



Joint Declaration of Intent between the European Commission and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Brazil

The European Commission and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of the Federative Republic of Brazil (MCTI) (hereafter referred to as 'Sides'),

- Recognizing that the European Union and Brazil have convened a Joint Steering Committee Meeting under the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Federative Republic of Brazil in 2013, in which it was decided to set up a Working Group (WG) on Marine Research Cooperation, with a mandate to look into areas of mutual interest and identify concrete actions, present a time-line for implementation, monitor and report on its advances;
- Recognizing also the relevant progress that the WG, co-chaired by MCTI and DG-RTD, has so far achieved, including missions of experts from both sides and the conclusion of scientific events of great relevance, aiming at strengthening the cooperation further;
- Appreciating the support provided by the Sector Dialogue Facility for Brazil Programme and by other projects funded by the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, among other initiatives;
- Acknowledging the roadmap and broad suite of challenges that both Sides have to tackle, relating to the scientific requirements for better understanding and implementing activities: (i) developing an ecosystem approach; (ii) assessing and responding to climate change impacts; (iii) reducing uncertainties through observing systems and modelling; (iv) improving safety at sea, human health and well-being; (v) setting up a standardization procedure for sampling protocols, data access and use; and (vi) identifying new and emerging technologies to service societal needs.

DECIDE to sign the following Joint Declaration of Intent, in order to develop their common expertise and scientific knowledge on the Atlantic Ocean and its dynamic systems, conducting sustainable joint research projects and improving reciprocal access to infrastructures, with a preliminary focus on seven areas of cooperation and a special mention for researchers', technicians' and other marine specialists' mobility and career development, as a transversal area of cooperation and interest:

A small, handwritten signature or mark in the bottom right corner of the page.

1. Transatlantic Ocean Observation and Forecasting Systems;
2. Food security (including aquaculture);
3. Conservation and sustainable use of Atlantic biodiversity (including innovative uses such as biotechnology)
4. Ocean technology;
5. Ocean literacy;
6. Land-sea interactions (including nutrient flows); and
7. Polar research (especially interconnections between the Atlantic and Antarctica)

This Declaration is intended to be implemented by the Working Group on Marine Research Cooperation following a proposed three-step process:

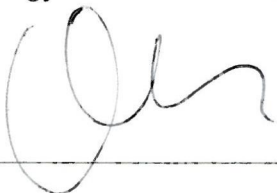
1. Sharing information on activities of each Side in the above-mentioned areas, identifying, whenever possible, complementarities;
2. Engaging in joint priority setting for potential cooperation actions
3. Aligning and complement, to the extent possible, the planning of research activities and innovative processes for the related programmes.

The following main results are expected:

- Mapping of stakeholders in Ocean Science, as well as institutional mechanisms, existing activities and potential actions that should encourage joint responses among the main actors from each Side;
- Identifying main challenges, common goals as well as opportunities for scientific and technical cooperation in line with the ongoing work of the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance;
- Identifying ongoing relevant projects, networks and initiatives of each Side, capitalising on what already exists, sharing technical and logistic support as regards the formulation and implementation of joint activities, for prioritised areas, and;
- Coordinating co-funded activities and possible alignment of existing funding opportunities of both Sides, to ensure complementarities and synergies, and preferably avoiding any possible duplication of efforts as regards Marine Research in this bilateral cooperation.

In view of their shared understanding of the necessity for promoting scientific research, technological development and innovation on ocean and coastal regions, by signing this Declaration, the European Commission and MCTI confirm their intention to continue the cooperation in marine research and develop it further.

For the Ministry of Science,
Technology and Innovation of Brazil



For the European Commission

