



## **JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ**

### **VIII Joint Steering Committee Meeting of the Bilateral Agreement on Science and Technology between the European Union and Chile**

February, 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017

The 8<sup>th</sup> Joint Steering Committee meeting was hosted by the European Commission in Brussels on the 2nd of February, 2017. The positive results of the preparatory meetings paved the way to a constructive Steering Committee.

The Chilean delegation was led by Mr. Christian Nicolai, Executive Director of the National Commission for Science and Technology (CONICYT). It included Pedro Figueroa, Coordinator for International Relations at CONICYT and representatives of the Mission of Chile to the European Union.

The European delegation was led by Maria Cristina Russo, Director for International Cooperation, Directorate General of Research and Innovation, and included representatives of Directorate Generals for Research and Innovation; Education and Culture; Digital Economy and Society; Internal Market; Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs; European External Action Service; European Research Council (ERC) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

The focus of the Steering Committee meeting was to explore ways to revamp bilateral cooperation in science and technology. In the light of this new impulse, both delegations welcomed the recent extension of the bilateral Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation for five years. It will continue to provide a stable political, legal and administrative framework for facilitating S&T cooperative activities.

The co-chairs recalled the importance of EU-Chile relations in the field of science and technology, to promote excellence of their research, to increase the competitiveness of their industries, and to address common and global societal challenges. The last EU-Chile Association Committee, which took place on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2017, also highlighted in its Joint Communiqué the relevance of Horizon 2020 as an essential instrument for the implementation of common areas of interest.

The major developments in R&I policies and programmes since the last Joint Steering Committee meeting were presented. For the EU, the pillar 'Open to the World' is at the centre of the EU's R&I policy. In Chile, the plans to establish a Ministry for Science and Technology provide grounds for further strengthening the scientific capacities of the country. The International Cooperation Policy Support facility, an instrument currently being designed to mobilise expertise from the EU and other CELAC countries in the consolidation of the national R&I policies and systems, can be implemented to support this endeavour.

The EU encouraged Chile's further engagement within the context of Mission Innovation as a strategic area for cooperation in the field of clean-energy R&I. The EU expressed its interest to welcome Chilean partners to the Preparatory Meeting for the second Mission Innovation Ministerial (1st-3rd of March 2017) in Brussels. Moreover, the EU encouraged Chile to continue participating in Horizon 2020, particularly in the upcoming calls on energy R&I.

In addition, both delegations exchanged views on and agreed to re-launch cooperation in the following areas:

- *sustainable mining*: good co-operation is taking place successfully in the frame of regional dialogues with Latin American countries and advanced mining countries. Further cooperation can be built on the example of ERA-MIN2.

- *climate action and resource efficiency*: EU side highlighted the opportunities that the Belmont Forum would offer to developing research in a number of areas of common interest, such as infrastructure, polar research, world climate, disaster resilience etc.

- *health*: the EU side suggested the inclusion of Chile in global initiatives such as the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD), Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R), Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR).

Both parties agreed to continue developing adequate framework conditions for cooperation. They will enhance exchange of experience and best practices on Open science and women participation in research and innovation. Furthermore, the delegations decided to ensure a broader dissemination and hands-on training on H2020 opportunities. In particular, the opportunities to conduct research of excellence, provided by the ERC, will be explored.

At the end of the meeting, both delegations reaffirmed the importance of Science, Technology and Innovation cooperation in addressing shared economic, environmental and societal challenges within the context of the overall EU-Chile relations.