

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

9th Joint Steering Committee Meeting of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement on Science and Technology between Brazil and the European Union

April 30th 2019

The ninth meeting of the Brazil-EU Joint Steering Committee on Scientific and Technological (S&T) Cooperation was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil on 30 April 2019.

The Brazilian delegation was led by ambassador Achilles Zaluar, Director of the Department for Technology Promotion of the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs. It included representatives from the Ministry for Science, Technology, Innovation and Communications (MCTIC), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA), the Ministry of Health (MS), the National Research Council (CNPq), the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), the Funding Agency for Studies and Projects (FINEP), the National Council of State Funding Agencies (CONFAP), the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), the National Research and Education Network (RNP), the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), the Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education (CAPES), the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), the Brazilian Agency for Industrial Research and Innovation (EMBRAPII), PETROBRAS, and the Institute for Studies Brazil-Europe (IBE).

The EU delegation was led by Ms Signe Ratso, Deputy Director-General for Research and Innovation at the European Commission. Several representatives from the European Commission participated at the meeting, including via a video-conference connection. Among them representatives from the European Commission Directorates-General for Research and Innovation; Communications Networks, Content and Technology; Education, Youth, Sports and Culture; and the Joint Research Centre (JRC). During the meeting, it was acknowledged that the EU Research & Innovation (R&I) Framework Programme, Horizon 2020, has been a central vehicle for cooperation and both sides should join efforts to use the opportunities of cooperation under its last Working Programme (2018-2020) and welcomed its successor, Horizon Europe, which will start in 2021.

The two sides noted that cooperation on research and innovation is a key element in the overall bilateral relationship between the European Union and Brazil and that there is scope for more targeted partnership in areas of common challenges and priorities. The meeting acknowledged the good results achieved so far, and highlighted the commitment from both sides to optimize framework conditions for cooperation.

Both sides stressed the added value of the “Administrative Arrangement” signed in May 2018 between the three federal Brazilian funding agencies (CNPq, FINEP and CONFAP) and the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission, with the aim to support Brazil-UE cooperation in R&I activities, by extending co-funding mechanisms, facilitating twinning and coordinated actions, and dissemination activities. It was agreed that joint efforts will be made to guarantee an effective functioning of the tools provided by the Administrative Arrangement, with sufficient funding available on both sides, with timely dissemination of information on the co-funding opportunities, and with timely starting of the joint projects.

The meeting also confirmed the EU and Brazilian engagement to support researchers' careers and international mobility. In this regard, the increasing Brazilian participation in Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) was welcomed. In addition, both sides noted the positive progress of the Implementing Arrangement facilitating Brazilian researchers to join teams of European Research Council grantees.

It was acknowledged that the new steps towards the strengthening of STI cooperation might be facilitated by the new administrative structures adopted by both sides. On the Brazilian side, the Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communications is planning on creating technology centres to work as a focal point for network formation in some specific areas, gathering the triple helix stakeholders, and encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation. The main goal of the Ministry for the next 4 years is to work with a focus on returning the investments in STI on social improvements, through the development of technology, products and services. Additionally, it will foster a better position of Brazil in innovation rankings bringing together the private sector to invest in RD&I and in this sense, the experiences of the international partner - like EU - are essential. Likewise, on the European side, the new Horizon Europe Programme brings new initiatives such as the creation of the European Innovation Council (EIC), which will work as a one-stop-shop focused on innovation, startups and small and medium enterprises. The participation of the third countries and Brazil in the discussion of the basis and topics of international collaboration in the Horizon Europe Programme is welcome.

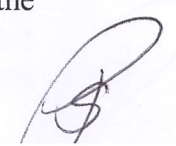
The flagship initiatives published in the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020 targeting cooperation with Brazil were positively acknowledged. Both sides agreed to continue to join forces to tackle global challenges, increase the impact of research and promote new breakthroughs in the following key areas:

- **Agriculture and Sustainable Food**

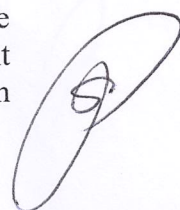
Both sides welcome the engagement of EMBRAPA within the framework of the programme Horizon 2020. The Brazilian side also showed interest in developing initiatives with European partners in the fields of organic agriculture and cattle production research, climate-smart and resilient farming, healthy soils, integrated health approaches and alternatives to pesticide use, and nano and biotechnology. The European side welcomed a possible engagement of Brazil in the framework of the International Bioeconomy Forum (IBF)

- **Information and Communications Technologies**

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the strengthening of the cooperation on Information and Communication Technologies through many joint initiatives, such as Coordinated Calls for R&D projects, discussions on Data Economy, Digitalization of Industry, electronic communications regulation, digital government, and cybersecurity. Both sides recognize the importance of organizing the next dialogue on Information Society. The last meeting was held in Brasília on 5-7 December 2017. Another important initiative is the transatlantic submarine optical fibre cable between Brazil and Portugal and connecting South America to the European Union – the BELLA project. Its construction has just been launched in 2019 with conclusion next year. Part of its capacity will be devoted to support research and innovation activities involving researchers, academic community, innovators across Brazil and Europe. The EU and Brazil reaffirm their commitment to keep on working to contribute to the realization of this fundamental infrastructure.



- **Oceans**
 Both sides congratulated the work carried out by the Working Group on Oceans and the cooperation under the Belém Statement (also with South Africa). Both sides welcome the idea of organizing the Annual Implementing Event "All Atlantic Ocean Research Forum" rotating between the signatories, the first of which was held in Brazil and the next is foreseen to take place in Brussels, January 2020. Both sides also acknowledge the creation of the "ocean ambassadors" project with the aim to develop the next generation of ocean citizens among the Atlantic youth, bridging people, cultures, science and technology throughout the whole Atlantic basin.
- **Water Resources**
 Both sides agreed to keep supporting the current cooperation under Joint Programme Initiative (JPI) Water, EraNets, Belmont Forum and funded Sector Dialogue Support Facility to underpin cooperation on urban water management and looked forward to future possibilities under Horizon Europe.
- **Aviation**
 The positive outcomes of the cooperation in aviation were highlighted and interest in enhancing the research policy dialogue in this field was agreed, bringing the existing cooperation to a higher level including through private sector funding. In particular, the European side considered initiatives in greener and faster aviation topics as concrete opportunities for cooperation. The Brazilian side welcomed initiatives on renewable fuels, greater efficiency and faster aviation.
- **Science with and for Society**
 Both sides acknowledged that social sciences and humanities are cross-cutting themes in STI projects and their aspects should be valued in the bilateral cooperation within the framework of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. Both sides welcome projects approved under Belmont Forum Programme and the positive outcomes of the flagship calls as there are proposals related to Migration and Gender in Science, Technology and Innovation cooperation, with Brazilian participation, under evaluation.
- **Energy**
 Both sides agreed that the Innovation Challenge #4 "Sustainable biofuels", at the global initiative Mission Innovation, is an important area of cooperation. Both sides acknowledged the progress made in the framework of the biofuels cooperation where further cooperation could be envisaged, on the basis of joint commitments and took note of the recent signature of the Brazilian Biovalue project.
- **Innovation and Startups**
 Both sides agreed on deepening the exchange of knowledge and best practices upon innovation policies and instruments and, to reinforce the strategic partnership around this key area of interest for both sides, decided to propose a specific policy dialogue. Both sides considered innovation as a major pillar of the bilateral cooperation and welcomed the mutual opportunities that arise with the framework set forth in the Horizon Europe programme.
- **Smart Specialization**
 Both sides congratulate the collaboration between the Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology (IBICT) and the EC's Joint Research Centre, which resulted in the launch, planned for May 2019, of IBICT's "Portal de Especialização Inteligente", based on the European S3 platform.
- **Sustainable Urbanization**
 The good results of the projects on nature based solutions for resilient cities under the EU-Brazil Sector Dialogue Facility were also praised. Both sides welcome the recent partnership between the OPPLA Platform and the Sustainable Cities Innovation



Observatory and the construction of a joint roadmap for introducing the concept and benefits of NBS (Nature-Based Solutions) into public policies. The European side encouraged the active Brazilian involvement in the EU-LAC task force on urban sustainable development.

- **Health**

Both sides highlighted the good cooperation in multilateral initiatives and programme-level cooperation in chronic diseases, infectious diseases preparedness, personalised medicine, and the transnational cancer call. Cooperation in this field should be facilitated in the future through the co-funding mechanisms.

- **Cooperation with the Joint Research Centre**

MCTIC have stressed their commitment to develop the activities set forth in the MCTIC-JRC Work Programme 2018-2020 in the fields of disaster prevention and crisis management; sustainable management of natural resources; life cycle analysis; alternative methods to animal use; smart specialisation; climate change, circular economy; critical raw materials and cooperation with the Research and Innovation Observatory (RIO) of European Commission. CNPq has expressed its interest in strengthening the cooperation with the JRC. For this purpose, CNPq proposed to combine efforts and further instruments to draw up a plan of work for future cooperation between CNPq and JRC.

- **Mobility/Support to international research involving students and scholars**

Both sides agreed on the good participation of Brazil in MSCA under H2020, and on the commitment to further strengthen and diversify the participation of Brazil in the MSCA and Erasmus+ Programme, highlighting the opportunities for doctoral training and the development of new doctoral programmes, and also the possibility to involve more non-academic organisation and companies. CAPES expressed its interest in improving international research cooperation between EU universities and research institutions with Brazilian institutions granted with funds from CAPES/PrInt programme, with funding from CAPES and the MSCA and Erasmus+ Programme. Initiatives towards strengthening the internationalization at home are also a topic of interest to CAPES.

- **Perspectives on new areas of cooperation:**

The two sides also shared perspectives on new areas of cooperation, such as: (i) research infrastructures; (ii) science education; (iii) artificial intelligence, data science, big data, quantum computing, and high performance computing; (iv) greenhouse gas inventory; (v) nanosafety, (vi) Open Science and (vii) Evidence-based policy-making.

- **Update on the work of the Administrative Arrangement**

A follow-up of the 3rd Technical Steering Group meeting was provided: the ongoing support under the framework of collaborative activities; proposals on the implementation of twinning activities including through the support of a Sector Dialogue project; interest in implementing the coordinated calls modality in themes of mutual interest to be presented by the Brazilian signatories of the Administrative Agreement; and possible renovation of the Administrative Agreement after the end of the programme Horizon 2020.

Finally, both sides agreed to continue to work closely in an open and constant dialogue on all priority areas and look forward to the next Joint Steering Committee meeting that will take place in Brussels.