



MINISTÈRE
DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT
SUPÉRIEUR,
DE LA RECHERCHE
ET DE L'INNOVATION

*Liberté
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March 7 and 8, 2022



Ministerial Conference

on a Global Approach to Research,
Innovation and Higher Education

Informational booklet

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Welcoming address

Frédérique Vidal,

Minister of Higher Education,

Research and Innovation



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The efforts made over the last two years have enabled Europe to develop ambitious programmes in the fields of higher education, research and innovation, with the launch of major new initiatives such as the European universities, the European Innovation Council and the European Missions. This is further amplified by the establishment of a new cooperation framework, since we are now relying on a renewed governance of the European research and education areas. The French Presidency is therefore taking place at a key moment, since an implementation phase is now beginning which commits us to making the ambitions of European cooperation a reality.

In terms of higher education, research and innovation, the French Presidency will pursue three objectives:

- Promote European knowledge policies to support economic recovery and the green and digital transitions, by strengthening the synergies between higher education, research, innovation and services to society;
- Affirm the international dimension of these policies in order to contribute to the deployment of European power in the world and to strengthen the attractiveness of Europe for teachers, researchers and students;
- Finally, to deepen the sense of European belonging, by supporting European universities in their action to transmit the European way of life and by removing obstacles to transnational cooperation between institutions in Europe.

In this context, nearly one hundred events will be organised in France, at ministerial level but also many of the French higher education and research establishments and organisations, in order to illustrate how much Europe owes to research and universities. I would like to thank the Commission for its support in preparing this programme.

On behalf of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, I am proud to welcome around 30 delegations to the Palais du Pharo in Marseille to discuss the principles and values of scientific research.

Following the Conference, and on behalf the French Presidency, the “Marseille Declaration on International Cooperation in Research and Innovation” will be made public.

Agenda

Monday 7 March 2022 — Sofitel Marseille Vieux-Port

19:00-22:00 — Informal Welcome Diner

Tuesday 8 March 2022 — Palais du Pharo, Marseille

9:30-10:30 — Arrival of the Delegations

10:30-13:00 — Opening Plenary Session

Frédérique Vidal, Minister for Higher Education, Research and Innovation, France

Jean-Éric Paquet, Director General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Ministerial Debate: Developing the Principles and Values of International Research and Innovation Cooperation

13:00-14:30 — Lunch

14:30-15:00 — Family photo

15:00-16:30 — Parallel Ministerial Workshops:

The Future of International Cooperation in Higher Education, Research and Innovation

A. The Global Outreach of European University Alliances

Chairperson: **Frédérique Vidal**, Minister for Higher Education, Research and Innovation, France

Rapporteur: **Éric Berton**, President of Aix-Marseille University

Guest Speaker: **Slim Khalbous**, Rector of the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie

B. Science Diplomacy

Chairperson: **Vaclav Velcovsky**, Deputy Minister for International Affairs, the European Union and the EU Cohesion Policy Funds, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Czech Republic

Rapporteur: **Michel Miraillet**, Director General for Global Affairs, Culture, Education and International Development, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France

Guest Speaker: **Mathieu Denis**, Acting CEO and Science Director, International Science Council

C. Cooperation with African Research, Innovation and Higher Education

Chairperson: **Samuel Engblom**, State Secretary to Minister for Education, Sweden

Rapporteur: **Valérie Verdier**, CEO, Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD)

Guest Speaker: **Mohamed Belhocine**, Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Commission of the African Union

16:30-17:00 — Coffee break

17:00-18:00 — Closing Plenary Session

Conclusions of the Workshops: **Rapporteurs** of the Workshops

Conclusions of the Day:

Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

Frédérique Vidal, Minister for Higher Education, Research and Innovation, France

18:00 — End of meeting

Institutions and places

This event is co-organised by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Institute of Research for Development (IRD) and the European Commission, with the support of the City of Marseille.

Marseille: a port city open to the world



Marseille is one of the oldest French port cities. As the sumptuous cave paintings in the Cosquer cave in Marseille's creeks testify, the first traces of human occupation date back to the Paleolithic era. However, it was not until the 6th century BC that the city really began to take shape. According to legend, Massalia, which gave Marseille its name, was born from the union of a native princess, Gyptis, with a navigator from Phocaea in Asia Minor, Protis. This union already reflected the opening of the Phocaean city to the world.

From the moment it became part of France in the 15th century, Marseilles stood out for its maritime and commercial dynamism. Its port was the main French outlet to the Mediterranean. Badly hit by the plague epidemic at the beginning of the 18th century, Marseille was able to bounce back and reinvent itself. In 1792, the song of the "federates" soldiers marching from Marseille to Paris to support the Revolution became the French national anthem. The Second Empire marked a new phase of development for the city, which developed its port and rail infrastructures and undertook considerable urban planning work. The imposing Palais du Pharo overlooking the sea, the Cathedral de la Major and the Cathedral of Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde reflect the growth of Marseille during this period.

Today, in order to develop, Marseille relies on the knowledge economy, research, port logistics, new technologies and digital technology, but on its cultural vitality and its tourist assets.

Architectural and cultural wealth

Formed in the heart of a natural inlet, the city of Marseille today has a rich and varied architectural heritage. The Panier district, the Old Port, the Cathedral of La Major, the Basilica of Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde, the Palais du Pharo and the Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations (Mucem) are among the city's must-see sites. It is in one of these places, the Palais du Pharo, that the Marseille conference is held.

The Pharo Palace

The Pharo Palace was originally an imperial residence built in 1858 under Napoleon III. After the death of the emperor in 1873, the Pharo was used as a hospital. In 1905, the palace became home to the “École du Pharo”, a military school specialising in teaching and research in tropical medicine, and then evolved into the “Institut de médecine tropicale”. Until 2013, the Pharo was home to many doctors, pharmacists, and civilian or military technicians working in the overseas territories. It was the only military institute in Europe specialising in the field of tropical medicine. Today, the palace belongs to the city of Marseille and is a venue for conferences.



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European Commission - Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD)

The European Commission’s Directorate-General for Research and Innovation is responsible for the European Union’s research, science and innovation policy. This policy aims to promote growth and employment and to address major societal challenges.



Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD)

Internationally recognised, the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) is a multidisciplinary organisation whose objective is to support the development of Mediterranean and intertropical countries. It is under the dual authority of the Ministries of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and of Europe and Foreign Affairs. The IRD’s headquarters are located in Marseille.



Biographies of the speakers

Mohamed Belhocine

Trained as a medical doctor, Mohamed Belhocine held various positions in Algeria before joining the international civil service in 1997. Formerly Director of the Division of Non-Communicable Diseases at the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Africa, he also served as WHO Representative in Nigeria and Tanzania. He ended his career as UN System Coordinator and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Tunisia from 2009 to 2013. After retirement, he worked as an international consultant in public health and development. From June 2015 to February 2016, he returned to work as the WHO representative in Guinea, and played an active role in the fight against the Ebola epidemic. In the context of the Covid-19 crisis, he was appointed as a member of the scientific committee for the follow-up of the pandemic, and entrusted by the President of the Republic with the follow-up unit for epidemiological investigations. In October 2021, he was elected as Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation at the African Union.

Éric Berton

Since 2020, Éric Berton has been the President of Aix-Marseille University (AMU). He also chairs the A*Midex Foundation, the Protisvalor subsidiary of Aix-Marseille University and the Impulse incubator. Holder of a Doctorate in fluid mechanics, he began his career as a researcher. His research earned him several major scientific awards, including the bronze medal from the CNRS. In 2002, he was appointed professor at the University of Aix-Marseille where he initiated work in the field of biomechanics and developed relations between the University and companies. In 2008, he created a chair of excellence in association with the industrial group Oxyane. Elected dean of the Faculty of Sports Sciences of Aix-Marseille in 2010, he joined the governance of the newly created Aix-Marseille University in 2012 as Vice-president of "Valorisation and Innovation". He also took over the management of the Institute of Movement Sciences. In 2019, he created the Cité de l'Innovation et des Savoirs d'Aix-Marseille (CISAM), which brings together the actors of the innovation ecosystem in the Aix-Marseille metropolis. During his career, Éric Berton has received several awards, including the Medal of the University of the Mediterranean, the Officer of the Order of Academic Palms and the "Chevalier" of the French Legion of Honour.

Mathieu Denis

Mathieu Denis currently serves as Acting CEO and Science Director of the International Science Council (ISC). Before being appointed Scientific Director of the ISC in July 2018, Mathieu Denis was Executive Director of the International Social Science Council (ISSC). He holds a PhD from Humboldt University in Berlin and previously taught history, political theory and industrial relations at the Université du Québec à Montréal and the Université de Montréal. As a post-doctoral researcher, Mathieu Denis contributed to the 2010 World Social Science Report. He then joined the ISSC in 2012 as Scientific Officer. Prior to joining the ISSC, Mathieu Denis worked as a researcher at the Berlin Social Science Centre and the Canadian Centre for German and European Studies.

Samuel Engblom

Since 2021, Samuel Engblom has been State Secretary to the Minister of Education in Sweden. He previously worked at the Swedish Confederation of Professionals first as a legal adviser, then as chief legal adviser and finally as policy director. Before obtaining his doctorate in law in 2003 from the European University Institute in Florence, Samuel Engblom was advisor to the Prime Minister from 1997 to 1998 and deputy president of the Swedish National Union of Students from 1996 to 1997.

Mariya Gabriel

Mariya Gabriel is the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education, Youth and Sport. Under her leadership, the new Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, and the cultural strand of Creative Europe programmes (2021-2027) will be defined and implemented.

Between 2017 and 2019, Mariya Gabriel was European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society. She proposed the new Digital Europe programme, worked on EU Strategy on AI, disinformation online, cybersecurity and launched the EuroHPC strategy. She has extensively engaged with external EU partners to enhance digital cooperation, in particular with the Western Balkans and Africa.

She was elected as Member of the European Parliament (MEP) in 2009, 2014 and 2019. Mariya Gabriel is First Vice-President of the European People's Party (EPP), and, since 2012, Vice-President of EPP Women.

She holds a Master's degree in political sciences and international relations from the Institute of Political Studies (Bordeaux, France) and a Bachelor's degree in Bulgarian and French Languages from "Paisii Hilendarski" University (Plovdiv, Bulgaria).

Slim Khalbous

Elected in 2019, Slim Khalbous is currently the rector of the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF). He is also a university professor, holding a doctorate in management sciences, a postgraduate diploma (DEA) in business management and a DEA in political science. He has been teaching for 25 years and is a permanent professor in Tunisian universities and guest professor in several universities in France, Morocco and Lebanon. He was also elected Dean of HEC Tunis - Université de Carthage from 2011 to 2016. He has published several articles in the field of intercultural management, entrepreneurship and marketing communication. From 2016 to 2019, Slim Khalbous held the position of Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Tunisia and in parallel that of interim Minister of Education. In addition, Slim Khalbous is a founding entrepreneur of two companies in the field of strategic development, market research, communication and ICT.

Michel Miraillet

Since March 2020, Michel Miraillet has been Director General for Global affairs, Culture, Education and international development (DGM) at the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. He was previously Ambassador of France to the Federative Republic of Brazil since 2017, and before that Ambassador to the State of the United Arab Emirates, between 2013 and 2017. A career diplomat, Michel Miraillet has held several positions abroad, in Israel (2001-2004), Cairo (1995-1997) and New York for example. From 1998 to 2002, he was deputy director in charge of sensitive transfers and arms export control. From 2004 to 2006, he joined the General Directorate of Administration of the Quai d'Orsay. Michel Miraillet is also a "Chevalier" of the Frenche Legion of Honour and the National Order of Merit.

Jean-Éric Paquet

Since April 2018, Jean-Éric Paquet has been the head of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD). Before starting his professional career, Jean-Éric Paquet studied European affairs at the College of Europe in Bruges and German at the Robert Schuman University in Strasbourg. In 1993, Jean-Éric Paquet joined the European Commission. He worked in the Directorate-General for Transport and the Directorate-General for Enlargement. He was also EU Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania from 2004 to 2007. His involvement in EU research policy dates back to 2002, as Deputy Head of Cabinet to Philippe Busquin, then Commissioner for Research and Development.

Václav Velčovský

Václav Velčovský, Ph.D., is Vice-minister in charge of International Affairs, Europe and Structural Funds at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, since 2015.

He graduated from Charles University where he obtained his doctorate in 2012 from the Faculty of Pedagogy for his work on issues related to language policy in the Czech territories from the 18th to the 20th century. Throughout his career, he has mainly been working for the Czech national authorities (international affairs representative at the Ministry of Interior, Department Director for Legislative Framework and State Development at the Office of the Government), while pursuing research and teaching activities and on topics related to linguistic issues (Charles University).

Valérie Verdier

Valérie Verdier, Director of Research at the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), has been President and CEO of the IRD since February 2020. She provides a strategic framework for the Institute's scientific policy, in the service of sustainable development and an equitable partnership with researchers and research institutions in developing countries. A plant pathologist, Valérie Verdier holds a doctorate in plant sciences from the University of Paris-Sud (1988). She is internationally recognised for her work on the interactions between phytopathogenic bacteria that cause epidemics in tropical crops, the understanding of which is a crucial issue for food security. Valérie Verdier has alternated between long and short stays abroad during her career. In 2010, the Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellowship from the European Commission allowed her to conduct a project at Colorado State University in the United States. She was made a "Chevalier" of the French Legion of honour in 2016 and in 2021 she was made an Officer in the National Order of Merit.

Frédérique Vidal

Before being appointed as the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Frédérique Vidal had been the President of the University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis (UNS) since 2012.

She holds a master's degree in biochemistry from the University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis, a post-graduate degree from the Institut Pasteur and a doctorate from the University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis where she became a lecturer in 1995.

Since 2004, Frédérique Vidal has been a professor of biochemistry, molecular and cell biology at the UNS.

In addition, she was Associate Dean of the Department of Life Sciences from 2007 to 2009 and was appointed Research Assessor to the Dean of the Faculty and then Dean of the Department in 2009.

Previously, she was responsible for internships before becoming the Deputy Director of the post-graduate diploma in Pharmacology.

After being an outside member of the Inserm Regional Scientific Council from 1999 to 2003, Frédérique Vidal has been on the assessment panel for the master's degree in virology at the UPMC-Paris Diderot-Institut Pasteur since 2004. She was also co-responsible for the European Tempus project in relation to the implementation of the LMD system in the Balkans, from 2006 to 2009.

Frédérique Vidal has been a "Chevalier" of the French Legion of Honour since 2013.



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