Launching ceremony of EU-India Science and Innovation Flagship Call on Water
3 November 2017

Opening address
by Mr. Tomasz Kozlowski, Ambassador of the European Union

Dear Ms Relia and colleagues from DST and DBT,
Dear colleagues from Member States,
Scientists, Researchers and Innovators,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is my great pleasure to welcome you all today at the Launch and Networking Event on the India-EU Flagship Call on Water.
- Building on past good cooperation and the need to speed up India's objectives for clean water and access of water to all, our Leaders, at the India-EU Summit held in New Delhi on 6 October 2017, confirmed the commitment to organise a joint call on research and innovation on Water.

- Less than a month later, I have the honour and pleasure to open the Information session and Brokerage event on this flagship call.
- Let me first take the opportunity to thank the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Biotechnology for the good cooperation in preparing this call and to join forces on the promotion and co-branding of this call.
- This is a good illustration that the call is not only joint with respect to the funding: in total 30 million euros (or about ₹ 225 crore) of which 15 million euro will be funded by Europe and 15 million by India, but it also shows that we are recognising each other's scientific excellence in the field of water and that we are committed to strengthen our cooperation.
- From the side of the European Union, there can be no doubt that we are committed to the theme of Water with India.
- Following the EU-India Summit in 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in October 2016 creating the India-EU Water Partnership.
- This Partnership brings all the relevant stakeholders together and allows exchanging views on regulatory approaches, including on procurement, governance, best

practices, and business solutions in the field of water, taking into account lessons learnt in the implementation of the EU's legislation on water.

- This partnership also recognises the need to strengthen efforts on research and innovation and join forces to address the challenges related to water.
- And I believe strongly that cooperation among different countries is the only way forward to speed up the way to common solutions for our common challenges.
- This is exactly what you will be doing today: joining forces, by bringing research institutes, universities and industry from both Europe and India together to enhance transfer of scientific knowledge and improve technological development to better cope with the stress on water resources.
- I would like to insist that this call should focus on technological development. It is also important that the technology is made affordable.
- This is why it is important that industry and small and medium sized enterprises also have a place in the consortia that you will start making today.
- I would also like to call on the cooperation of the members of the EU funded project TECO who met yesterday.

- The network of scientist which results from this project is a perfect bridge to other actions and initiatives on Water such as this flagship call. It is also another good example of joining forces.
- Allow me to thank the Italian coordinator of this project for the excellent work so far.
- The European Union has more to offer on joint cooperation on research and innovation.
- On 27 October 2017, the European Commission published calls for the remaining period of the research and innovation framework programme 'Horizon 2020'.
- The Work programmes 2018-2020 amount to 30 billion euro funding opportunities, has, including 2.7 billion euro for the kick-off of a European Innovation Council.
- The EU-India Water call is part of this package.
- But there are many more calls on common societal challenges that should be of interest to EU-India cooperation: on Energy to increase capacity in Renewable Energy; on Health to combat chronic and non- chronic disease affecting the world population; on Nano-technology and the Bio-economy, to give a few examples.
- I sincerely hope that we will continue to work further together to upscale the co-funding mechanism in a large number of other calls.

- And for this, we count equally on you, scientists and innovators, to find the way to participate in our research and Innovation programme Horizon 2020.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- My role is to encourage you to look actively for research and innovation opportunities in Horizon 2020 in general to achieve your individual and our common goals.
- I am sure that this event today will mark the beginning of an important milestone in India - EU cooperation on research and innovation in general and on Water in particular.
- I am sure that at the end of the day you will have a clearer idea on what this flagship call is all about and that you will be eager to start with making proposals.
- With these words, I am wishing you a successful and productive day.

  Thank you very much.