



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 29 May 2013
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COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director
date of receipt:	13 May 2013
To:	Mr Uwe CORSEPIUS, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

No. Cion doc.:	C(2013) 2784 final
Subject:	COMMISSION DECISION of 13.5.2013 on the signature of the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation Launching a Canada- European Union- United States of America Research Alliance

Delegations will find attached document [C\(2013\) 2784 final](#).

Encl.: [C\(2013\) 2784 final](#)



Brussels, 13.5.2013
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 13.5.2013

**on the signature of the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation Launching a
Canada- European Union- United States of America Research Alliance**

COMMISSION DECISION

of 13.5.2013

on the signature of the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation Launching a Canada- European Union- United States of America Research Alliance

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Whereas:

- (1) The Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation Launching a Canada - European Union - United States of America Research Alliance offers the opportunity to advance on Transatlantic Cooperation in research and innovation, based on the existing partnership, following the principles of mutual benefit and common interest.
- (2) This partnership will also help maintain political momentum at the highest strategic level, providing an official platform for exchanges and cooperation on innovation between all Sides and thus ensuring the full engagement by the U.S and Canada authorities in Atlantic Ocean Cooperation.
- (3) The cooperation envisaged in the Galway Statement will be carried out fully within existing Union policies and legislation in relation to Marine and Arctic Research.
- (4) The Galway Statetement was presented to the Council Working Party together with information that the Commission intends to sign it on behalf of the Union and no objections were raised.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Commission approves the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation Launching a Canada - European Union - United States of America Research Alliance. The text of the Statement is attached to this decision.

Article 2

The Commissioner in charge of Research, Innovation and Science Máire Geoghegan-Quinn as well as the Commissioner in charge of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Maria Damanaki are both authorised to sign the Statement on behalf of the European Union. In the event that the statement is subject to further modifications before signature, the Commissioners are authorised to sign provided that the substance of the modified statement continues to fall within existing EU policies and legislation.

Done at Brussels, 13.5.2013

*For the Commission
Máire Geoghegan-Quinn and Maria Damanaki
Members of the Commission*

ANNEX

Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation Launching a Canada - European Union - United States of America Research Alliance

The Signatories of this Statement meeting on the occasion of the high level event

The Atlantic – a Shared Resource, held on

23 and 24 May 2013

at the Marine Institute, Galway, Ireland

Recognizing the importance of the Atlantic Ocean to our citizens, prosperity, human health and well-being, adaptation to climate and other environmental change, and security,

Cognizant of our reliance upon the best available science and knowledge to inform decisions affecting the Atlantic Ocean,

Realizing that our countries face similar challenges in promoting a healthy and well-understood Atlantic Ocean,

Acknowledging the critical interlink between the Atlantic Ocean and the portion of the Arctic region that borders the Atlantic,

Appreciating the value of our ongoing cooperation on ocean science and observation in the Atlantic Ocean, and

Valuing the essential role of international partnership to achieve our shared objectives and the potential of greater cooperation to advance our knowledge of the Atlantic Ocean,

Intend to advance our shared vision of an Atlantic Ocean that is healthy, resilient, safe, productive, understood and treasured so as to promote the well-being, prosperity, and security of present and future generations.

This cooperation is intended to increase our knowledge of the Atlantic Ocean and its dynamic systems - including interlinks with the portion of the Arctic region that borders the Atlantic - by aligning our ocean observation efforts to improve ocean health and stewardship and promote the sustainable management of its resources. Observation is fundamental to understanding the ocean and forecasting its future. Activities may include efforts to better coordinate data sharing, interoperability and coordination of observing infrastructures and seabed and benthic habitat mapping.

This cooperation may result in mutual benefits including better ecosystem assessments and forecasts and deeper understanding of vulnerabilities and risk, including those relating to the global climate system and climate change impacts. It can also help to generate new tools to increase resilience, conserve rich biodiversity, manage risk and determine social, environmental and economic priorities.

We further intend to promote our citizens' understanding of the value of the Atlantic by promoting oceans literacy. We intend to show how results of ocean science and observation

address pressing issues facing our citizens, the environment and the world and to foster public understanding of the value of the Atlantic Ocean.

We intend to advance this agenda by

- taking stock of and utilizing existing bilateral science and technology cooperation (e.g. the U.S. - European Union Science and Technology Joint Consultative Group and the Canada- European Union Science and Technology Joint Coordinating Committee) and multilateral cooperation frameworks including those related to ocean observation, and ocean literacy initiatives;
- recommending priorities for future cooperation and, where possible,
- coordinating the planning and programming of relevant activities in these areas, including promoting researcher mobility.

This cooperation could potentially involve national partners and European Commission representatives, the private sector, and the scientific community to further our efforts by harnessing the value of public-private partnerships.

This initiative is also expected to reinforce existing international efforts to advance our knowledge of the ocean, including the World Ocean Assessment.

FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA