

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH UPDATE

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

POLICY

Visit of the Argentine Science Minister to Brussels

The seventh Steering Committee for the EU-Argentina Science and Technology Agreement met in Brussels on the 18th of April 2013. On this occasion, Lino Barañao, Argentina's Minister for Science, Technology and Productive Innovation met with European Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn.



Mr. O. Marsico, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Argentina; Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn, Minister L. Barañao, Ms A. Menvielle, Director of International Relations, Argentinian Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation

The Commissioner welcomed the dynamic and efficient research collaboration with Argentina in key research fields. Minister Barañao highlighted Argentina's programme for science popularisation which engages the general public, in particular primary and secondary schools teachers and students. The Commissioner applauded this initiative and highlighted some of the Commission own programmes to popularize science, including efforts to make science careers more attractive to women. She invited the Minister to the Innovation Convention, scheduled for March 2014 in Brussels, in order to present this programme.

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Indridi Benediktsson, DG RTD, Directorate D*

Chief Scientific Adviser Attends Inauguration of the Atacama Large Millimetre Array (ALMA)

On 13 March, the Chief Scientific Adviser to President Barroso, Professor Anne Glover, represented the European Commission at the inauguration of the Atacama Large Millimetre/Sub-Millimetre Array (ALMA). With 66 parabolic antennas placed at 5050m on the Chajnantor Plateau on the Chilean-Bolivian border, ALMA is the largest radio telescope in the world, offering unprecedented insights into the universe. The 1 billion Euro project has been co-funded by the Member States of the European Southern Observatory (ESO), the United States of America, Canada, Japan, Taiwan and Chile.



Professor Anne Glover at the Atacama Large Millimetre/
Sub-Millimetre Array (ALMA)

The inauguration took place at the ALMA Operations Centre near San Pedro de Atacama. Chile's President Sebastián Piñera gave the opening speech. Other speakers included ESO Director-General Tim de Zeeuw, Japanese MEXT Senior Vice Minister Teru Fukui and the President of the US National Science Foundation Subra Suresh. On this occasion the Chief Scientific Adviser met with high-level participants, including the Science Ministers of Portugal (Nuno Crato), Austria (Karlheinz Töchterle) and the Czech Republic (Petr Fiala), as well as senior representatives of the global astronomy community. The inauguration was widely covered in the media worldwide.

In the following days, the Chief Scientific Adviser also visited the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope (VLT) at Cerro Paranal, where she was welcomed by ESO Director-General Tim de Zeeuw. With its four telescopes equipped with 8.2m primary mirrors, the VLT is the world's most advanced ground-based facility for astronomy using visible wavelengths.

Following a tour of the VLT support facilities, Professor Glover gave a speech to ESO staff and met with ESO senior management. Discussions included the issue of Brazilian membership of ESO, and the preparations for the construction of the European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT) scheduled to be built on nearby Cerro Armazones.

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Dr. Jan Marco Müller, BEPA*

Chief Scientific Adviser Meets with Brazil's Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation

On 18 March, Professor Anne Glover visited Brazil and met with Marco Antonio Raupp, Brazil's Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, at the Ministry for Science, Technology and Innovation. During that meeting, the Minister underlined the importance of the EU-Brazil Science and Technology cooperation.



Professor Anne Glover meets with Marco Antonio Raupp, Brazil's Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation

During her trip Professor Glover also visited the Brazilian Space Agency where she was briefed on the country's Space Programme, including the partnerships with European space agencies to help track launches from Kourou and space applications in agriculture. She met with the Brazilian Industry Confederation and discussed the organisation's partnership with the Fraunhofer Institute and the Innovation Projects Fund. She held discussions with the President of Brazil's Research Council, Glaucius Oliva, who presented the structures and challenges of Brazilian science. She also visited the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), where she discussed first-, second- and third-generation biofuels (bioethanol, ligno cellulosic and biokerosene), as well as the public perception of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) in Brazil.

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Third Senior Officials Meeting of the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation

On 16 and 17 of April 2013, the third EU-Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Senior Officials meeting was convened in Brussels. This yearly meeting is held alternatively in Europe and in the country holding the CELAC presidency. The event was attended by representatives of 21 countries from the CELAC region, together with representatives from EU Member States, coordinators of relevant networking projects, and EC and EEAS officials. H.E. Carlos Applegren Balbontin, Chile's Ambassador to the EU, and Ms Anneli Pauli, Deputy Director-General of DG Research and Innovation opened the meeting.



H.E. Carlos Applegren, Ambassador of Chile and Anneli Pauli, Deputy Director-General DG RTD (photography by Peter Löffler)

In a far ranging discussion on ways to maximise existing initiatives at EU and Member State levels, the meeting heard reports from the four thematic Working Groups and the cross-cutting working group on Existing and New Instruments. A new working group on Health was launched. This new working group will be co-chaired by Spain and Brazil with the support of the EU-LAC-Health coordination action. The meeting also approved the setting up of a committee to prepare a future working group on Career Development of Researchers to be co-chaired by Finland and Chile.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Chile handed the presidency to Cuba, which was represented by Lina Dominguez, Vice Minister for Science, Technology and Environment. The next meeting will take place in Costa Rica, which will hold the 2014 CELAC presidency.

*For further information, please contact
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Japan and EU Start FTA and the FA negotiations

On 19 April in Brussels, Japan and the European Union completed the first round of formal negotiations on concluding a bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Both sides discussed ways to proceed with the negotiations and which sectors should be negotiated. The next round of negotiations is scheduled for the end of June in Tokyo.

The negotiations aim at the possible elimination of nontariff barriers in the Japanese market. Japan and the EU account for about 30% of the world's economic output and 40% percent of global trade. The European Union seeks the elimination of nontariff barriers and greater access to public projects, while Japan hopes to increase automobile exports.

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Tom Kuczynski, EU Delegation in Tokyo*

European Parliament Launches Pilot Project on Waste Management Research in EU and Africa

In October 2012, the European Parliament approved a Pilot Project "Recovering critical raw materials through recycling: an opportunity for the European Union and African Union". This project aims at establishing the basis for a solid cooperation between Europe and Africa on research and innovation in the field of waste management and recovery of raw materials.

Improving waste management and avoiding health and environmental costs can help reduce financial pressures on African governments and improve raw materials supply. Private sector participation can also significantly reduce costs, as well as enhance service delivery. In this context, the Project aims at raising awareness among policy makers on challenges and opportunities related to Waste Management and Raw Material recovery, and on knowledge transfer and innovation in environmental technologies. It will result in a roadmap of potential joint European-African research and innovation actions to tackle some of the most urgent issues in these fields.

The project will be implemented via two seminars, one in Africa (Addis Ababa, June 2013) and one in Europe (Brussels, November 2013). Participants will come from industry, research and academia, as well as from governmental bodies from Africa and Europe. In the past the EU successfully established similar political/research infrastructures with African Countries in a key areas such as e-Infrastructures. These initiatives have ensured close links between both continents based always on mutual interest objectives.

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EVENTS

Celebrations of Delivery of First Component from EU and Start of Assembly of the JT-60SA Tokamak

On 25 March the EU Delegation in Japan, represented by Tom Kuczynski, delivered an inauguration speech at the ITER Broader Approach to celebrate the delivery of the first element from Europe. The huge cryostat base manufactured in Spain (CIEMAT) was delivered at the Japan Atomic Energy Agencies's (JAEA) Naka Fusion Institute in Ibaraki Prefecture in Japan for ITER's superconducting fusion experimental device. This collaboration between EU and Japan is executed under the ITER Broader Approach Agreement signed between Euratom and Japan and entered into force in 2007.

The JT-60SA Tokamak is roughly one fourth in size of main ITER device and is scheduled to go online in 2019. Within the Broader Approach, this project at Naka is advancing key aspects of the recently published Fusion Roadmap.



Attendees included Japan's Vice-Minister of Science, Members of the Japanese Diet, the President of the Japanese Atomic Energy Agency, local authorities, representatives of the European Voluntary Contributors to the Broader Approach Activities from Spain, France and Italy, Japanese and European manufacturers as well as of Member States embassies. The ITER HELIOS Supercomputer from France, inaugurated last year in Rokkasho in the North of Japan, is now fully operational and used by European and Japanese scientists.

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Mobility Information Day in Moscow

On 26 March 2013, the Russian National Contact Point "Mobility", run by the Russian National Research University "Higher School of Economics", together with the EU Delegation to Russia held an Information Day in Moscow on the new Calls for proposals under the FP7 People Specific Programme. The event was well attended by representatives of Russian FP7 thematic NCPs, research organisations and universities.

The meeting also presented the new EU strategy for international cooperation in research & innovation, the main elements of Horizon 2020, and the preliminary results of Russia's participation in FP7. It also provided information on Russia's participation in the European scientific and academic mobility schemes (including the Marie Curie and the Erasmus Mundus programmes), and on the new EU programme for education, training, youth and sport (Erasmus for All). In addition, the Bulgarian National Contact Point "People" presented the EURAXESS initiative to promote research careers and facilitate the mobility of researchers, including researchers planning to come to Europe.

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Richard Burger or Maria Putseleva, EU Delegation in Moscow*

'Destination Europe' Event in Washington DC

On 11 April, some 130 participants attended the latest 'Destination Europe' conference in Washington DC to learn about research and innovation career and funding opportunities in Europe. Alongside speakers from EURAXESS, the ERC and Marie Curie actions, representatives from Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Poland and Spain presented what their countries can offer to researchers of any nationality wishing to work in Europe.

This was the fourth in a series of 'Destination Europe' events. For the first time, there was a thematic focus - opportunities in Health research - which attracted a large participation from the nearby NIH campus. This event was organized by the EU and Member States in partnership with the European Institute and the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. It was opened by EU Ambassador João Vale de Almeida and Irish Ambassador Michael Collins.

For further information, please visit the [website](#), or contact Mary Kavanagh, DG RTD, Directorate D

JRC Institute of Transuranium in Karlsruhe Supports IAEA Safeguards in Japan

The JRC' Institute for Transuranium (ITU) is supporting the IAEA in its important task of Nuclear Safeguards and the non-proliferation of nuclear materials worldwide. On 11 and 12 April 2013, the IAEA held a workshop of the project "Analysis of Highly Active Liquid Waste Samples Containing Particles" at the Safeguard Centre in Rokkasho. Japan is building a reprocessing plant for nuclear waste in this location, which in many aspects follows the model of La Hague in France.

The Institute for Transuranium is helping the IAEA set up the security and control system of the JNFL (Japan Nuclear Fuel limited) reprocessing plant through seven dedicated projects. EURATOM, together with the US, is also providing IAEA with the technical support in their task to control the stored material at this location and ensure that none of the substances are diverted to other purposes. The mission had been planned already two years earlier but was delayed due to the Tohoku Earthquake. It is expected that the reprocessing plant will soon start operation.

For further information, please contact Tom Kuczynski, EU Delegation in Tokyo

European Innovation in Japan

On 19 April, the EU Delegation in Japan organized a networking event to improve the collaboration among the European innovation actors in Japan, such as national science funding agencies, laboratories, research centres, universities, as well as European promotion and consulting organisations present in Japan. Participants included CNRS, DAAD, TEKES, DLR, LIMMS, Next PV, Oxford University, Eurotechnology, EU Japan Center for Industrial Cooperation, Euraxess, and representatives of EU Member States and Associated Countries.

Participating organisations presented their activities, shared their experience in their collaboration with Japanese partners, and briefed the audience on current trends in Japan in their respective fields (e.g. photovoltaics, space science, aviation, nanotechnology, R&D investments, researchers' mobility, service-related design, business and social innovations).

A follow up discussion with representatives of Member States and Associated Countries focused on ways to improve cooperation. Solutions proposed included: better dissemination of information on existing opportunities in Japan back in Europe, better information on funding opportunities in Europe, more frequent exchange of experience, coordinated media efforts to publicize the excellence of European STI, co-organizing brokerage and information events, sharing information related to STI in Japan, helping European hi-tech business avoid failures by selecting appropriate strategy and implementation.

For further information, please contact Tom Kuczynski, EU Delegation in Tokyo

'Euraxess Links Japan

On 18 April, Euraxess Japan in cooperation with the EU Delegation in Japan organized a networking event for the European researchers working in Japan. Over 100 participants attended and received information on the activities of Euraxess Japan, on available EU schemes for researchers' mobility (Marie Curie actions, ERC grants) on opportunities for academic collaboration, and also on returning to Europe. Participants shared experiences and discussed the challenges of living and working in Japanese labs. They established new contacts with other researchers from their and related fields and expressed their expectations towards Horizon2020.



Euraxess Japan has been very active since its foundation through its newsletter and the publication of a widely used *European Funding Guide for Researchers and Students in Japan*. Additional Euraxess Japan events are planned for later this year, including the 'Science Slam' organized at Tokyo Institute of Technology.

For further information, please contact Tom Kuczynski, EU Delegation in Tokyo

PROJECTS

Kick-off meeting of ALCUE-Net, the new INCO-Net for Latin-America and the Caribbean

The ALCUE-Net project held its first plenary meeting in Brussels on 18 and 19 April 2013. The project, which includes 19 institutional partners from the EU and countries of the CELAC region, is coordinated by the Argentine Ministry for Science, Technology and Productive Innovation.

The project will support the Senior Officials Meetings of the EU-CELAC cooperation and the work of the thematic Working Groups. Among the tasks to be realised is the creation of an observatory for the bioeconomy in CELAC countries, which will collaborate closely with a new initiative of the Joint Research Centre observing the European bioeconomy.

The project can be seen as the continuation, albeit with some different objectives, of the three previous INCO-Nets that covered different parts of the region and are either finished or about to end. Furthermore, it ensures continuity for some aspects of the ALCUE-KBBE project, which is nearing its termination and will work closely with ongoing and future thematic support projects with focus on the region.

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PACENET INCONET Conference in Suva, Fiji

The PACENET INCONET FP7 stakeholder conference was held on 12-14 March at Suva (Fiji). The project started in June 2010 and will terminate in June 2013. Its objective is to promote the EU-Pacific bi-regional dialogue for science and technology between EU, Member States, ACP-Pacific states, Overseas Countries and Territories, Australia and New Zealand.

The event was co-organised by the Project coordinator IRD and the University of South Pacific with the active support of the EU Delegation in Suva. All PACENET members including the South Pacific Commission, key research institutions from the EU and the Pacific areas as well as international organisations participated in this highly successful event. A compendium of the project's main results was made available to the public and released [on line](#).

The Project strongly recommended three actions for immediate follow up:

- scientific evidence should be used to underpin the revised Pacific Plan set up by the Pacific Island Forum, one of the major political fora in Pacific region;
- wide dissemination of the outcomes of the PACE-Net project is required to catalyse the development of national and regional research policy frameworks;
- support should be provided to the new Pacific Islands Universities Research Network (PIURN) set up in November 2012.

A new FP7-INCONET, PACENET-plus, will be launched in September 2013. It will run for the next three years in order to structure more strategically the EU-Pacific dialogue in science and technology.

For further information, please visit the [website](#), watch the [video](#), or contact Armand Beuf, DG RTD, Directorate D

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS (May-July 2013)

Joint Committee Meetings

23-24 May	UKRAINE	Kiev
6 June	SWITZERLAND	Brussels
20 June	NEW ZEALAND	Brussels
21 June	JAPAN	Tokyo
26 June	SOUTH KOREA	Brussels
28 June	RUSSIA	Brussels
June (TBC)	TUNISIA	Brussels
June (TBC)	BRAZIL	Brussels

Regional Dialogues

23-24 May	EU-ASEAN SOM	Manila
29 May	Eastern Partnership	Brussels
May (TBD)	MOCO/UfM	(TBD)
5-6 June	WBC Platform	Podgorica

International Summits

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

International Events

23-24 May	Presidency Conference: The Atlantic - A Shared Resource (including the launch of the Transatlantic Research Alliance)	Galway
30-31 May	China-EU Urbanisation Workshop	Foshan
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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