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"EU-US Research and innovation Cooperation – Delivering in Partnership"

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Introduction

- [Thank you, Bart, for your kind introduction.]
- [Your excellencies], ladies and gentlemen,
- I would like to thank the European Institute, its president, Joelle Attinger, and her staff for organizing this event.
- It is a pleasure to be here with you all.
- I am glad to see so many of you, representing so many organisations. I take it as a sign of the high level of interest that exists for EU-US cooperation in science, technology and innovation.
- This is my first foreign visit in my brief time so far as the Director for International Cooperation.

- It is not a coincidence that I have travelled to the US so soon after taking up this role. It is a direct reflection of the importance that the European Union places on its relationship with the United States in research and innovation.
- Among our international partners, the United States is our top priority.
- This fact has been underlined publically on a number of occasions in Europe and here in the US, including in this very building, by the European Commissioner responsible for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn.
- Robert Jan Smits, the Director-General for Research of the European Commission [and my direct boss], spoke here in February. He outlined how much the EU and the US have to offer each other, on the basis of common challenges, shared values and well-matched capabilities.
- Both the Commissioner and the Director-General have stressed to me personally their intention that EU-US cooperation in research and innovation should reach new heights.
- And as the Director for International Cooperation, it is my responsibility to deliver on that commitment. That is why I am here.
- It is my hope and my expectation that this commitment is shared by you, our American friends, building on our shared past experiences, on our mutual interests and on the agreements that we have made.

EU Strategy for International Cooperation

- I will say more about what the European Union is willing to bring to this partnership, but first I would like to stress that this focus does not come from nowhere.
- It is part of the EU's strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation, which was adopted in September of last year.
- This strategy gives us a new approach to meeting the challenges and opportunities of the changing global landscape.
- It recognises that the traditional powerhouses of the United States, Europe and Japan will account for a shrinking share of the production of science, knowledge and new technologies.
- It takes into account that research and innovation activities, both public and private, are increasingly interlinked across the globe.
- And it acknowledges that global solutions must be found to the challenges that affect citizens around the world. Examples include climate change, the spreading of infectious diseases, food security and production of clean and affordable energy.
- As part of the new approach, our efforts with industrialised countries like the US and with emerging economies will focus more strongly on competitiveness, tackling global challenges and generating business opportunities through greater mutual access to knowledge and markets.
- I will spell out for you in a few moments what that means with respect to working with our partners in the US. But let me spell out first what the EU is bringing to the party.

The Horizon 2020 Programme and its Opportunities

- Europe remains a world leader in research and innovation. Our scientists make outsize contributions to the world's stock of knowledge. We have some world-beating universities and enterprises. And as a whole, the private sector has continued to invest in technology and innovation, despite the economic downturn.
- You might already know these things. So I will be more concrete about the investments we will make at the level of the European Union to foster our scientific excellence, sharpen our competitiveness and meet global challenges.
- Many of you will be familiar with the EU's framework programmes for research, which have operated since the early 1980s. Ever increasing amounts of funding have been available for creating a European space where knowledge, researchers and technologies are created through cooperation, and can flow freely to boost the quality of life and prosperity of our citizens.
- The programmes have evolved to embrace frontier research as well as applied research. They have and broadened to support individuals as well as cooperative teams. And as the benefits of international cooperation have become clearer, we have opened up our programmes more and more to foreign participation.
- The latest programme is called the Horizon 2020 Programme and it is our most ambitious effort to date. It will be launched at the end of this year and run for seven years on a total budget of 79.4 billion euros, which is over 100 billion dollars.

- Supporting scientific excellence will remain a fundamental pillar of the programme, as for all previous framework programmes:
 - For this goal we will continue to fund the very best basic science through the European Research Council, rewarding top researchers from Europe and beyond.
 - Researcher training, mobility and career development will be encouraged through the famous Marie Curie Actions.
 - Funding for world-class research infrastructures will also continue, with a focus on access and networking.
 - A new element will be dedicated support to future and emerging technologies.
- Industrial leadership will form the second pillar of Horizon 2020. The activities here will aim to make Europe a more attractive place for businesses to invest in science, technology and innovation. This includes measures to facilitate venture capital, loans and other investment to innovative firms, including small and medium-sized enterprises.
- The third and final pillar of the programme is the support we will bring to tackling societal challenges. I know that you will recognise them all. The US shares many of them. And the world suffers from a lack of solutions.
- The priorities are the following:
 - Health, demographic change and wellbeing;
 - Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine research and the bio-economy;
 - Secure, clean and efficient energy;

- Smart, green and integrated transport;
 - Climate change, resource efficiency and raw materials;
 - Inclusive, innovative and reflective; and
 - Secure societies.
- Alongside these three pillars, funding will be provided to the policy-related research efforts of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. In addition, we will continue to build the European Institute of Innovation Technology and its Knowledge and Innovation Communities.
 - But there is a major feature of the Horizon 2020 Programme that I must bring to your attention. It is the emphasis that we will place on the creation and nurturing of partnerships.

The Partnership Paradigm

- Partnerships will be key to achieving our goals of maintaining and developing scientific excellence, gaining in competitiveness and solving the world's greatest problems.
- So what sort of partnerships am I talking about?
- I am referring to:-
 - interdisciplinary investigations required to address societal challenges;
 - alliances of industrial enterprises and academic institutions, to increase private investments in research and innovation and to bring existing knowledge to the marketplace;

- public-private partnerships to address issues for which the private sector cannot bear all the risks, and where the public sector can stimulate innovation through imaginative public procurement schemes;
- public-public partnerships between the EU institutions and national governments to achieve critical masses of investment and coordination in priority areas.
- Last, but by no means least, there are the vital partnerships we are forming with our international partners in the EU neighbourhood, with developing countries, and with emerging and industrialised countries all over the world.
- Among these international partnerships there will be none more important than the one with the United States.
- That is because the greatest gains come from the most equal partnerships. And for the US and the EU the potential gains are huge.

Research and Innovation in the TTIP

- An outstanding example of this principle can be seen in the potential gains to both our economies from the negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).
- Together the EU and the US account for over 40% of global GDP and 30% of global trade. The gains of a successful agreement are estimated in hundreds of thousands of jobs, millions of euros per year in savings to companies and benefits of roughly 100 billion euros to our respective economies.

- However, I fear that we might never realise the maximum benefits if we do not take the opportunity to address the research and innovation dimension within these discussions.
- I see much promise in using our science & technology relationship to improve our trade and investment relationship. I also see possibilities for agreements in the TTIP context that would enhance our research and innovation cooperation. Examples include the following areas:
 - In the setting of standards and regulations for new products, processes and services;
 - In decreasing divergences in approaches to intellectual property;
 - In improving conditions for the provision of venture capital and other forms of financing and investment in innovation;
 - In the adjustment of public procurement, competition and state aid rules; and
 - In the improvement of the framework conditions for transatlantic science and technology cooperation.
- The possible benefits would be: 1) an expanded transatlantic marketplace for products and services in emerging sectors; 2) prevention of the divergent standards and legislation that harm EU-US trade relations and inhibit economic development; 3) the development of global standards that serve consumers and aid our competitiveness; 4) easier access to investment for innovation; and 5) the removal of barriers to the science and technology cooperation that drives our progress and prosperity.
- An excellent example of what is possible is the existing cooperation on electric vehicles and their smart grid interfaces under the Transatlantic Economic

Council. In this case, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and the Argonne National Laboratory of the Department of Energy launched in July of this year the first of two interoperability centres that will lead to compatible standards.

- Those standards will speed the uptake of the new technologies and expand the transatlantic market. The result will be more jobs, safer and cheaper electric cars for consumers, enhanced competitiveness of our companies in global markets and more efficient use of the Earth's resources.
- Referring again to the TTIP negotiations, if we are open, constructive and courageous, we can create a 21st century trade partnership. A partnership that takes advantage of our creativity and entrepreneurship to generate new jobs and faster growth.
- At the very minimum, we must be vigilant that the agreements reached in the TTIP do not worsen the conditions and incentives for transatlantic collaboration in science, technology and innovation.
- It is up to us in the research communities on both sides of the Atlantic to draw the attention of our trade colleagues to these issues in a meaningful, positive and practical way. I am interested in hearing later your views on this subject.

The Benefits of EU-US Research and Innovation Cooperation

Ladies and gentlemen,

- I do understand that during difficult economic times the temptation is to withdraw from working with others. Budgets for travel and international exchanges tend to be among the first to be affected.

- However, I am certain that there are many of us here in this room who know that this is an instinct that often betrays us. It is precisely when resources are most scarce that it makes the most sense to cooperate with trusted friends.
- I am aware also of differences in our policy-making approaches. In the EU we are sometimes keener on top-down solutions, while here in the US you are more driven by the science in a bottom-up way, and by the market considerations.
- However, I have seen some recent budget and policy guidance from the White House to departments and agencies that fund research. This guidance demonstrates that the US Administration understands well the importance of a balanced approach and the potential of collaboration.
- I am referring to a joint memo from the OSTP [Office of Science and Technology Policy] and the OMB [Office of Management and Budget] issued last July. It encourages research funding requests for fiscal year 2015 to address grand challenges where appropriate, and to consider international cooperation as a means to achieve more with less.
- So I say to the representatives from these agencies and departments here today: you can achieve more with less by joining forces with EU programmes. Working with us you can get more “bang for your buck” in these times of sequestration and belt-tightening.
- For the researchers and innovators in this audience who want to engage with us in our Horizon 2020 programme, I see the following benefits:
 - Access to the best researchers and research infrastructures in Europe and elsewhere;

- The possibility to address scientific and innovation problems at a greater scale. By pooling your efforts, greater impact can be achieved, with a greater probability to achieve real breakthroughs;
- Avoidance of the wasteful duplication of activities;
- Knowledge and experience that will ease your entry to the European and international marketplaces for new products, processes and services.
- Funding, although in limited cases.
- I believe that when companies and research institutions in both Europe and the US will see the ways that they can multiply their research results for a given input into a collaborative project, they will make the effort to get involved. They will make the collaboration work for themselves and the others, and they will put the results to good use.
- The opportunities for US participation in Horizon 2020 will be throughout the programme, in almost all areas. Therefore we welcome your industry, your universities, your research institutions and civil society organisations within our programmes.

A New Era of EU-US Research and Innovation Cooperation

- As you might already know, the EU and the US agreed in February this year to boost our cooperation to a strategic level in four areas. This is an early instance of the implementation of the new strategy for international cooperation that I outlined earlier.
- The agreed research and innovation areas are: marine and Arctic, health (particularly clinical trials), materials and transport.

- [Although not agreed on the same occasion, interesting possibilities and some mutual interest might emerge in the topic of neuroscience.]
- In the case of marine and Arctic research cooperation, the strategic nature of our cooperation was reinforced by the creation of a transatlantic research alliance in May in Galway, Ireland. High level political attendees included the Irish Prime Minister, representing the EU Presidency, Research Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn and Maritime Affairs Commissioner Damanaki. The European Atlantic states, Canada and the US were represented at a high level. We appreciate very much the attendance at this event by Assistant Secretary Jones of the Department of State and prominent scientists from NOAA, NSF and US universities.
- Delivering concrete successes in these four flagship topics has become the focus of our relationship. It is with a view to achieving such progress that I am here in Washington DC.
- I will be meeting colleagues in many of the most important departments and agencies for science and innovation in the US government. I am looking forward to engaging with representatives of the State Department, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Commerce.
- The European commission also has important cooperative activities with other agencies that I look forward to engaging with personally on future occasions. These include the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Energy, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NASA, the Environmental Protection Agency and others.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Both the EU and the US are facing some daunting economic and social challenges. We are both fighting to retain our competitiveness, and with it our share of world markets. And we are struggling to deliver growth, prosperity and well-being for our citizens.
- To make progress the European Union is determined to invest in its future. We will invest to innovate, and we will innovate to grow. This growth must be sustainable, and accompanied by jobs and improvements in the quality of life that our citizens deserve.
- We will use the Horizon 2020 Programme as the means at EU level. We will bring research and innovation closer together, by providing seamless support from scientific discovery and the conception of new ideas through to market commercialisation.
- Essential to success will be the building of partnerships; between scientific disciplines, academia and industry, the public and private sectors and across borders.
- Among our international relationships, the one between the European Union and the United States will be our top priority.
- So we ask you to join with us in delivering the fruits of the EU-US partnership in research and innovation.
- Thank you for your attention.