

# **10<sup>th</sup> EU-Chile Joint Steering Committee Meeting (JSCM) under the “Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the European Community and the Republic of Chile”**

**1 December 2023**

## **Joint Report**

The Tenth 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 1 December 2023 in Brussels, as a hybrid physical and online meeting, and was hosted by the European Commission. The meeting was co-chaired by Maria Cristina Russo, Director for International Cooperation, DG Research and Innovation and Gonzalo Arenas, Head of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation (MSTKI) of Chile. On the Chilean side, it was attended by the Chilean Ambassador to the EU, Gloria Navarrete, and representatives from the Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation, the National Agency for Research and Development (ANID), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Energy, University of Chile, and other stakeholders. On the EU side, the meeting was attended by representatives from European Commission Directorates General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC), for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT), for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS), for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), as well as the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the EU Delegation in Santiago de Chile.

**Maria Cristina Russo, Director for International Cooperation** at DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission opened the meeting, followed by opening remarks by Gonzalo Arenas, Head of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation (MSTKI) of Chile, **Brian Glynn, Managing Director-Americas of EEAS** and **Gloria Navarrete, Chilean Ambassador to the EU**.

In a time of increasing geopolitical challenges, both sides acknowledged the pivotal role of research and innovation (R&I) in overall EU-Chile relations. The two sides welcomed the recent meeting of the **EU-CELAC Senior Officials of 28 and 29 November 2023** and confirmed their commitment to developing a more ambitious **EU-CELAC Roadmap for R&I cooperation**.

The JSCM welcomed the imminent signature of the EU – Chile Advanced Framework Agreement which will reaffirm the shared interest in promoting higher levels of cooperation on innovation, research, science and technology, as a key element to strengthen overall bilateral relations.

Both sides reviewed **the major developments in Science, Technology and Innovation Policies and Programmes**. The EU reported on the implementation of the EU Global Approach to Research and Innovation, on the European Economic Strategy, and on the Multilateral Dialogue on principles and values for International Research and Innovation Cooperation where Chile is participating actively. Chile welcomed the efforts done by the EU to lead this multilateral process and reaffirmed its commitment to sustain active involvement through ongoing participation in the sherpa group with the aim at participating in the upcoming Ministerial meeting in Brussels. The sides exchanged on Foresight and stressed their wish to continue such a dialogue.

Chile highlighted that, between 2008 and 2023, through BECAS Chile, ANID’s scholarship programme, more than 7,000 Chilean students have been granted full scholarships to study in Europe, out of a total of 11,000, representing 64% of total scholarships. In terms of Research projects, ANID has funded over 1,000 projects with European participants, concentrated in 3 specific areas: Engineering, Technology, and Social Sciences. Chile has actively invested in building research capacity and infrastructure, focusing on European partnerships. This commitment has led to the direct funding of more than USD 34 million to four European research centres.

Chile will also further intensify its cooperation with CERN by accessing the Associated Membership status during 2024. Successful joint research call projects (2015-2022) under ERANET LAC, ERAMIN, ERAPermed, resulting in an investment amounting to USD 2 million by Chile, were also underlined.

Regarding the EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme Horizon Europe (2021-2027), while Chile's involvement remains substantial and above average on applicant success rate, with 34 signed grants and 39 participations, the JSCM acknowledged that there is an untapped potential for cooperation. The JSCM also discussed the possibility of the setting up by Chile of a **Complementary Funding Mechanism (CFM)**, to support successful Chilean participants in Horizon Europe Calls as a complementary instrument to reinforce the funding already provided by ANID to support scientific cooperation between Chile and the EU. Overall, Chile committed to prioritise the nomination of its NCPs and set funding models, according to its capacities and institutional priorities in concordance with the Ministry of Science and will continue to support and encourage Chilean participation, building on the agreement of the need for increased promotion and training activities. Chile also invited the European side to consider increasing targeted cooperation with Chilean entities under Horizon Europe in areas of shared priority, such as Climate, Clean Energy, Oceans, AI, Space, and Health.

The JSCM noted the strong participation of Chile in the **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)** which accounts for the largest part of Chilean participation in Horizon Europe. The JSCM called for more joint promotion actions involving also EURAXESS, the LAC National Contact Point Network (NCP), the EU Delegation in Chile, the European Cooperation in Science and Technology funding organisation (COST), and other relevant stakeholders to boost and diversify the participation of Chilean organisations and individual researchers in MSCA. On the **European Research Council (ERC)**, the JSCM noted that **two** Principal Investigators of Chilean nationality obtained an ERC grant under Horizon Europe. The Committee encouraged researchers based in Chile to apply for ERC grants.

In the field of **Research Infrastructures (RI)**, both sides expressed satisfaction on the existing partnership in astrophysics. The EU praised the role of Chile as an active partner in the European Southern Observatory (ESO) and Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA). Chile highlighted its commitment, since the '60s, in establishing these astronomical sites and fostering close, strategic cooperation with ESO and all other astronomical observatories and their supporting institutions. These sustained efforts will allow Chile to host more than 60% of the world's astronomical infrastructure. To preserve that unique position, Chile has recently approved two additional presidential decrees focused on protecting dark skies in areas that are paramount for astronomical activities. These decrees will regulate the luminosity conditions of public and private developments in the northern regions of Chile. The EU and Chile reiterated their interest in pursuing **the current partnership in astronomy RIs and to enlarging collaboration to environmental monitoring**. Chile also highlighted the participation in Infrastructure projects of bi-regional interest, joining ResInfra PLUS under Horizon Europe, which will start in 2024, succeeding ResInfra, under Horizon2020.

Space research cooperation and Earth Observation, particularly through the **Cooperation Administrative Arrangement on Copernicus**, signed in 2018, was acknowledged as a promising area, with a renewed focus on addressing climate change (Antarctic and marine issues), environmental issues (urban pollution), and emergency management (natural hazards, tsunamis, earthquakes). The JSCM emphasised the importance of strengthening coordination among different actors supporting Copernicus in Chile.

The JSCM recognised the important work being conducted by the **Joint Research Centre (JRC)** with Chile within the **Expert Group on Forest Fires (EGFF)** in Latin America and the Caribbean and through the **Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS)** under the EU Copernicus programme. Chile expressed an interest in other areas under the Emergency Management Services of Copernicus, (CEMS), such as floods, droughts, as well as human settlements.

Both sides welcomed the recent establishment of **CopernicusLAC Center in Chile**, the regional Copernicus

Centre for LAC in Chile - as one of the flagships under the EU-LAC Digital Alliance - and the enhanced data exchanges with other centres in LAC and with the EU thanks to the BELLA submarine fibre optic cable. In Chile, the Copernicus data centre is further connected to universities and research centres through the Red Universitaria Nacional (REUNA), allowing for a huge quantity of data to be exchanged and worked on by different institutions. Chile highlighted the significant support and commitment of the Universidad de Chile in the establishment of the CopernicusLAC centre in Chile.

As to **Digital Transition**, the EU and Chile expressed satisfaction for the launch of the **EU-LAC Digital Alliance in March 2023** and the **expansion of the BELLA<sup>1</sup>** (Building Europe Link to Latin America and the Caribbean) programme which will boost interconnectivity between European and Latin American research and education communities.

Recognising their shared vision for a human-centric digital transformation, the parties expressed their intention to step up their bilateral cooperation on digital matters with a focus on joint efforts for secure digital connectivity and ethical use of AI for the benefit of research and innovation. The JSCM took note of the results of the first High-Level Latin America and Caribbean Summit on AI, held in Santiago, Chile, on 23-24 of October, recognising the region's vision for AI development as articulated in the Santiago Declaration. Chile will continue to lead the region's efforts through a working group that will meet throughout 2024 and also as co-lead of the work on AI in the framework of the High-Level Policy Dialogue of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance.

The JSCM discussed the implementation of the EU-Chile **MoU on Partnership on Sustainable Raw Materials Value Chains signed in July 2023**. Both sides recognised the importance of including cooperation on R&I when addressing the topic of sustainable raw materials, in accordance with the aforementioned MoU and look forward to cooperation on the same issue under the EU – Chile Advanced Framework Agreement. Chile underlined the upcoming launch in 2024 of the National Institute for Salt Flats and Lithium, that will be located in Antofagasta. The Institute is an effort led by the MSTKI in coordination with 3 other ministries and the local governments of Northern Chile.

In the area of **Clean Energy**, the JSCM welcomed the on-going collaboration on **Green Hydrogen** with Chile through the Horizon Europe flagship hydrogen valley project projects GREEN HYSLAND, and the LiCORNE project aiming to establish the first-ever Lithium supply chain in the EU. The JSCM welcomed the strong involvement of Chile in **Mission Innovation** notably as **co-leader of the Clean Hydrogen Mission of Mission Innovation (MI)**.

The Commission encouraged **Chile to join the EU Clean Energy Transition Co-Fund Partnership** under Horizon Europe and invest in the calls related to the Transition Initiative (TRI) on “Enabling Climate Neutrality with Storage Technologies, Renewable Fuels and CCU/CCS”. The JSCM noted the very good results of the **Team Europe Initiative on Green Hydrogen for Chile**, with some on-going and prospective research and technology activities.

Both sides recognised that **Marine and Polar Research** is an area offering potential for cooperation also in the context of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (**AAORIA**). The JSCM agreed that further knowledge exchange **at technical level on polar science would be beneficial** also involving the wide range of polar projects both from the EU and the Chilean sides. The JSCM took note of **the Cape Horn International Center (CHIC)** presented by Chile, the Southernmost research centre on Earth outside of Antarctica, launched in 2023 with the objective to be a sentinel for global change that will propose solutions focused on sustainability and social-environmental justice. The Centre has a budget of 3 million euros per year for the first 10 years and is located in an iconic building in Puerto Williams, near the Cape Horn.

<sup>1</sup> [BELLA II \(redclara.net\)](https://redclara.net)

In the **Innovation field**, the JSCM welcomed the active Chilean participation in **Eureka network through the (Corporación de Fomento de la Producción) CORFO**, since the **re-association of Chile to Eureka** in June last year.

Furthermore, both sides highlighted the progress in the area of **Sustainable Cities**, where they welcomed the involvement of Chile in the Urban Transitions Mission (UTM) of Mission Innovation with four Chilean cities: Peñalolén, Puerto Montt, Renca and Vitacura. In addition, the JSCM noted that the **transnational calls of the European Partnership on Driving Urban Transitions (DUT)** are open to the participation of Chile and other CELAC countries under three thematic streams: **Circular Urban Economies, Positive Energy Districts and the 15-Minute City**.

Finally, the JSCM underscored the importance of keeping an ongoing dialogue between the relevant stakeholders from both sides to maintain momentum and advance R&I cooperation in all the areas discussed.

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