



**Report of the 10<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”**

**24 March 2021**

The 10th 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 24 March of 2021 virtually and it was hosted by the European Commission. The meeting was co-chaired by Maria Cristina Russo, Director for International at DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission, and Ambassador Achilles Zaluar, Director of the Department for Technology Promotion of the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the Brazilian side. On the Brazilian side, the meeting was attended by several representatives from the Brazilian National System of Science, Technology and Innovation, including the Ministry for Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI), its associated institutions - the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) and the Brazilian Institute for Space Research (INPE) -, as well as the National Council of State Funding Agencies (CONFAP) and Embraer. On the EU side, participants included representatives from the European External Action Service (EEAS), and from the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC), the Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC), the Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS), the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT), and the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA).

Both sides acknowledged the central role of research and innovation in the overall EU-Brazil Strategic Partnership. Furthermore, EU and Brazil highlighted the importance of enhanced bilateral and multilateral cooperation, with a focus on Green, Sustainable and Digital Transition and Global Health, in the context of the forthcoming EU Research and Innovation Programme Horizon Europe (2021-2027). Brazil underscored the importance of increasing efforts to include start-up companies in the framework of the bilateral cooperation in research and innovation.

Both sides recognised the role of the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020 (2014-2021) for promoting EU-Brazilian R&I cooperation and the essential contribution given by the Brazilian co-funding mechanisms set out in the Administrative Arrangement, signed in May 2018, between the EC/DG RTD, CNPq, FINEP and CONFAP to boost such cooperation. Furthermore, both sides welcomed the progress made so far on the discussions about a new Administrative Arrangement in the context of Horizon Europe aiming at further intensifying cooperation.

The EU welcomed the Brazilian engagement under the Horizon 2020 Green Deal call. Both sides noted the fruitful exchanges related to an Ecosystems-based approach, thus opening paths for collaboration under Horizon Europe. Both sides highlighted that Brazil is a key country for any future scenario of the global environment, concerning climate change, biodiversity, and the possibilities for strengthening research and innovation collaboration in the Amazon and other Brazilian biomes. In this regard, Brazil reported the positive feedback in terms of projects approved under the Horizon 2020 with Brazilian participation when the country was flagged on calls for projects as a priority third-country and suggested that, in the upcoming calls of Horizon Europe related to the environment, Brazil could be single out as a desirable international partner. In addition, both sides recognized the progress in the collaboration on sustainable biofuels and Brazil’s role as the co-lead for the Mission Innovation Challenge 4 and the recent

indication of Brazil as one of the leading countries in the United Nations High Level Dialogue on Energy, on the topic of Energy Transition.

In the area of Healthy oceans & seas, both sides underlined the excellent cooperation under the Belém Statement and for the implementation of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance. Brazil and the EU are key partners in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and stressed the importance of the upcoming All-Atlantic High-Level Ministerial and Stakeholder Conference on 3-4 June 2021. Additionally, there is ample scope for cooperation under the Horizon Europe Mission Ocean, Seas and Waters, and the EU Partnership on a Climate-Neutral, Sustainable and Productive Blue Economy.

In respect to the collaboration in Water research and technologies, it was acknowledged that Brazil actively participated in the Water Joint Programming Initiative (Water JPI). In the context of the Sector Dialogues Facility, exchanges on urban water management took place. The possibilities under the proposed European Partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All) were highlighted.

Both sides acknowledged the importance of biodiversity, ecosystems and sustainability highlighting the significant participation of Brazil under the past and ongoing BiodivERSA calls. This could pave the way for a possible Brazilian participation in the future Partnership on Biodiversity. The EC Joint Research Centre (JRC) referred to the JRC-MCTI Cooperation Arrangement and presented the Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (KCBBD), which provides several opportunities for multidisciplinary R&I cooperation by defining indicators for impact assessment. The EU side also stressed that the Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA) is essential part of the KCBBD and is a promising field for international cooperation. Both sides recognised the value of the early warning and monitoring of wildfires as reducing climate impact and preserving the environment. In this context, EC Joint Research Centre, based on the EU experience, presented an initiative for reducing the impact of wildfires in the Amazon region. MCTI presented biodiversity R&I initiatives aimed to monitoring, enhance knowledge and integrate data.

In the field of Green, sustainable, smart and inclusive cities, both sides recognised the importance of cooperation on cities, including on sustainable mobility, air quality, urban planning and governance, and smart cities. In this respect, they welcomed ongoing cooperation under the Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) Urban Europe, and under the ERANET Sustainable Urbanisation Global Initiative (EN-SUGI).

Sustainable aviation has been one of the flagships with Brazil, including strong participation of Embraer as a prominent aircraft manufacturer in the world and pioneer in sustainable fuels. Brazil took part in projects as Future-Sky-Safety and ITAKA and since 2018, the landmark “Safer and Greener Aviation in a smaller world” engaged further Brazil, with participation in three aviation safety projects. The 2020 EU Green Deal call topic on “Preventing and fighting wildfires” put emphasis on innovative aerospace means and on international cooperation, targeting Brazil among other international partners.

Both sides recognized the important collaboration in health, tackling global challenges such as ZIKA and COVID-19. Brazil participated in the DG R&I International matchmaking event in June last year and six COVID-19 research projects from EU and Brazil were twinned. Both sides welcomed the Brazilian participation in two projects under the EC COVID-19 emergency calls. Besides, MCTI presented the RedeVirus projects, their developments and successful results, and has underlined the possibilities of cooperation with European counterparts. Fruitful collaboration is also taking place under multilateral initiatives, in particular Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R), on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), on Personalized Medicine within the ERAPerMed call launched in December 2020, and within the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD). Both sides emphasized the successful

cooperation on Cancer, which potentially paves the way for Brazil to the Horizon Europe Cancer Mission, now in preparatory phase.

Both sides acknowledged the positive cooperation in Research Infrastructures (RI) and exchanged views on further developing it. The forthcoming International Conference for Research Infrastructures (ICRI), 1-3 June 2021 will provide an occasion for synergies among RI.

With regard to Digital cooperation, both sides look forward to the inauguration of the BELLA cable in June 2021, which will be a major landmark in EU and Brazil cooperation. Furthermore, both sides recognised the potential of cooperation under Cluster 4 of Horizon Europe in areas such as advanced communications, HPC and quantum computing, robotics, data engineering, artificial intelligence, cyber-security as well as the applications of these technologies for digitization of industry, agriculture, health, smart cities, smart mobility and digital government.

With regard to Space Cooperation, both sides recognized the important role of ongoing work under the Copernicus Agreement, which is bound to intensify in the future. Copernicus can provide support in tackling societal challenges in Brazil, from environmental protection, including forest monitoring, and climate change to agriculture and urban development issues, with this full, free and open data policy. The EU welcomed any future incorporation of Brazilian institutions to the Copernicus Relays and Copernicus Academy. The Galileo Information Centre is an important tool to reach out to Brazilian stakeholders to increase awareness of the various application areas of Galileo and EGNOS.

EU highlighted the Implementing Arrangement related to the European Research Council (ERC) and the opportunities it offers for collaboration on cutting-edge research. Furthermore, the ERC encourages further researchers based in Brazil to apply to ERC grants, including Synergy calls.

The JSCM welcomed the active participation of Brazilian nationals in all Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and their particularly strong interest in the doctoral programmes. With regard to the participation of Brazilian institutions, the EU underlined the opportunity to build on the very good results under Horizon 2020, and concentrate future efforts in particular on the new Doctoral Networks and the Postdoctoral Fellowships actions. Moreover, the EU encourages diversifying the Brazilian participation by reaching out to the non-academic institutions. The importance of the Brazilian co-funding mechanisms to support institutional participation, notably under Staff Exchanges but also under Doctoral Networks was highlighted.

The EU side highlighted the programming of future initiatives for the period 2021-2027 based on overarching political priorities, with Green and Digital transitions featuring high and covering Brazil. The EU side also recalled that a European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) will be created, together with Team Europe partnerships with EU Member States and like-minded partners and other stakeholders, which will offer the opportunities of synergies between R&I cooperation and sustainable development multidisciplinary initiatives in areas such as e.g. tropical forests, wildfires management, sustainable agriculture and cities among several others.

Finally, both sides highlighted the need to continue working closely in between the Joint Steering Committee meetings in an open and constant dialogue, with experts in the different technical areas examined, on all priority areas and look forward to the next Joint Steering Committee meeting to be hosted by Brazil tentatively in the second half of 2022.