

**Speaking points of Mrs Cristina Russo, Director "International Cooperation", DG
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"Shifting frontiers of science diplomacy", Parallel session: "Advising across boundaries and borders, EU-INGSA "Science and policy making: towards a new dialogue"

- The EU has recognised the importance of international research and innovation cooperation and science diplomacy and has adopted a dedicated Strategy for European Union international cooperation in research and innovation (R&I) published in 2012.
- Science diplomacy is part also of the "Open to the World" priority of the EU Commissioner for Science, Research and Innovation Carlos Moedas and delivers on the EC President Juncker's political guidelines on Europe's global role. It is also in line with the recently adopted EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy, calling for "unity of policies" and unity of action.
- To deliver on these priorities EU has at its disposal the world's largest, multilateral research and innovation programme - the EU framework programme for research and innovation - Horizon 2020. The Programme is open to the participation from all over the world and the participation of researchers and innovators from the developing countries is funded.
- We promote strongly also the Open Access as one of the elements for the free and efficient circulation of scientific knowledge, including fostering of best practices and common policies.
- The EU is leading the way in developing global research and innovation partnerships to address challenges in areas such as climate change, health, food, energy and water. And we are translating our lead in science into a leading voice in global debates, helping the convergence of scientific opinions on the basis of all data and evidence available globally.
- We provide scientific advice for foreign policy and we employ science as a confidence-building tool.
- I would like to recall that modern science diplomacy among European nations was born out of shared aspirations and practical necessity shortly after the war. At that time, a small group of determined scientists began calling for cooperation among Europe's scientific communities, promoting the unifying power of science, both ideologically and pragmatically (sharing the increasing costs).
- This was when CERN and the European Space Agency were born. As you know CERN serves as an inspiration for many regions such as the Middle East, where Arab, Israeli and Iranian scientists are brought together in SESAME (the Synchrotron-Light for Experimental Science and Applications).
- Following years of financial and technical support, the EU was granted an observer status at SESAME in April 2015. Me and my services will continue to work towards the full

completion and development of this unprecedented regional initiative for science and peace.

- SESAME is one of few international examples of the valuable contribution science diplomacy can provide to confidence-building and to traditional diplomacy. It can open channels of communication and build trust where few other mechanisms are feasible. I will give you some other examples.
- Last year, the Iranian Nuclear deal was made possible mainly as it involved two physicists, Vice President Dr Salehi and Secretary of Energy Moniz, that once worked together in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The universality, rationality and transparency of science can help build the trust and credibility needed for any progress in international relations and negotiations. In this case this trust between the two scientists has proven more effective than all other tools.
- I visited Iran this year with Commissioner Moedas and HR/VP Mogherini and I was impressed by the importance Dr Salehi attaches to science diplomacy and the role of science for improving international relations.
- Another example have been all our science diplomacy actions in the past two years that have contributed to bridging divides particularly with the EU Neighbourhood. A number of European Neighbourhood countries have become associated members of the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020, e.g. Ukraine, Tunisia, Armenia, Georgia, driven by justified aspirations for alternatives of conflict and investment in prosperity.
- A EUR 400 million science diplomacy initiative is under development in and for the Mediterranean region. It is called PRIMA (the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area) and it aims at bringing together European, Arab and Israeli research managers in a joint programme to work together on two of the major challenges of the Mediterranean – water scarcity and food security. Through this focus the initiative is aimed also at addressing the root causes of migration in this region.
- In the Arctic, science is used to catalyse a common understanding, enable joint solutions and foster peaceful cooperation. The EU is one of the largest contributors to Arctic research and a prime supporter of transnational access to research infrastructure and open data resources for the region. That is why research is a key element of the recently adopted EU Communication on the Arctic.
- In addition to bridging divides, science diplomacy has two other important roles to play. First it has to ensure that foreign policy decisions are informed and evidence-based. The EU and the international community face many complex and connected challenges which can only be tackled through sound scientific advice.
- The Ebola outbreak taught the world the hard way that lives can be lost if the international political and scientific communities are not working closely together. Learning from this terrible lesson the European Commission decided to set up a Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R) and, on the Zika virus, EUR 10 million was mobilized for urgently needed research.

- The third role Science diplomacy plays is to ensure that the conditions for making science and making international cooperation in research are there. These include improvement of framework conditions worldwide, mobility of researchers and visa, more and well prepared 'science diplomats', more effective platforms, mechanisms and spaces for dialogue between policymakers, academics and researchers.
- Thank you.