

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner Carlos Moedas  
Head of Cabinet

*Car. Moedas*  
*Ricerca*  
*per segreti* P

19 MARS 2015

Bruxelles,  
Ares (2015)

1208377

Gentile Ambasciatore,

A seguito della Sua lettera del 23 dicembre 2014, comprensiva del Programma Congiunto dell'iniziativa PRIMA e della lettera di accompagnamento del Ministro dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca, Stefania Giannini, ho l'onore di trasmetterle la risposta del Commissario per la Ricerca, la Scienza e l'Innovazione, Signor Carlos Moedas.

La prego di accogliere i miei più cordiali saluti.

*A. L. V. L.*

António Vicente

Capo di Gabinetto del Commissario Carlos Moedas

Ambasciatore Marco Peronaci  
Rappresentante Permanente Aggiunto  
Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia presso l'Unione Europea  
Rue du Marteau 5-11  
1000 Bruxelles  
Belgio

CARLOS MOEDAS

*Member of the European Commission*

Brussels,  
Ares (2015)

19 MARS 2015  
1208377

Dear Minister Giannini,

*Dear Stefania,*

I would like to thank you for sending me the proposal of the PRIMA joint programme. Let me also express my appreciation for the good work carried out by the Italian Presidency under your leadership that has resulted in the adoption of Council Conclusions on PRIMA in December.

As the Council Conclusions indicate, stability, prosperity and a sustainable economic development and job creation in partner countries of the Southern Mediterranean are of mutual benefit. I am convinced that through research and innovation we can promote these developments and fully grasp the potential of "science diplomacy" to deliver critical solutions on food and water issues for the region.

Against this background and considering the political importance of the issues at stake, I decided to immediately set the wheels in motion and launch concrete actions in order to lay the foundations for this renewed research and innovation partnership with the Southern Mediterranean countries.

First, I asked my services to initiate an Article 185 procedure based on the PRIMA proposal.

Second, and in parallel, I will explore the possibility of a European Joint Programming co-fund action in the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-2017.

To ensure sustained success, as underlined by you at the recent Palermo Ministerial conference, it is critical from the outset to fully involve the Agriculture Ministers of the Mediterranean countries and their research bodies and initiatives.

By building this initiative on solid foundations, I believe that we will be in a position to enhance our research and innovation cooperation on food and water issues, as a visible deliverable to the forthcoming revision of the European Neighbourhood Policy. I am confident that you will also support an enhanced role for research and innovation in this context.

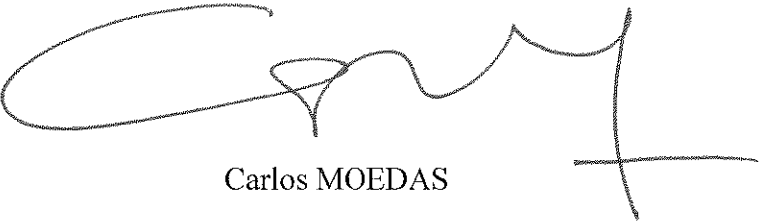
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Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca  
To the attention of Minister Stefania Giannini  
Viale Trastevere, 76a  
00153 Rome, Italy

I will personally follow the developments of these initiatives and I remain committed to give them the necessary political impetus towards a renewed Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

Yours sincerely,

*Kindest and warm regards.*



Carlos MOEDAS

**cc:**

Ms Marite Seile  
Minister for Education and Science  
Latvia

Ms Najat Vallaud-Belkacem  
Minister of Education, Higher Education and Research  
France

Mr Nuno Crato  
Minister of Science and Education  
Portugal

Ms Carmen Vela Olmo  
State Secretary for Research, Development and Innovation  
Spain

Mr Christos Vasilakos  
Secretary General for Research and Technology  
Ministry Education and Religious Affairs  
Greece

Mr Chris Agius  
Parliamentary Secretary for Research,  
Innovation, Youth and Sport  
Malta

Mr George Georghiou  
Permanent Secretary of the Directorate General for European Programmes,  
Coordination and Development  
Cyprus