



## **Report of the 11<sup>th</sup> Joint Steering Committee Meeting (JSCM) under the “Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the European Community and the Federative Republic of Brazil”**

**12 December 2023**

The 11th EU-Brazil Joint Steering Committee meeting (JSCM) under the ‘Agreement on Scientific and Technological cooperation between the European Community and the Federative Republic of Brazil’ took place on 12 December of 2023 in Brasilia in-presence and virtually. The meeting was co-chaired by **Luciano Mazza de Andrade**, Director of the Department for Science, Technology, Innovation, and Intellectual Property, at the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the Brazilian side, and by **Maria Cristina Russo**, Director for International Cooperation at DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission, on the EU side. The Brazilian delegation included the Secretary for Commercial Promotion, Science, Technology, Innovation, and Culture of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Laudemar Gonçalves de Aguiar Neto, and representatives from the Ministry for Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI), its associated institutions - the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), FINEP, the Centre for Mineral Technology (CETEM), and the Brazilian Institute for Space Research (INPE) -, as well as the National Council of State Funding Agencies (CONFAP), and the Brazilian National Points of Contact for the Horizon Europe Programme. On the EU side, participants included the EU Ambassador to Brazil Marian Schuegraf representatives from the European External Action Service (EEAS), and from the European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation (RTD), Joint Research Centre (JRC), the Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS), the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT); Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW).

Both sides reiterated that they share **strategic goals and fundamental values**. They highlighted their wish to **deepen the dialogue, cooperation and work for a sustainable future in a partnership** encompassing a broad range of policy areas, all of which with a relevant research and innovation dimension, such as: **space observation – including forest and wildfire monitoring – marine research, research and development in digital technologies, and critical raw materials**. The outcomes of the 11<sup>th</sup> JSCM could contribute to the deliverables of the next **EU-Brazil Summit**.

Both sides acknowledged the **central role of research and innovation (R&I) in the overall EU-Brazil Strategic Partnership, launched in 2007**. EU and Brazil stated their intention that R&I cooperation becomes increasingly targeted on cutting-edge strategic cooperation and underpinned by leading principles and values in international R&I cooperation.

At the 11th JSCM EU and Brazil reviewed **the major developments in Science, Technology and Innovation Policies, Strategies and Programmes on both sides** and underlined the importance of science diplomacy.

The EU announced the first European Conference on Science Diplomacy (18-19 December) in Madrid with a dedicated session on the role of science diplomacy in EU-Latin America relations.

Brazilian representatives from MCTI reported on the new structure and priorities of the Ministry, highlighting some initial measures of the government to strengthen science, technology and innovation in Brazil. The Brazilian side also shared its views on international

cooperation, with a focus on high profile international projects, and on the priorities established for the upcoming National Strategy of Science, Technology, and Innovation.

Both sides recognised the **role of the Bilateral Agreement on Scientific and Technological cooperation since 2007**, most recently renewed in August 2022 as a framework for promoting EU-Brazil R&I cooperation.

The JSCM underlined the essential role of the established **co-funding mechanism**, as set out in the Administrative Arrangement, signed in November 2021, between the EC/DG RTD, CNPq, FINEP and CONFAP to boost such cooperation. At the 11<sup>th</sup> JSCM they discussed how to further improve its functioning and to **reach a full** operationalisation of the mechanism. Brazil remains under Horizon Europe the leading LAC country with 76 participations in projects. In particular, Brazilian participation is strong in the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions and, through a specific Implementing Arrangement, there is an increasing number of Brazilian researchers visiting EU institutions funded through European Research Council grants. Brazil has shown a strong performance in Cluster 6 of Horizon Europe 'Food, Bioeconomy Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment'. There is potential for Brazil to exploit further the synergies from the strong Brazilian participation in 29 COST actions, to increase participation in other areas of Horizon Europe. Both sides noted the need to reinforce actions to raise awareness of Horizon Europe among Brazilian research agencies, research managers and universities and research centres and also to expand the opportunities for bilateral cooperation through other institutional mechanisms.

Both sides welcomed **the recent meeting of EU CELAC Senior Officials Meeting, held in Brussels, 28 and 29 November 2023, and the development of a revised EU-CELAC R&I Strategic Roadmap for a period 2024-2027.**

The JSCM discussed possibilities for strengthening R&I collaboration in the Amazon and other Brazilian biomes. Both sides highlighted the significant participation of Brazil under the past and ongoing transnational research calls of the European Biodiversity Partnership and praised the notable participation of the country and the support of the Brazilian FAPs and the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) **to the transnational calls launched by Biodiversa+ since 2021.**

With regards to **Earth Observation and Space cooperation**, the Committee acknowledged the **Copernicus Administrative Arrangement** (March 2018) between Brazil and EU can **provide support in tackling wide range of societal challenges in Brazil** and can deepen EU-Brazil cooperation on issues ranging from environment and climate change, deforestation, and on emergency management caused by natural hazards, e.g. floods, earthquakes), including forest monitoring, to agriculture and urban development. The free and open data policy allows researchers to have access to Copernicus data. The JSCM **welcomed the existing EU-Brazil Copernicus coordination group**, established under the Copernicus Administrative Arrangement, which facilitates the coordination on Copernicus, including the data hub set up at INPE for Brazilian stakeholders. This is particularly useful for the ongoing and future research and innovation projects involving the Amazon.

In addition, the Committee welcomed the collaboration between **EU Joint Research Centre (JRC) and INPE** under the 2013 **Cooperation Arrangement**. It emphasised that this longstanding cooperation has led to a number of joint peer reviewed publications and presentation of joint achievements at international conferences related to deforestation, forest degradation, wildfire monitoring as well as on Disaster risks management in general, in the Brazilian Amazon region.

The JRC and Brazil are collaborating successfully in the **Expert Group on Forest Fires in Latin America and the Caribbean (EGFF LAC)**. The EU, through the JRC, also established collaboration on this topic with organisations such as CENISPAM, Ibama/Prevfogo and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization/ACTO.

Recent collaboration through an EU FPI funded project and under the EU programme Amazonia+ (Team Europe Initiative with Amazon basin countries supports activities of the EU Member States and the JRC) has already led to the publication of two [reports on Forest Fires in Latin America in 2021](#) and [Forest Fire Information and Management Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean](#).

**In the area of forest monitoring, the JSCM took note of** proposals to expand the cooperation, such as: the mapping of drivers of forest degradation in the Brazilian Amazon, monitoring biomass changes and carbon emissions of the different types of forest degradation in the Amazon, taking into account detailed forest degradation mapping in combination with spaceborne LiDAR data, monitoring the dynamics of humid forest regrowth and the related changes in carbon stocks, and the potential extension of deforestation monitoring to the Brazilian Cerrado and Caatinga biomes.

Following the successful use of the Copernicus programme for early warning systems for wildfires, droughts and floods, the European Commission proposes strengthening this cooperation in the LAC region as well as extending it to the characterisation of urban settlements through the JRC Global Human Settlement Layers.

In the area of **healthy oceans and seas**, both sides underlined the excellent and continuous flagship cooperation, which started under the 2017 Belém Statement and now operates under the “All-Atlantic Ocean Research & Innovation Alliance”, established by the 2022 Washington Declaration. They endeavour to embark on the next implementing steps following the priority setting of the AAORIA Forum of 21-22 November/2023 in South Africa. Both sides praised the work accomplished by the AANCHOR, iAtlantic, AquaVitae, TRIATLAS and EuroSEA projects, and looked forward to see the outcomes of others EU AAORIA flagship projects with Brazilian participation such as AtlantECO, Mission Atlantic, ASTRAL. Similarly the successor of AANCHOR - OKEANO project, which will support the implementation of AAORIA, presents an important cooperation opportunity.

Both parties welcomed the cooperation through the **EU Partnership on Sustainable Blue Economy**, with the participation of Brazil in the first transnational calls. There is also ample scope for **cooperation under the Horizon Europe Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030 and its Atlantic-Arctic Lighthouse**, which should be further explored. The European Commission expressed interest to cooperate with the newly established Brazilian National Institute for Oceanic Research/INPO.

The JSCM exchanged information on the state of play of **Brazil’s application for association to the Eureka Network and programme**. The JSCM welcomed this qualitatively new step of Brazil towards Eureka, as finalisation of the association will open new avenues for innovation cooperation between EU and Brazil. The Committee looked forward to the forthcoming signature of the formal association agreement of Brazil to Eureka, potentially during the Global Innovation Summit in June 2024 in Istanbul. A fact-finding mission in Brazil will be organised by Eureka network beginning next year.

The JSCM reviewed the **excellent Brazilian participation in the Eureka Globalstars and bilateral Calls** since the first Globalstars Call with Brazil was launched in June 2018. It welcomed that in March 2022, Eureka and Brazil solidified their commitment to fostering innovation, research, and technology cooperation with a **Declaration of Intent (DOI)** signed in Rio de Janeiro, **establishing a partnership that extends for the next three years**. This partnership brings together Eureka and some of Brazil's top funding bodies for research and development: FINEP, CONFAP and EMBRAPA

In the **overarching area of Digital Technologies**, the JSCM recognized the role of R&D in this field as a crucial tool to foster social development and the modernization of Brazilian and European economies. The Committee highlighted the joint coordinated calls as a fruitful

experience that provides mutual acquaintance of the research and innovation communities in Brazil and in the European Union.

On the basis of their **shared vision for a people-centric digital transformation**, the parties expressed their intention to step up bilateral cooperation on digital matters with a focus on joint efforts for digital connectivity. The JSCM examined how R&I activities in Horizon Europe can pave the way for digital transformation, through **cooperation on 6G, data economy, AI, HPC, Quantum Computation and semiconductors**. The potential for cooperation in these promising areas can be further examined under the **Digital Dialogue EU-Brazil** in the coming year. The association of Brazil to Eureka, which has a cluster on semiconductors, would be also beneficial for cooperation.

The JSCM recognised the progress made in this area, notably the launch of the **EU-LAC Digital Alliance in March 2023** and the **expansion of the programme (BELLA II<sup>1</sup>)**. The JSCM commended both parties' participation as **founding partners of the BELLA** programme, which was completed in 2022 and already connects the EU with Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Argentina and very soon also with Uruguay. The newly established infrastructure provides for the long-term interconnectivity needs of European and Latin American research and education communities, facilitating further research and collaboration. The Committee **welcomed the planned expansion of the network with BELLA II**, which shall prolong the available infrastructure to bring countries in Central America and the Caribbean into the network, and agreed to explore new use cases and cooperation opportunities facilitated by the high-speed connectivity brought by BELLA.

**The Brazilian representatives emphasized the importance of bioeconomy developments to achieve a transition from a production based on fossil fuels or exhaustible raw materials.** The EU and Brazil agreed to **deepen R&I cooperation on sustainable raw materials value chains** that are necessary for the clean energy and digital transition. The JSCM agreed on the need to identify relevant R&I actors that can support the identification and implementation of actions of **cooperation on research and innovation along the raw materials value chain**". The **Mineral Technology Center (Centro de Tecnologia Mineral – CETEM)** highlighted current projects in the fields of **circularity pathways for e-waste management (Recuper3); technological routes for secondary materials recovery (NiCoLi, INCT Pátria); urban mining (WEEE Forum - Relac Platform); technology and sustainability on critical material recovery (UNTAR); and secondary material recovery from spent batteries (Sweden - CNPq).**

Finally, both sides highlighted the need to continue working closely on technical level in between the Joint Steering Committee meetings in an open and constant dialogue, with experts in the different technical areas and look forward to the next Joint Steering Committee meeting to be hosted by the EU tentatively in the second half of 2025.