and the European EDCTP member countries, while additional co-funding is expected from third parties, such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and pharmaceutical industries. EDCTP2 will also address neglected infectious and parasitic diseases, such as sleeping sickness, and the whole clinical development from phase I to IV. The EDCTP was created in 2003 as a European response to the global health crisis caused by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. It currently unites 11 African and 13 European countries as full members who are represented equally in its governance. Mali, Burkina Faso,

Sweden and Switzerland are about to join the EDCTP as well.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Upcoming events

A decade of fostering attractive research careers - 10th anniversary of Charter and Code

3 March 2015
Brussels
[Click here](#) for more information

H2020 Calls update

Europe as a global actor

Topics:

- The European Union's contribution to global development: in search of greater policy coherence
- European cultural and science diplomacy: exploiting the potential of culture and science in the EU's external relations

Call: H2020-INT-SOCIETY-2015
Closing date: 28-05-2015 17:00 (Brussels local time)

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

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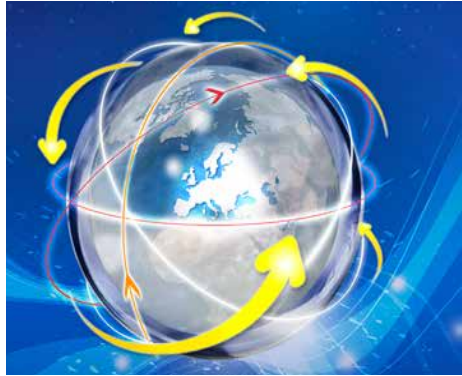
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This page provides a regular update on recent Research and Innovation (R&I) policy news from our network of R&I Counsellors in the EU delegations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, India, Israel, Japan, Korea, Russia, the United States (US) 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 Australia, China, India, Russia, the US and the AU. The next will cover Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Israel, Japan and Korea

Policy News from the Delegations

In the **United States**, President Obama's annual [State of the Union](#) address gave science, technology and innovation a significant place, stating that «21st century businesses will rely on American science, technology, research and development». Separately, in a step towards the creation of a [National Network for Manufacturing Innovation](#) (NNMI), Congress has passed the bipartisan Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation (RAMI) Act, allowing the top four manufacturing institutes to come together as a network and to create a long term governance structure. Also, a group of 122 companies, non-profit organisations, universities and research laboratories, led by the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, is partnering with the Department of Energy to launch a [Manufacturing Innovation Institute for Advanced Composites](#).

In his annual [state-of-the-nation address](#), Russian President Putin announced a new «National Technology Initiative», to bolster national security, develop new industries based on advanced technologies and for **Russia** to become a leader in producing high-tech goods and services. Technological breakthroughs are to be achieved by bringing together creative project teams and dynamic companies, leading universities and research institutes with the involvement of Russian researchers and entrepreneurs living abroad. Separately, the Russian Federal Space Agency [Roscosmos](#) has

been merged with the United Rocket and Space Corporation (URSC) into a new state corporation, under the name of Roscosmos. It is hoped that the consolidation will bring greater efficiency into the Space sector.

In **India**, Ashutosh Sharma has been appointed Secretary of the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST) for a 5 year period. The [open access policy](#) of DST and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has been approved, with specific guidelines for researchers and institutions, intended to result in easier access to results of DBT and DST funded projects. In addition, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has constituted a [Council for Industry & Higher Education Collaboration](#) (CIHEC) which will facilitate the development of strategies and innovative instruments of collaboration between Industry and Academia.

In a [cabinet reshuffle](#) in **Australia**, changes to Prime Minister Abbott's [government](#) include the Minister for Industry, Ian Macfarlane now being called the Minister for Industry and Science, and the Department of Industry being renamed the Department of Industry and Science. A new [Higher Education and Research Reform Bill 2014](#) has been introduced in Parliament, which seeks to deregulate fees for the sector. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Australian Research Council (ARC) have established a new initiative to increase research capacity in dementia as part of the [Boosting Dementia Research Initiative](#), with a [dementia research fellowships scheme](#).

In **China**, the Chinese State Council has officially published the Agenda for the

Reform of National S&T Programme Management, characterised by a rationalised structure with clearly defined objectives and the set-up of an open and more integrated management platform. Through pooling together the existing programmes managed by different ministries, the programming system will be restructured into five pillars: the National Natural Science Foundation of China; Major S&T special programmes; Key R&D programmes; Technology innovation instruments; and a special programme for infrastructure and talent. In addition, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) has launched a pilot call with a deadline on 2 March to provide matching funds for CAS institutes that are participants to successful Horizon 2020 projects.

At the **African Union summit** on 30 January in Addis Ababa, the decision was taken to host the rectorate of the Pan African University (PAU) in Cameroon and to appoint Tolly Mbwette (Tanzania) as its President and Paulo Horácio de Sequeira e Carvalho (Angola) as its Vice President. This follows the recent decision to establish the [PAU's 5th hub](#) (Space Sciences) in South Africa. Separately, the 2nd European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership ([EDCTP2](#)) has been launched in Cape Town. The EU is contributing €683 million from Horizon 2020, to be matched by EU Member States and contributions from African countries and industry.

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