

Letter of Intent between the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, the Italian Ministry of University and Research and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

- The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (the JRC), as the European Commission's in-house science service, provides independent, evidence-based knowledge and science, supporting EU policies to positively impact society;
- the German Ministry of Research, Technology and Space is responsible for designing and implementing national research, technology and space related policies, including the preparation of corresponding legal frameworks and policy support instruments;
- the Italian Ministry of University and Research is responsible for designing and implementing national university and research related policies, including the preparation of corresponding legal frameworks and policy support instruments;

are hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Participants”.

The Participants recognize that

1. Knowledge-intensive science, research and the exchange of scientific data and exchanges amongst scientists are preconditions for Europe's competitiveness and societal resilience;
2. A holistic, forward-thinking, and people-centered approach to science and research activities is critical to the trust of citizens in policy making;
3. More efforts and concrete initiatives are needed in the European Union to strengthen the cooperation between regional, national and European scientific actors in support of a truly European innovation ecosystem, to nurture better informed policy making and render our societies more resilient against internal and external shocks;
4. Germany and Italy as founding members of the European Union highlight their responsibility to actively contribute to the emergence of such a European-wide innovation ecosystem.

This Letter of Intent expresses the Participants' common intention to intensify their cooperation, and to foster scientific collaboration involving the JRC, German and Italian

scientific entities.

Accordingly, the Participants intend to deepen their cooperation in a limited number of policy areas of mutual interest, where their respective expertise and capabilities would greatly complement and strengthen each other.

The possible fields of enhanced cooperation should acknowledge relevant national and European Union level policies and strategies.

The Participants reaffirm the importance of Science for Policy, namely the provision of scientific and technical support for the conception, development, implementation and monitoring of European Union policies. In this context, the Participants welcome the opportunities offered by the JRC to provide access to its research infrastructures, to receive visiting scientists, and to host scientists from Germany and Italy. The Participants also share an interest in the mutual exchange of information and data.

A deepened cooperation between the JRC and the German and Italian scientific communities should act as a catalyst for similar actions across the Union.

The Participants will also consider strengthening cooperation with other Member States of the European Union based on mutual interest. To this end, the Participants intend to share information on the opportunities offered by the JRC and encourage interested Member States to engage with the Participants.

In addition, the Participants jointly decide to support joint communication efforts to foster citizens' trust in informed policy making.

To effectively launch future joint scientific research activities, it will be instrumental that the German Ministry of Research, Technology and Space Research and the Italian Ministry of University and Research facilitate contacts with interested German and Italian scientific entities.

Any specific activities arising from the endeavors of the Participants pursuant to this Letter of Intent, in particular specific scientific collaboration activities set up between the JRC and German and/or Italian scientific entities, will be subject to the applicable legal and administrative framework and to the availability of resources. The specific extent and conditions for each scientific collaboration will be determined by mutual agreement between the JRC and the corresponding German and Italian scientific entities. They will be framed by an appropriate instrument (e.g. a collaboration agreement) stipulated by the signatories, which will define the respective roles and any necessary technical and legal aspects.

This Letter of Intent is not legally binding and does not constitute an agreement under international or domestic law. The shared visions expressed herein reflect the shared goodwill and strategic priorities of the Participants.

For the German Ministry of
Research,
Technology and Space Research

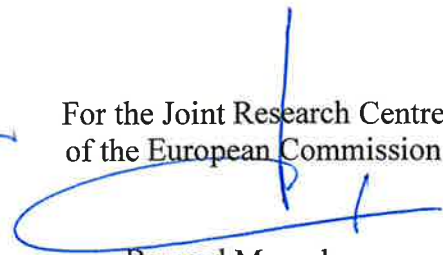
Dorothee Bär, MdB
(Minister of Research,
Technology and Space)

Date: 21 October 2026

For the Italian Ministry of
University and Research

Anna Maria Bernini
(Minister of University and
Research)

Date: 21 October 2026

For the Joint Research Centre
of the European Commission

Bernard Magenhann
(Director-General)

Date: 21 October 2026