

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH UPDATE

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INFORMATION FLASH ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIRECTORATE

POLICY

'The Atlantic – A Shared Resource': EU-US-Canada High Level Conference Provides New Vision, Launches Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance

On 23 and 24 May, a two-day event took place at the Marine Institute in Galway, Ireland, which has provided a vision for enhanced cooperation on both sides of the Atlantic and launched the Canada - EU - US Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance.



Front row: Senator Mark Wells (Canada), Commissioners Damanaki and Geoghegan Quinn (EC), Dr. Kerri-Ann Jones (USA); Back row: Prime Minister Enda Kenny, Minister Simon Coveney (Ireland).

Commissioners Geoghegan-Quinn and Damanaki, on behalf of the EU, Kerri-Ann Jones, U.S. Department of State, and Senator Mark Wells of Canada signed the *Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation*, in the presence of the Prime Minister of Ireland, Enda Kenny, and Simon Coveney, Irish Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn stressed that the Atlantic has an enormous societal and economic value which we must safeguard for the benefit of all our citizens. She referred to the Galway Statement as "one of the first successes of the new strategy for international cooperation in Research and Innovation launched by the Commission last September".

The Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation commits the signatories to progress in a three-step approach:

- to take stock of and use existing bilateral science and technology cooperation (e.g. the EU-US S&T Joint Consultative Group, the Canada - EU S&T Joint Coordinating Committee, other multilateral cooperation frameworks on ocean observation, and initiatives to engage with the general public on ocean research),
- to jointly recommend priorities for future cooperation and,
- to coordinate the planning and programming of activities in these areas, including promoting the mobility of researchers.

For further information, please visit the [event website](#), or contact Sigi Gruber, DG RTD, Directorate D

Council Adopts Conclusions on the Communication on International Cooperation

The Competitiveness Council on the 30 May adopted conclusions supporting the Commission's Communication "Enhancing and Focusing EU International Cooperation in Research and Innovation: a Strategic Approach". Welcoming the Communication, the Council reaffirmed the need for the European Research Area to be open to the world and the importance of opening the framework programmes to international cooperation.

For further information, please contact Marnix Surgeon or John Claxton, DG RTD, Directorate D

Joint Research Centre Publishes Soil Atlas of Africa

The European Commission presented in April 2013 the first *Soil Atlas of Africa*, illustrating a vital natural resource which provides food, fodder, and fuel wood, reduces the risk of floods, and protects water supplies. The *Atlas* documents the diversity of soil across the African continent, with the objective of promoting awareness of the importance of this non-renewable resource. Coordinated by the Commission's Joint Research Centre, a group of leading soil scientists from Africa and Europe contributed to this document.

European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, presented the *Atlas* to Derek Hanekom, Minister of Science of South Africa, during his visit to Brussels. South Africa's University of the Free State in Bloemfontein was one of main contributors in the preparation of the *Atlas*.



Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn presents the *Soil Atlas of Africa* to Derek Hanekom, Minister of Science of South Africa

Connie Hedegaard, EU Commissioner for Climate Action, also presented the *Atlas* at the 6th 'College to College' meeting between the African Union Commission and the European Commission in Addis Ababa. The *Soil Atlas of Africa* is a collaborative initiative of the European Union, the African Union and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to support and encourage the sustainable use of soil resources in Africa and the Global Soil Partnership for Food Security.

For further information, please visit the [website](#) or contact Monika Naudužaitė, JRC, Directorate A

4th EU-ASEAN COST Dialogue Meets in Manila

The 4th EU-ASEAN COST Dialogue Meeting took place in a positive and constructive atmosphere, back to back with the 65th meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology. The EU delegation was led by Laurent Bochereau, Acting Director for International Cooperation at DG RTD. The ASEAN Delegation, chaired by Brunei, included 27 representatives from all 10 ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of progress since the high-level ASEAN COST visit to Brussels on the occasion of the closing event of the EU-ASEAN Year of Science and Technology 2012. It also allowed to discuss future cooperation opportunities under Horizon 2020, and to prepare the revision of the ASEAN multi-annual S&T Strategic Plan to be endorsed at the next COST Ministerial meeting.

The ASEAN side proposed to organise an EU-ASEAN S&T Ministerial Round Table during the second World Innovation Forum in Kuala Lumpur on 12-14 November 2013, an event expected to gather 15.000 participants. The proposal, welcomed by the EU, underscored the excellent EU-ASEAN cooperation following the 2012 EU-ASEAN Year of Science Technology and Innovation.



ASEAN COST Delegation meets the EU Delegation - Laurent Bochereau and Jürgen Sanders (DG RTD), Svend Remoe (SFIC & SEA-EU-NET), Alex Degelsegger (READI Project) and Simon Grimley (EURAXESS)

Highlights from the meetings included announcements of

- a joint funding activity (ERANET-type) organised by the SEA-EU.NET Project with an emphasis on mobility,
- two ASEAN Networks of Excellence (animal health, green technologies) twinned with similar European networks with the support of the DG DEVCO READI project,
- the EU-ASEAN Science/Technology/Innovation Days to be organised in Bangkok in January 2014 including a launch event for Horizon 2020 in the ASEAN region,
- the launch of a Southeast Asian branch of EURAXESS with two officers based in Singapore and Bangkok.

For further information, please contact Jürgen Sanders, DG RTD, Directorate D

2nd Meeting of the EU-Ukraine Joint S&T Cooperation Committee in Kiev (JSTCC)

The second meeting of the EU-Ukraine JSTCC established under the bilateral S&T Agreement took place in Kiev on 24 May at the State Agency on Science, Innovation and Informatization (SASII). The meeting was co-chaired by Borys Grynyov, SASII Vice-Chairman, and by Elisabeth Liptatou, DG RTD. The EEAS was represented by Mr Andrew Rasbash, Head of Operations at the EU Delegation in Kiev.

The meeting allowed exchanging information on mutual policy developments following the 1st JSTCC held in Brussels in November 2011, including the bilateral Association and Free Trade Agreement Ukraine is expected to sign at the next Eastern Partnership Summit (next November in Vilnius) as well as the transition from FP7 to H2020 and the adoption of our new international cooperation strategy. The review of our bilateral cooperation in FP7 highlighted the fact Ukraine was to-date our 7th international partner in terms of number of participations in the programme, and identified tracks for further improvements, notably in fostering more research-industry partnerships.

Both sides exchanged information on four sectors (NMP, Biotechnologies, ICT and Aeronautics) in line with the conclusions of the 1st JSTCC meeting, Ukrainian excellence and cooperation potential identified in those domains.

The JSTCC proposed strengthening further our cooperation, notably through leveraging it in the broader regional context of the Eastern Partnership as well as at multilateral level when relevant and to give more emphasis on the innovation dimension, and the need for an increased interaction with industry. It was agreed the next JSTCC meeting would be held in Brussels during the second half of 2014.

*For further information, please contact
Thierry Devars, DG RTD, Directorate D*

Launch of EU-Japan Negotiations towards a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and a New Political Framework Agreement (FA)

Building on an extensive 'scoping exercise', Japan and the EU launched on 19 April the long-awaited negotiation towards an ambitious Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two economic areas.

"Negotiating a Free Trade Agreement will not be easy, have no illusions!" said EU Trade Commissioner Karel de Gucht in Tokyo. However, there is now measured optimism that these complex discussions will come to a fruitful end. It is expected that an agreement between the EU and Japan may boost Europe's GDP by 0.6 to 0.8 % and result in the creation of 400.000 jobs in Europe. According to some estimates, EU exports to Japan could increase by 32.7% and Japanese exports to the EU by 23.5%. Duco Delgorte, Chairman of the European Business Council in Japan, called the opening of these negotiations "long overdue". In parallel with the FTA, negotiations also started on 22 April on a new political Framework Agreement (FA), between the EU and Japan, covering, *inter alia*, science, innovation, energy, space and other technology-related issues.

*For further information, please contact
Barbara Rhode and Tom Kuczynski, EU Delegation in Tokyo*

EVENTS

EU-Russia Cooperation in Research and Innovation Showcased at the European Business Summit

The 11th European Business Summit "Unlocking Industrial Opportunities: an EU Strategy for Competitiveness" on 15-16 May in Brussels, provided a platform to present EU-Russia cooperation in research and innovation to key EU and Russian industry and government participants.

Intervening on behalf of the European Commission in a session "Towards a Joint EU-Russia Industrial and Innovation Agenda: Mission (Im)possible?" organised by the Eurasia Competitiveness Institute, Laurent Bochereau, Acting Director for International Cooperation at DG RTD presented the challenges and opportunities of cooperation with Russia in research and innovation.

Stressing the vibrant and multifaceted cooperation with Russia, the leading third country participant in FP7, he stressed that, in the area of S&T, the "mission" was not only "possible" but indeed a model of international cooperation. Beyond FP7, where industry represent over 18% of Russian participations, he outlined other mechanisms actively delivering on the EU-Russia research and innovation agenda, including partnerships between EU and Russia technology platforms (ETPs and RTPs), and Russia's active participation in Enterprise Europe Network.



Governor Valery Vhantsev and Laurent Bochereau exchange views on innovation at the European Business Summit

Horizon 2020 represents excellent opportunities for Russian research and innovation. However, continued high level of Russian participation depended on Russia's adopting new financial mechanism to fund its own participants. In this context, the launch of the *EU-Russia Year of Science 2014* represented a celebration of this long established cooperation, and a commitment to extend this strategic partnership in the future.

Other speakers included Valery Shantsev, Governor of Nizny Novgorod Region, Vladimir Gruzdev, Governor of the Tula region, and Frank Schauff, CEO of the Association of European Business in Russia.

*For further information, please contact
Patrick Vittet-Philippe, DG RTD, Directorate D*

ERA-Net.Rus Workshops at the Higher School of Economics, Moscow

On 16-17 May, two thematic expert workshops were held in Moscow by the FP7 ERA-Net.RUS project, in the areas of Nanotechnologies and Environment/Climate Change. Involving scientists from EU Member States, the FP-Associated Countries and the JRC as well as from Russia, the workshops developed recommendations for sub-topics to be addressed by the single joint call which the ERA-Net.RUS-Plus project plans to announce in early 2014.

The workshops were hosted by the Russian National Research University 'Higher School of Economics' and followed two similar thematic expert round-tables in Brussels on 22-23 April, which elaborated recommendations for sub-topics for the ERA-Net.RUS-

Plus call in Health and the Social Science & Humanities. Funding organisations from eleven EU Member States and FP-Associated Countries as well as all main research-funding organisations in Russia participate in the ERA-Net.RUS-Plus project.

*For further information, please contact
Jürgen Sanders, DG RTD or
Richard Burger, EU Delegation Moscow*

Europe-Japan Career Day in Tokyo

After a long decline, figures now show a modest upwards trend in the numbers of Japanese researchers coming to Europe. This evolution corresponds to the perceptible opening of key Japanese universities (e.g. Tokyo Daigaku) to international cooperation – an opening marked by the launch of new curricula in English and by shifting the start of the academic year in from April to September, to match Western academic calendars facilitating student exchanges and study years abroad. This evolution is driven, in part, by increased demand from Japanese industry for graduates with stronger language capacities and greater familiarity with the global environment.

This growing interest from Japanese students and academic institutions for study and research abroad was visible at the Europe-Japan Career Day. Organized on 20 May by the EU Tokyo Delegation, with the support of the Science Council of Japan and the Japan Society of Promotion of Science, this event was attended by over 100 Japanese researchers. It provided participants with practical information on mobility programmes between Europe and Japan. Japanese speakers presented the JSPS mobility programmes, while EU panellists outlined opportunities offered by ERC grants, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Erasmus Mundus and Euraxess.

Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker, Secretary General of the Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) opened the panel discussion, which was followed by a lively Q&A session and active networking between participants and speakers.

*For further information, please contact
Barbara Rhode and Tom Kuczynski
EU Delegation in Tokyo*

European Higher Education Fair in Tokyo and Kyoto

During three days, 17 to 19 May, the European Higher Education Fair in Tokyo and Kyoto attracted over 1900 visitors, almost twice the 2012 number. Under the banner "Destination Europe", the event was organized by the EU Tokyo Delegation, in cooperation with Campus France, DAAD, Japanese Universities and education funding agencies in Tokyo (Meiji University) and Kyoto (Doshisha University).

Around 50 exhibitors from 11 EU countries (universities and funding agencies) presented opportunities to study and do research in Europe to Japanese students and representatives of Japanese universities.



European Universities' and funding organizations' booths at the European Education Fair

Stands and dedicated sessions offered information on EU and Member States mobility programmes for students and researchers, including ERC grants and Marie Skłodowska-Curie and Erasmus Mundus fellowships. Speakers included Massimo Gaudina (ERC), Barbara Rhode and Tom Kuczynski (EU Delegation), Richard Kelner (Erasmus Mundus), and Lee Woolgar (Euraxess Japan).

*For further information, please contact
Barbara Rhode and Tom Kuczynski
EU Delegation in Tokyo*

Second 'Green Growth Knowledge Platform' Annual Conference in Paris

DG Research and Innovation was invited to intervene in the second Annual Conference of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP) which took place on 3-4 April 2013 at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris.

The GGKP is a collaborative effort between the OECD, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the World Bank (WB) to advance the green economy agenda. The focus of the initiative is on knowledge and research. GGKP encourages research on major knowledge gaps in green growth theory, emphasizing a practical orientation for research, and fostering collaboration among scholars, practitioners and policy makers.

The Conference focused on the following themes: (i) greening global value chains, and (ii) measurement and reporting for green growth. Luisa Prista, Head of the Environmental Technologies Unit at DG RDT intervened in the panel discussion on "Implications for innovation and skills". European Commissioner, Janez Potočnik, and OECD Secretary-General, Angel Gurría, gave introductory remarks. UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, together with representatives from the other GGKP partner organizations, launched the joint report "Moving towards a Common Approach on Green Growth Indicators".

*For further information, please contact
Luisa Prista, DG RTD, Directorate I*

8th Innovation Congress in Kazakhstan

The 8th Innovation Congress took place under the umbrella of the Astana Economic Forum in Astana, Kazakhstan on 23-24 May 2013. Key sessions addressed the "Development of national innovation systems as a response to global challenges" and "The EU Kazakhstan: Innovation through cooperation". The programme also included presentations on FP7 projects and Enterprise Europe Network technologies. A total of 13 Memorandums of Understanding were signed between European and Kazakh partners at a press conference.

The Congress was an opportunity to take stock of the impressive changes which have taken place in Kazakhstan over the last decade. Participants called for supporting the development of the human capital base, and ensuring that the economy is open in order to promote innovation. This includes a stable legal framework to encourage investment, in particular the proper control of IPRs. The importance of accepting failure of some innovative ideas in order to stimulate innovation in general was also highlighted.

*For further information, please contact
Jürgen Sanders or John Claxton, DG RTD, Directorate D*

9th meeting of the Eastern Partnership platform "Contacts between People"

The last meeting of the Eastern Partnership platform IV ("contacts between people") was held in Brussels on 29 May, in order to address cooperation status and perspectives in the fields of education, youth, culture, ICT as well as research and innovation. The meeting was the opportunity to interact with EU MSs and Eastern Partnership countries representatives about two important upcoming policy events. The first one is the Lithuanian Presidency Conference to be held in Vilnius on 30 September-1st October and to be focused on research and innovation cooperation with Eastern Partnership countries. The second one is the establishment of a dedicated Platform 4 Panel to address this bi-regional cooperation at policy level in an ad-hoc format. The first meeting of this new Panel to be chaired by DG RTD, is planned to be held in Brussels on 13 November 2013, back-to-back with the next Platform 4 meeting.

*For further information, please contact
Thierry Devars, DG RTD, Directorate D*

Mobility Info Day in Ukraine

On 12 April, the State Agency on Science, Innovation and Informatisation of Ukraine held an Information Day on the Marie Curie Actions. Over 50 researchers and representatives of universities, research organisations and the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine attended the event, which allowed exchanges on research networking, collaboration and mobility within the remaining calls of the Marie Curie Actions under FP7, as well as on new opportunities in Horizon 2020.

*For further information, please contact
Kamila Partyka, DG EAC C.3*

Advancing Research and Innovation Cooperation with Egypt

A major actor at regional level Egypt has been confronted in recent years with well documented economic, institutional and social challenges. However, throughout this difficult period, Egypt's commitment and effort to advance Research and Innovation through international cooperation programmes has remained strong and steadfast.



*Nadia Iskandar Zakhary, Egypt's Minister for Scientific Research,
with Rana Mokhles, winner of the FameLab Egypt competition*

In this context, the closing ceremonies of the 2012 EU-Egypt Year of Science and Innovation, on 18 and 19 April 2013 in Cairo, were a testimonial of this strong mutual commitment between Egypt and the EU. This event provided an opportunity to take stock of joint achievements in research and innovation and to outline future perspectives under Horizon 2020.

The conference brought together some 400 Egyptian scientists, researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs and policy makers, along with their European counterparts. Celebrations captured strong media attention and were aired on TV and online by several Egyptian broadcasters. The event was co-chaired by James Moran, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Egypt and Nadia Zakhary, Egyptian Minister for Scientific Research. Dr Zahary also presented a young researcher, Rana Mokhles with the FameLab competition prize.

*For further information, please contact
Tomas Matraia, DG RTD, Directorate D*

EU-Russia Working Group on Researcher Mobility

The 2nd meeting of the Working Group on Researcher Mobility established under the Joint Russia-EU S&T Committee took place in Moscow on 26 April. The meeting was co-chaired by the International Department of the Russian Ministry of Education and Science and the Higher Education and International Affairs Directorate of DG EAC.

Russia is a key partner of higher education and research cooperation programmes with Europe. It is the leading third-country participant in FP7, both in terms of

participations (471 participations from Russian organisations in 291 different research projects) and in term of funding (EUR 63 million in EU funding + the equivalent of EUR 39 million in Russian funding). In addition, 313 Russian researchers have been funded under Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, and 17 Russia scientists received ERC grants. The Working Group exchanged views on current cooperation and discussed measures to increase both way mobility, and to enhance collaboration, especially in the context of the EU-Russia Year of Science 2014.

*For further information, please contact
Kamila Partyka, DG EAC C.3*

PROJECTS

EU-Caribbean Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Take Centre Stage at CARICOM

The aim of the meeting was to discuss long-term strategies to strengthen the existing cooperation flows in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) between Europe and Caribbean countries, based on the results of the EUCARINET project. EUCARINET has facilitated a common understanding of the cooperation potential in STI between Europe and the Caribbean. It identified the main barriers and challenges hindering effective cooperation between the two regions, and solutions to increase participation of Caribbean researchers in EU research projects.

The meeting provided an opportunity for sharing the project's results and issued a set of recommendations to reinforce cooperation under Horizon 2020. These recommendations will be submitted for endorsement by Caribbean governments under the coordination of the CARICOM Secretariat, and will be presented to European stakeholders at an event in Brussels in late 2013.

*For further information, please visit the [website](#) or contact
Caterina Buonocore, APRE –
Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea*

New INDIGO Era-Net Launches New EU-India Call for Proposals on Energy

On 8 May 2013, the ERA-Net project New INDIGO published a call for proposals on Energy, an area of great interest for both the European Union and India, two regions which are facing common challenges in terms of energy security, environment and sustained economic growth. The call focused on "smart energy grids" and "new energy materials".



For the fourth consecutive year, New INDIGO has succeeded in teaming up European Funding Agencies and a funding partner from India, paving the way for a sustainable structure for joint EU-India multilateral calls.

This year, 7 European Funding Agencies together with the Indian Department of Sciences and Technology (DST) have leveraged up to EUR 6 million, with the ambition to fund up to 10 high-quality collaborative research projects. The call is open until 23 August 2013 and funding decisions will be published in the autumn. The project will provide yet another occasion for Indian and EU scientists to network and build new collaboration during the fourth edition of the EU-India Science, Technology and Innovation Days on Health, organized in Paris on 10-11 October 2013, with the support of the European Commission.

*For further information, please visit the [website](#),
Contact Marie-Alix Riou, New Indigo Coordinator,
or Diego Sammaritano, DG RTD, Directorate D*

A New Era in EU-Japan Aeronautics Cooperation: JEDI-ACE 'De-icing' Project Meets in Tokyo

The JEDI-ACE project (Japanese-European De-Icing Aircraft Collaborative Exploration) held its kick off meeting in Tokyo. Jointly funded by the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and by DG RTD, this project is the first in a series of EU-Japan projects addressing key areas of advanced aeronautics research. "De-icing" is a crucial process to get the airplanes ready for take-off in winter. The development of anti-icing coating and sensors, at the heart of the JEDI-ACE project, should help avoid this lengthy procedure.

Aeronautics is one of the three priority "flagship" areas of cooperation between the EU and Japan. The signing of several joint aeronautics projects under a coordinated call between METI and DG RTD, and the setting up of a high level EU-Japan Aeronautics Working Group in to be formally launched on 18 June at Le Bourget, testifies to the importance of bilateral cooperation in this strategic area. The Project will also reinforce cooperation between EU and Japanese industrial partners, in an area long subject to difficult trade issues.



Japanese and EU members of the JEDI-ACE Project

*For further information, please contact
Barbara Rhode, EU Delegation in Tokyo*

REPORTS

Commission Welcomes Publication of New European Report on Development Post-2015

On 9 April, European Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs launched the new European Report on Development (ERD) *Post 2015: Global Action for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future*. Published just over a month after the EU's own Communication *A Decent Life for All: Ending Poverty and Giving the World a Sustainable Future*, the Report was welcomed by the Commissioner who stressed that "The ERD always has an important and valuable contribution to make to the global development agenda, and this year's report, with its in-depth analysis and ambitious messages, will help stimulate the debate on the post-2015 development agenda, both at the EU and global levels."

The ERD 2013 focuses on how global action can best support the efforts of developing countries, especially the poorest, in achieving development. Arguing that the

post-2015 agenda should build on the Millennium Development Goals, but strive to deliver on the wider vision of the Millennium Declaration and promote inclusive and sustainable development. The ERD initiative is supported by the European Commission and seven EU Member States (DE, ES, FI, FR, LU, SE & UK). The ERD is an independent report which does not reflect the official position of the EU or of its Member States.

The notice for the call for tender for the preparation of the 5th European Report on Development (ERD) on "Financing and other Means of Implementation in the Post-2015 context" was published on the EU Official Journal 2013/S 097-164639 on 22 May 2013 with the reference No. EuropeAid/134444/C/SER/MULTI. The Tender Specifications and the instruction note for the submission of the offers are available [here](#).

For further information, please visit the [website](#), or contact Kevin McCarthy or Charlotte Bué, DG [DEVCO](#), Directorate A



FORTHCOMING MEETINGS (June-August 2013)

Joint Committee Meetings

6 June	SWITZERLAND	Brussels
20 June	NEW ZEALAND	Brussels
21 June	JAPAN	Tokyo
26 June	SOUTH KOREA	Brussels
28 June (TBC)	RUSSIA	Brussels
27 June	BRAZIL	Brussels

Regional Dialogues

5-6 June	WBC Platform	Podgorica
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International Summits

June (TBC)	EU-USA Summit	Brussels
Mid-July (TBC)	EU - South Africa Summit	Johannesburg

International Events

17-19 June	4th INCO Conference and the annual INCO National Contact Point meeting More information on the website	Marseille
18 June	Plenary meeting of the Strategic Forum for international Cooperation (SFIC)	Brussels

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