



Joint Communiqué of the 12th Joint Steering Committee for Science and Technology Cooperation meeting (JSCM) between the European Union and Argentina

December 10th, 2020

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MINCyT) and the European Commission jointly attended the 12th Meeting of the Joint Steering Committee, held virtually on December 10, 2020. The meeting was chaired on the EU side by Ms. Cristina Russo, Director for international cooperation, Directorate General for Research & Innovation, European Commission and by Ms. Karina Pombo from the National Directorate for the Promotion of Scientific Policy at the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation on the Argentinian side. The meeting was attended by representatives of the MINCyT, the European Commission Directorates General for Research and Innovation, Education and Culture, Defence, Industry and Space (DEFIS) and the Joint research center.

Within the framework of the Agreement, both sides endeavor to promote, develop and facilitate strategic cooperation in areas of mutual interest, by implementing research and innovation activities that will contribute to the economic, social and sustainable development.

On the EU side, the importance of further promoting the Global approach in research and innovation cooperation through Alliances in strategic sectors and the possibilities offered of the forthcoming Horizon Europe research programme was highlighted.

On the Argentine side, emphasis is placed on the construction of an international cooperation based on the “Science, Technology and Innovation Plan 2030”, which seeks to strengthen strategic industrial sectors for economic reactivation, through the transformation of our productive matrix. In this respect, international collaboration actions are established in order to promote technological development and, above all, the transfer of knowledge from the scientific to the productive sector, holding two fundamental principles: territoriality and sustainable socio-environmental development.

Both sides acknowledged the importance of cooperation in global health. In the area of the COVID-19 pandemic, both sides referred to the development of diagnostic and therapeutic tools and the reorientation of health services towards more preventive strategies. They also recognized the need to work on preparedness and on addressing the social and economic impact of the pandemic.

Both sides took note of the importance of ensuring the care, protection and sustainable management of the planet's ocean, seas and coasts. In addition to sharing experiences and good practices regarding the circular economy, both sides will continue to work on major challenges such as ocean plastic pollution. Both sides highlighted the importance of the All Atlantic Ocean joint activities and in particular, the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum, which took place (virtually) on 3-4 December 2020. During the Forum, six Joint Actions in support of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance were launched in the areas of Capacity Development and Training; Marine Biotechnology; Aquaculture; Data; Blue Schools; and Research Infrastructures. Furthermore, during the Forum for the period 2020-2021 a new cohort of All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors was announced.

Both delegations noted the common interests in clean energy, welcoming global initiatives in this field, in particular Mission Innovation. In this sense, Argentina shared its interest in coordinating research efforts from a multidisciplinary and integrated perspective on clean energy transition. Challenges and opportunities for cooperation include: wind energy; concentrating solar power, bioenergy, green hydrogen production; energy storage (development of low-cost energy storage technologies, flow batteries, thermal energy storage, alkaline fuel cells and batteries for electromobility), and distributed generation systems with renewable energies and storage systems.

Regarding the collaboration on sustainable and circular bioeconomy topics between both sides, Argentina highlight the importance of strengthening its participation in biorefineries and green Chemistry.

Both sides looked forward to a successful conclusion of the discussions on a cooperation arrangement on data access and satellite data sharing under the Copernicus programme, to support collaboration on space applications such as land and ocean monitoring. They also value current cooperation on the multilateral level: opportunities for tighter cooperation via the Regional GEOs or within the GEO Work Programme Activities such as GEOGLAM Initiative (Global Agricultural Monitoring) could be explored.

Concerning the framework conditions for R&I, both sides highlighted the importance of developing common principles and adequate framework conditions needed to create a level playing field for researchers from Argentina and the European Union to cooperate with each other on the basis of trust.

Both sides recognized the importance of promoting international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility and high-quality training, both at doctoral and post-doctoral levels as well as of managerial, administrative and technical staff as a way to stimulate excellent R&I. In relation to this, they also acknowledged the key role of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions for the development of excellent international doctoral networks and collaborative research cooperation, and of Erasmus+ to stimulate the international mobility of students and academic staff and develop long-lasting international partnerships.

The parties endeavored to share experience on knowledge and technology transfer with particular attention to the experience with the TTO circle. The JRC is exploring ways to further support the development of the TT system in LAC, at regional level in the framework of EU collaboration initiatives with the LAC region.

Finally, both sides presented their commitment towards supporting inclusive gender equality policy and mainstream in Research and Innovation. MINCyT also presented its initiatives to overcome regional gender gaps and inequalities and to promote inclusion and access to higher education and the benefits of science and technology to achieve conditions of equity, justice and well-being for the majority of the country. Both sides endeavored to exchange information and experience on developing and implementing sustainable gender equality plans in research organization, and integrating a gender dimension into research and innovation.

The next meeting of the Joint Steering Committee will take place in 2021.