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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Draft Belém Statement on Atlantic Research and Innovation Cooperation

Delegations find attached the text of the draft Belém Statement on Atlantic Research and Innovation Cooperation to be signed by the Commission on behalf of the European Union at the Conference in Lisbon on 13-14 July 2017. The text has been approved by the Research Working Party at its meeting on 12 June 2017.

**DRAFT BELÉM STATEMENT ON ATLANTIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
COOPERATION**

Oceans play a key role in developing national and regional economies, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and addressing climate change. The ongoing activities related to the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance and deepening scientific cooperation in the South and Tropical Atlantic, and Southern Ocean are widely recognised.

The importance of research on the oceans underpins the strategic partnerships on marine research that Brazil and South Africa have with the European Union and many European partners.

On the basis of the Agreement on science and technological cooperation between the Republic of South Africa and the European Community (signed on 5 December 1996, which entered into force on 11 November 1997), the European Union and the Republic of South Africa have established close scientific collaboration, which is coordinated by the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee established under this Agreement.

Equally, close scientific collaboration was established under the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Federative Republic of Brazil (signed on 19 January 2004, which entered into force on 7 August 2007), as renewed in 2012 and coordinated by the Steering Committee on scientific and technical cooperation.

This Statement builds on the 'Joint Declaration of Intent between the European Commission and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Brazil', signed on 17 November 2015, as well as on the 'Declaration of Intent between South Africa's Department of Science and Technology and the European Commission on Marine Research and Innovation Co-operation', signed on 3 October 2016. It also takes account of the outcomes of the *Atlantic Interactions Ministerial Summit and high-level Industry-Science-Government Dialogue*, held at Terceira (Azores) in April 2017.

We, the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation of the European Commission, on behalf of the European Union, the Minister of ..., on behalf of South Africa and the Minister of..., on behalf of Brazil (BR), would like to take further our collaborative scientific efforts in the Atlantic Ocean, and intend to sustainably cooperate on marine science, research and innovation aimed at:

Realising the mutual benefit that would accrue from linking research activities in the South Atlantic and Southern Ocean with those in the North Atlantic, and exploring synergies with other initiatives such as the interdisciplinary Atlantic Interactions Research Agenda and the AIR Centre; the Joint Programming Initiatives, the Strategic Forum for International Science and Technology Cooperation, the European Union's Earth Observation and Monitoring programme – Copernicus, and the Benguela Current Commission;

Increasing operational efficiencies by optimising the appropriate use and sharing of research infrastructures, and access to and management of data and platforms; together with emerging methods of data science; and,

Further developing common understanding and deepening scientific knowledge of marine ecosystems and the interrelations between oceans and climate change, oceans and food, and oceans and energy systems, as well as the dynamics of the Atlantic Ocean and its interconnected Circulation Systems from Antarctica to the Arctic.

We also intend to:

- promote and facilitate human capital development and scientific exchange;
- provide a platform and opportunities for scientific and technological cooperation resulting in joint activities; and,
- encourage new models for cooperation on a coordinated and partnership-based approach to tackle the scientific and societal challenges of the Atlantic Ocean based on the principles of shared responsibility and mutual benefit in key common areas of interest such as:
 - ✓ Climate variability and ecosystem approaches;

- ✓ Ocean observation (including seabed mapping), forecasting and monitoring processes and systems;
- ✓ Food security, fisheries management, aquaculture and biodiversity;
- ✓ Oceans technology (including for observation and renewable marine energy);
- ✓ The effects of emerging pollutants; and,
- ✓ Polar research (especially interconnections between the Atlantic, the Southern Ocean and Antarctica).

The intention is to achieve:

- Better monitoring and forecasting capacities;
- Improved safety at sea, human health and well-being;
- Sustainable use of marine resources;
- New and emerging technologies to service societal needs and new value chains; and,
- Ocean-engaged citizens through enhanced ocean literacy activities.

We intend to implement this Statement by:

- Sharing information on relevant activities by the partners of each side and identifying, whenever possible, complementarities;
- Engaging in joint priority setting for potential cooperation actions;
- Supporting the development of new science and innovation Atlantic Ocean cooperation platforms;
- Agreeing upon detailed activities and implementing or facilitating them jointly; and,
- Utilising existing structures in the context of bilateral science and technology cooperation (e.g. meetings of the South Africa – European Union Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee and the Brazil – European Union Steering Committee on scientific and technological cooperation) and other cooperation frameworks.

Relevant stakeholders and organisations from other countries of the Atlantic basin may be involved, as appropriate, in the implementation activities emerging from this cooperation.

This Statement is not designed or intended to create legal rights or obligations under international law and it has no financial implications.

Lisbon, 13 July 2017

Signatures
