

EU/ Member States Initiative "USA"
From common challenges to joint responses –
adding a new dimension to EU/ Member States cooperation with the USA
in science, technology and innovation

Background and objectives

In October 2009, members and observers of the *Strategic Forum for International Science and Technology Cooperation (SFIC)* agreed to develop a joint EU/ Member States initiative with the USA. This was decided on the backdrop of an initial priority to develop coherent strategies vis-à-vis the BRIC-countries, in particular India and China. The USA is by far the dominating actor in science and innovation globally, and Europe has much to gain through cooperating with the best. However, European countries have long traditions in cooperating bilaterally with the USA, and the EU has established several cooperative arrangements with US partners. The challenge is to achieve greater coherence of EU and Member States' policies vis-à-vis and with the USA through identifying strategic cooperation options, thereby adding value to the complex web of current cooperation.

Information on bilateral S&T cooperation was first collected via a questionnaire. Based on this survey issues were identified in which a joint European approach would create added value and enhance EU and Member States bilateral initiatives.¹ Further, the SFIC Task Force "Priority Setting" proposed at its meeting on 20 May 2011 to prepare a workshop in October in Brussels to develop joint approaches to enhance transatlantic research and innovation collaboration. Within the Task Force a core group (DE as lead country, DK, ES, FI, IT, NO, SI and COM) agreed to work on the content of the workshop.

The main objectives of the workshop are:

- **to develop strategic intelligence** about the USA (analysis of USA's STI cooperation patterns) as the USA are both a partner for cooperation and a competitor in the contest for talent and ideas;
- **to identify key areas and modalities for EU/ MS-USA cooperation based on common EU/ MS priorities**, in view of issues which have strong linkages and interfaces with US partners and are significant in the future
- **to raise the attractiveness of Europe** as an excellent research location and achieving more balanced transatlantic mobility and knowledge flows²;
- to share successful approaches of EU and MS and stakeholders cooperation patterns with US partners, particularly as regards the **innovation dimension**.

The result of the workshop should link thematic areas to concrete "offers" which could be made towards the USA in a second step and which should be endorsed by SFIC and by Council recommendations.

¹ See: Report "SFIC questionnaire: S&T Cooperation with the United States of America" by Ales Gnamus/ IPTS, Seville, October 2010.

² Europe 2020's Innovation Union Flagship Initiative chapter 6, "Leveraging our policies externally" and commitment 30

The above mentioned survey identified the following themes, which have been confirmed by SFIC members and observers as a starting point reflecting EU and MS key priorities:

- thematic: **energy, ageing, health**
- horizontal: **research marketing, mobility and exchange, innovation aspects**

In all presentations and discussions, the workshop aims at giving a *European* (not national) view on current activities.

Workshop concept

Organisation

The workshop will take place on 18 and 19 October 2011 at the German Permanent Representation in Brussels. Hosted by Germany, it is jointly organised by a core group composed of DE, DK, ES, FI, IT, SI, NO and COM. A core group of science counsellors in Washington DC also adds to the organisation of this workshop. All members and observers of SFIC will be kept informed and are invited to contribute and to endorse the proposed programme.

Format

The expected number of participants is 50 to 70 persons. The workshop will be organised in a series of plenary sessions with introductory presentations followed by moderated discussion. All participants are expected to contribute actively to the sessions. The main discussion points will be documented by rapporteurs and will include recommendations for developing a strategic roadmap. At the end of the workshop, a draft workshop statement on future opportunities for enhanced European-US cooperation in R&D will have been developed. It will be presented to SFIC on 26 October 2011 for endorsement.

Follow-up

A conference in Washington DC, scheduled for 12 December 2011, under the auspices of the Polish Presidency with the EU Delegation and Member States' Science Counsellors and organised jointly with American partners, will focus on the future of Transatlantic Research and Innovation cooperation. It will build on the results and recommendations of this workshop in Brussels. Depending on the decision of SFIC on future activities for EU/MS cooperation with the USA, the US government might be officially invited to reply to the offer for an enhanced cooperation.

Participants and actors to be involved

Participants will be members and observers of SFIC, science counsellors working in the USA, representatives of national governments dealing with STI cooperation with the USA, international experts in the thematic fields, research funding and performing organisations and European initiatives and projects such as the BILAT USA or Joint Programming Initiatives.

Provisional Programme
From common challenges to joint responses –
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18 October 2011 - 1st day

Permanent Representation of Germany to the EU, 8-14 Rue Jacques de Lalaing, 1040 Brussels

12:30h – 13:00h	Registration
13:00h – 13:15h	Welcome and introduction <i>Ms. Susanne Burger</i> <i>Permanent Representation of Germany to the EU</i> <i>Ms. Riitta Mustonen</i> <i>SFIC chair</i> <i>Mr. Isi Saragossi</i> <i>European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, Director International Cooperation</i>
13:15h – 13:30h	Key notes: Global partners in a changing world - the opportunities of EU/MS cooperation with the USA <i>Moderator: Mr. Alexander Grablowitz, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research</i> <i>Rapporteur: Ms. Eeva Ikonen, Academy of Finland</i>
13:30h – 13:45h	Why working with the USA? Re-thinking transatlantic cooperation in science, technology and innovation <i>Mr. Peter Westersträhle</i> <i>Chief advisor "The Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation" TEKES</i>
13:45h – 14:00h	Towards effective transatlantic STI cooperation - views, perceptions and expectations of key stakeholders <i>Ms. Sabine Herlitschka</i> <i>Former Head of Division "European and International Programmes" at the Austrian Research Promotion Agency</i>
14:00 - 14:30	Discussion
14:30h – 14:45h	Europe as a place of excellence: the role of the ERC <i>Mr. Donald Dingwell</i> <i>Secretary General of the European Research Council</i>
14:45h – 15:00h	SESSION I: Energy <i>Moderator: Ms. Cristina Predicchio, Professor at the University of Trieste, Member of European Research Area Board (ERAB), Italian representative in SFIC</i> <i>Rapporteur: Ms. Ulla Mäkeläinen, Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Division of Higher Education and Science</i>
15:00h – 15:30h	The EU/ US Energy Council – Transatlantic Technology Cooperation <i>Mr. Gilles Lequeux</i> <i>European Commission, DG Research and Innovation</i> <i>Mr. Henrik Bindslev</i> <i>Chair of European Energy Research Alliance</i>
15:30h – 16:00h	MIT-Portugal Program – Collaborative research between US and Europe for the implementation of Sustainable Energy Systems <i>Mr. Carlos A. Santos Silva</i> <i>MIT-Programme Portugal</i>
16:00h – 16:30h	Discussion
16:30h – 17:00h	Coffee break

	SESSION II: Health (life style, food and obesity) <i>Moderator: Ms. Marja-Liisa Niemi, Counsellor of Education in the Finnish Ministry of Education, Science and Culture</i> <i>Rapporteur: Dr. Frank-Roman Lauter, Charité Berlin, bilateral DE-US initiative "RegMed"</i>
16:00h – 16:15h	Food & health and JPI "Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life" <i>Ms. Laura Alexandrescu</i> <i>European Commission</i>
16:15h – 16:30h	Obesity: a life course approach to an international challenge <i>Mr. Henrique Barros</i> <i>Dpt. of Clinical Epidemiology, Predictive Medicine & Public Health and Inst. of Public Health; University of Porto Medical School, PT</i>
16:30h – 17:00h	Discussion
	SESSION III: Ageing – the potential and challenges of demographic change <i>Moderator: Ms. Wenke Apt, VDI/VDE-IT, DE</i> <i>Rapporteur: Ms. Almudena Carrero, Spanish representative in SFIC</i>
17:00h – 17:15h	European Innovation Partnership for Active and Healthy Ageing <i>N.N.</i> <i>Member of the EIP</i>
17:15h – 17:30h	Ambient Assisted Living Initiative <i>Mr. Rafael de Andrés</i> <i>AAL Association & JP, Spanish representative in the JPI "More Years better lives", Chief of the Documents & Technical Studies Department, Fund for Health Research (FIS), Underdirectorat General for Research Assessment and Promotion Spain</i>
17:30h – 18:00h	Discussion
Ca. 18:00h	Cocktail reception for all participants

19 October 2011 - 2nd day

Permanent Representation of Germany to the EU, 8-14 Rue Jacques de Lalaing, 1040 Brussels

09:00h – 09:10h	Welcome / Registration
09:10h – 09:40h	BILAT USA <i>Mr. Ralf König</i> Division "European and International Programmes" at the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG), coordinator of the BILAT USA project
	BLOCK 2: Establishing a space of open innovation – how to develop and use strategic intelligence <i>Moderator: Mr. Are Straume, Danish representative in SFIC</i> <i>Rapporteur: Mr. Svend Remøe, NO</i>
09:40h – 10:00h	Analytical tools for industrial innovation policy <i>Mr. Thomas Heinemeier</i> European Commission, Enterprise and Industry DG
10:00h – 10:20h	Innovation policy – the experience of the Netherlands in the USA <i>Ms. Bianca Oudshoff</i> On behalf of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, NL
10:20h – 10:40h	USA–EU comparison on research and innovation – challenges and opportunities for Europe <i>Mr. Benedikt Herrmann</i> European Commission, DG Innovation and Research
10:40h – 11:15h	Discussion
11:15h – 11:30h	Coffee break
	BLOCK 3: Europe as an excellent location for research and innovation
	SESSION I: Bringing the best talent to Europe <i>Moderator: Ms. Marion Müller, Einstein-Stiftung, DE</i> <i>Rapporteur: Ms. Carla Santos, PT</i>
11:30h – 11:45h	Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility (SGHRM) <i>N.N.</i> Member of SGHRM group
11:45h – 12:00h	EURAXESS: a service for mobile researchers <i>Mr. Xavier Ronald Eekhout Chicharro</i> FECYT (ES)
12:00h – 12:15h	The role and possibilities of reintegration grants <i>Ms. Tuğba Arslan Kantarcioglu</i> The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), Marie Curie NCP for Turkey
12:15h – 13:00h	Discussion
13:00h – 14:00h	Lunch break
	SESSION II: Raising the attractiveness of Europe as an excellent location for research and innovation <i>Moderator: Mr. Marek Konarzewski, Polish Science Counsellor in the USA</i> <i>Rapporteur: Mr. Are Straume (tbc), DK</i>
14:00h – 14:20h	Research marketing <i>Mr. Alexander Grablowitz</i> German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
14:20h – 14:40h	"Attract and compete for talent" <i>Ms. Sigi Gruber</i> European Commission, DG Innovation and Research, Head of Unit "Relations with third countries"
14:40h – 15:10h	Discussion
15:10h – 15:30h	Coffee break
15:30h - 16:00h	Towards a coherent EU/MS strategy vis-à-vis and with the USA: Presentation of workshop conclusions & concluding remarks <i>Riitta Mustonen, SFIC Chair</i>