

Report of the 9th Joint Steering Committee Meeting (JSCM) under the “Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the European Community and the Republic of Chile”

2 December 2021

The ninth EU-Chile Joint Steering Committee meeting (JSCM) under the ‘Agreement for Scientific and Technological cooperation between the European Community and the Republic of Chile’ (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Agreement’) took place on 2 December 2021, virtually and hosted by Chile. The meeting was **co-chaired by Ms Aiséen Etcheverry**, National Director of the National Agency for Research and Development (ANID) and **Ms Maria Cristina Russo**, Director for Global Approach and International Cooperation at DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission. On the Chilean side, it was attended by the Chilean Ambassador to the EU, and representatives from the Chilean National System of Science, Technology and Innovation, including the Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation (MINCIENCIA) and its associated agency (ANID), as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINREL), the Ministry of Energy (MINENERGÍA) and the Chilean Economic Development Agency (CORFO). On the EU side, participants included the EU Ambassador to Chile, representatives from European Commission Directorate Generals for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC), Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT), Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS), the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA), and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Both sides recognized the **central role of research and innovation (R&I) in the overall EU-Chile relations**, recalled the substantial participation of Chile in Horizon 2020 where Chile ranked third among Latin America countries and 11th among all non-EU and non-Associated countries. They recognised that the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020 (2014-2021) represented a great opportunity for stepping up cooperation.

Both sides noted that **EU and Chile have an overall political commitment** to work together in many areas such as climate change, sustainable development, the protection of human rights, or the promotion of multilateralism. Both sides praised the ambitious modernization of the EU-Chile Association Agreement, which intends to include research and innovation.

Both sides presented the **major developments in R&I policies** and programmes since the last Joint Steering Committee. Chilean side shared the new national institutional framework in STI with the creation of the Ministry for Science, Technology, Innovation, and Knowledge in 2018. The EU side presented the ‘Communication on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation, Europe’s strategy for international cooperation in a changing world’ and the opportunities offered by Horizon Europe. The EU side suggested that a co-funding mechanism by Chile would be important to sustain EU-CL cooperation under Horizon Europe. They also welcomed the upcoming tacit **renewal of the Agreement on S&T Cooperation** on 10 January 2022.

As result of discussion in the meeting both sides:

- Stressed the opportunity for more substantial cooperation in the areas of **green and digital transition**, on BELLA, within Pacific Alliance and EU-LAC Digital Alliance and on pressing technology priorities.
- In the field of **Health**, they intend to **continue the good cooperation on Cancer** and explore opportunities to enhance interactions in multilateral platforms.

- Encouraged a stronger engagement in multilateral initiatives such as **Mission innovation**. In particular, they intend to explore ways to cooperate on **Green Hydrogen**
- Expressed their intention to explore further cooperation on **climate-neutral, sustainable and inclusive cities, bio-economy, sustainable mining and sustainable raw materials**.
- Expressed the interest in increasing collaboration with the **EU Space programme** and in particular on the **implementation of the administrative arrangement on Copernicus**, the new **Copernicus hub and the Galileo Information Centre**.
- Intend to collaborate in the **implementation of the EU-CELAC Strategic Roadmap** on Science, Technology and Innovation four main lines of cooperation: (i) global challenges, (ii) mobility of researchers, (iii) research infrastructures and (iv) innovation.
- Intend to follow up on **Climate Change Observatory** and Natural Laboratories Initiatives of Chile.
- Expressed the interest in further developing interaction on **Open Science and gender equality**.
- Stressed the need to intensify and increase participation under **MSCA and ERC** actions

Detailed Report

The following section provides a more detailed account of the points discussed in the meeting

The EU side welcomed the Chilean engagement and success under the Horizon 2020 competitive **Green Deal call**, with three Chilean entities selected. Furthermore, both sides highlighted the importance of enhanced bilateral and multilateral cooperation, with a focus on Green, Sustainable and Digital Transition and Global Health, in the context of the EU Research and Innovation Programme Horizon Europe (2021-2027). **Chilean side particularly highlighted** the importance of enhanced bilateral and multilateral cooperation, with a focus on **Global Health, Climate Change and Nature-Based Solutions**, in the context of Horizon Europe.

Both sides welcomed the launch of the EU-CELAC Strategic Roadmap on Science, Technology and Innovation and took note of the need to collaborate bilaterally and multilaterally to ensure its effective implementation. Within this context, cooperation should be sought with Chile, in areas such as **green and digital transition, health, or developing common solutions for a sustainable recovery**. An increasing collaboration with the EU Space programme and the new Copernicus hubs and Galileo centres in LAC could play a key role to drive innovation and research in the region.

Furthermore, the EU side underlined that Horizon Europe will continue to be open to participation of researchers and innovators from Chile. However, as Chile is now classified as a high-income country, Chilean entities are not eligible for automatic funding under Horizon Europe. Therefore, there is scope to intensify dialogue with Chile on how to encourage their participation in Horizon Europe including with a possible co-funding scheme from Chile to support Chilean researchers to team up with European ones in Horizon Europe.

The EU side welcomed the active participation of Chilean nationals in all **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**, including their strong interest in MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships. With regard to the participation of Chilean institutions, the EU side underlined the opportunity to build on the very good results achieved under Horizon 2020, and concentrate future efforts in particular on boosting participation in the new Doctoral Networks and the Postdoctoral Fellowships actions. Moreover, the EU side encouraged diversifying Chilean participation by increasing the participation of non-academic organizations working in all fields and sectors, including SMEs and industry.

Both sides noted the unique opportunities given to frontier research by the **European Research Council (ERC)**, which makes available attractive, long-term funding grants to support excellent investigators for ground-breaking research. Both sides welcomed the fact that nine Chilean researchers hold an ERC grant and that an astronomer based in a Chilean host institution has won an ERC Synergy grant. ERC encourages more researchers from Chile to apply to its calls in the future.

Both sides welcomed the fact that Chile has set as an utmost priority the **sustainable energy promotion, energy sector decarbonisation and energy transition** and the excellent perspectives for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in green energy. Both sides acknowledged the valuable collaboration within Mission Innovation (MI), noted with satisfaction that Chile co-leads with the European Commission the new mission on clean hydrogen and that both sides interact with one vice-chair at the MI Steering Committee.

Chile presented its Green Hydrogen Strategy and initiatives to promote new innovative applications with regards to the **H2 industry**. The EU side presented its GH2 Strategy and encouraged Chile to strengthen relations with **the Fuel Cell Hydrogen Joint Undertaking** whose project development support programme has already funded a project in Chile. Another possibility would be the future **Institutionalized Partnership on Green Hydrogen**. Additionally, both sides noted that EU and Chile are members of the International Partnership of Hydrogen and Fuel Cell in the Economy, in which framework synergies are taking place.

Both sides welcomed the **Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Green Hydrogen development in Chile**, mobilizing joint efforts of the EU and Member States, with public and private sector actors, including by means of potential participation in HE. The Team Europe Initiative aims to boost investment opportunities in the field of green hydrogen in Chile by supporting the creation of an attractive enabling environment, provide concessional financing, promote collaboration in R&D and foster business cooperation and technology transfer. Both sides also welcomed the results of the recent COP26, while planning the possibility for a technical meeting in one year to take stock of the developments.

Both sides recognized the importance of the collaboration in **health**, tackling global challenges such as **COVID-19**, ensuring response to the pandemic and post-pandemic recovery, collaborating in personal medicine and artificial intelligence. Chile took active participation in the DG R&I International matchmaking event in June 2020, opening the way to the COVID-19 Data Portal. Both sides acknowledged the successful Chilean participation in H2020 Societal challenge 1 'Health, demographic change and well-being', mainly under the flagship targeting CELAC countries 'Translational collaborative cancer research between Europe and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States' (9 out of 13 overall).

Additionally, both sides welcomed the fact that Chile is also part of the EULAC-PerMed, whose objective is to engage LAC countries in the International Consortium on **Personalized Medicine** (ICPerMed) and in the ERA-Net ERA PerMed. The EU side welcomed the interest expressed by Chile to adhere to the Joint Programme on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR) and invited Chile to join also other **multilateral initiatives**, in particular the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R) and the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD), in which frames very good collaboration is taking part among international partners. Both sides committed to further technical exchanges.

Both sides indicated that **Sustainability and Green Transition** are leading objectives for their R&I. They expressed interest in cooperation on a technical level and increased dialogue also in the following areas: Sustainable Cities, Green Mining, and Bio-economy.

Chilean side presented the **Climate Change Observatory Initiative (CCO)**, which, due to Chile's unique geographical features, intends to provide data for **observation and monitoring of the effects of climate change** with a consolidated and integrated network of sensors. Linked to Earth Observation, both sides recognized the important role of the work under the Copernicus Agreement.

Furthermore, Chilean side presented and underlined the opportunities of **the initiative Natural Laboratories** for the development of high impact science and technology on a global level, due to country's unique territorial characteristics. Chile has prioritized five macro-categories: **Ocean, Mountain, Sky, Desert, Sub-Antarctica and Antarctica**. In this context, Chilean side expressed its interest in furthering the **Astronomical international cooperation** with long-term strategies considering the unique sky conditions for astronomical observation in Chile.

With regard to **Oceans, Sub-Antarctica and Antarctica**, the EU side informed about its investing in R&I in the Antarctic region, with 76 M EUR in 32 projects in Horizon 2020 targeted specifically to the Southern Ocean. The EU side also took note of the designation of two additional Marine Protected Areas in the Antarctica, a key deliverable for both the EU's Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the EU's International Ocean Governance agenda. Both sides acknowledged that this is promising area, to be further explored for synergies.

The EU side underlined that is closely collaborating with partners in the **Atlantic Ocean** through the **All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance (AAORA)**, which is currently expanding its scope to include the polar dimension from the Arctic to Antarctica among its main objectives and informed that European research institutes are very interested in and acknowledge the importance of cooperating with Chile for infrastructure development (for instance for the study of the Antarctic waters and to evaluate possible future synergies).

Both sides noted the ongoing EU-Chile **cooperation on climate-neutral, sustainable and inclusive cities**, in areas such as zero emission mobility, nature-based solutions, air quality and modelling of decarbonisation pathways. This cooperation is set to expand under the newly launched at COP26 Mission Innovation initiative on Urban Transitions, co-led by the European Commission and the Global Covenant of Mayors, where Chile is part of the core mission team.

Both sides welcomed the new avenues for **digital cooperation** opened up by the completion of the EllaLink transatlantic cable, and both sides engagement in the **BELLA programme**. Both sides recognised their shared values about digital transformation and expressed the intention to

continue initiatives at regional level in the framework of the **Pacific Alliance** and the upcoming **EU-LAC Digital Alliance**, which shall include the establishment of a regional dialogue on issues of common interest.

Both sides acknowledged the good on-going cooperation on **space matters** under the EU space programme, namely Galileo/EGNOS (satellite navigation, positioning and timing) and Copernicus (Earth observation), with potential impact in areas such as environmental protection, precision agriculture, transport, mining, coastal management, etc. Both sides noted the recent Copernicus cooperation arrangement, the established Galileo Information Centre, and the development of the Copernicus Relays and the Academy networks in the country. In this context, the topic devoted to space-based down-stream design applications in the first HE Work Programme, to be launched in 2022, with international partners was highlighted as an excellent opportunity for implementing the Copernicus Arrangement.

Chile and the EC underscored the importance of **Open Science and Gender Equality** as core principles in research and innovation. Both sides acknowledged the value of open science in enabling a more productive and impactful research and innovation ecosystem, increasing the transparency and the reproducibility of research, as well as promoting increased collaboration. The EU side took note of Open Research Europe, a publishing platform that promotes open science practices in scientific publishing and the European Open Science Cloud, an ecosystem of federated research infrastructures that allows researchers to widely share, and promptly access, process and analyse FAIR data through supporting services. Both sides highlighted the need to engage across stakeholders and across borders to facilitate the paradigm shift towards open science as well as the importance of sharing best practices and lessons learnt to enable this.

Particularly, in the context of the global health emergency, the EU side highlighted the importance of sharing data as openly as possible and as securely as necessary, to accelerate scientific discovery and facilitate a timely and efficient health response. Both sides acknowledged that global genomic surveillance is essential and requires the free and unrestricted global sharing of relevant data. In Europe, and beyond, this is made possible through the European COVID-19 Data Platform.

On **gender**, both sides highlighted the importance of inclusive gender equality policy and gender mainstream in research and innovation content. The EU side provided information on its strengthened approach for gender equality in Horizon Europe, with the eligibility criterion for R&I organisations from EU Member States and Associated countries to have a gender equality plan in place, and the need to integrate a gender dimension into research and innovation. Both sides intend to exchange information and experience in search of promoting the equal participation of men and women in the STI ecosystem as an intrinsic value, and a prerequisite for quality. They intend to share on developing and implementing sustainable gender equality plans in research organizations.

Finally, both sides highlighted the need to continue working closely in between the Joint Steering Committee meetings in an open and constant dialogue, with experts in the different technical areas examined, on all priority areas and look forward to the next Joint Steering Committee meeting. This will be hosted by the EC in the second half of 2022 or the beginning of 2023.