



# EU Insight – Conference: Opening up to an ERA of Innovation



Over 600 scientists, innovators, and policy-makers gathered in Brussels for the ERA innovation conference

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On 22 and 23 June, over 600 scientists, innovators, and policy-makers gathered in Brussels, Belgium under the umbrella of the conference “**A new start for Europe: Opening up to an ERA of Innovation**” to discuss Open Science, the European Research Area, and Innovation. Bringing together key players from the fields of research, business and innovation, the conference provided an excellent opportunity to not only forge ideas on how to bring growth and jobs to Europe and to share views on the Innovation Union, but also to network with key stakeholders and decision-makers – and, ultimately, to shape the future of Europe’s research and innovation policy.<sup>1</sup>

## **Commissioner Moedas’ opening speech: Strategic priorities to tackle Europe’s challenges – Open Innovation, Open Science, and Openness to the World<sup>2</sup>**

On 22 June, Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Science, Research and Innovation, opened the conference by summarising the achievements in respect to the creation of the European Research Area and researcher mobility, stating that mobility is becoming a normal part of the career of every researcher which is also underlined by the fact that around one in three EU researchers have been internationally mobile over the last 10 years. Furthermore, he highlighted the eight-fold increase in the number of jobs advertised on the EURAXESS site since 2007, with around 10,000 job offers on any given day.

“I see fantastic strengths in Europe. We are open, we have diversity, we host great institutions. With Horizon 2020, we are funding research on an unprecedented scale.”

**Carlos Moedas**  
*Commissioner for Science, Research and Innovation*

22 June 2015

Opening speech

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“But I would like to go much further and begin building a **global research area**. This will not happen in one step, but through developing partnerships with other areas, such as China, Latin America and the United States.”

Carlos Moedas,  
*Commissioner for Science,  
Research and Innovation*

However, Commissioner Moedas also recognized the three most pressing challenges Europe is facing, i.e. that Europe rarely succeeds in bringing research results to market, that Europe falls behind on the very best science in some areas despite generating more scientific output than any other region in the world, and that Europe punches below its weight in international science and science diplomacy.

To tackle these challenges, the commissioner focused on three strategic priorities, including ‘openness to the world’. Here, he outlined his vision of creating not only a research area on a European scale, but a *global research area*: “This will not happen in one step, but through developing partnerships with other areas, such as China, Latin America and the United States. [...] So, during my mandate I commit myself to launch and expand a series of international initiatives.”

### Live streaming, presentations and the programme

The conference’s website<sup>3</sup> now hosts a number of presentations and speeches as well as the final programme of the conference. Also available are the session recordings of the live streaming, which can be accessed [here](#).



A video showing impressions of the conference can be found [here](#).

### Sources and further information

<sup>1</sup> Conference website: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2015/era-of-innovation/index.cfm>.

<sup>2</sup> Moedas, Carlos. “Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World”. SPEECH/15/5243. 22 June 2015. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_SPEECH-15-5243\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-15-5243_en.htm) . Accessed 20 July 2015.

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 1.