



EU - US - CANADA TRANSATLANTIC OCEAN RESEARCH ALLIANCE

ARCTIC WORKING GROUP

# Arctic Workshop of the Transatlantic Ocean Research Alliance

29-30 March 2017, Brussels

Venue: [Covent Garden building, Place Charles Rogier 16, 1210 Brussels](#)

## Synopsis

The rapid changes in the Arctic are impacting its fragile ecosystem and have consequences for the people living in the Arctic. On a broader scale, Arctic change is influencing global changes such as the climate system and the sea level. Arctic research and observation are therefore essential for monitoring and predicting the evolution of these changes.

The Arctic, through its interplay with the Atlantic Ocean, is a region of interest of the EU-US-Canada Transatlantic Ocean Research Alliance launched by the trilateral Galway declaration in May 2013. The Alliance triggered the decision to invest in a broad package of Arctic research activities in the Work Programme 2016-17 of Horizon 2020. Three large research projects focussing on developing an integrated Arctic Observing system and on the effects of Arctic change on lower latitudes have already been selected for funding and will start their work in late 2016. All three projects have a broad transnational partnership.

Therefore, the European Commission has decided to organise an Arctic Workshop under the Transatlantic Ocean Research Alliance flag to build on this positive momentum and to further the scientific partnerships in the Arctic between the EU, the US, Canada and beyond. The Arctic Workshop will be co-chaired by the three chairs of the EU-US-Canada Arctic Working Group.

Moreover, the Arctic Workshop will also contribute to the establishment of strategies and international efforts to work on some of the deliverables identified at the recent White House Arctic Science Ministerial which took place on 28th September 2016. In particular, the discussion will focus on developing an integrated Arctic observing system and on advancing towards the provision of sustained Arctic observations.

The morning of day-one will show-case the main projects and initiatives taking place in Europe, the United States, and Canada. The afternoon of the day-one will focus on identifying "*Key Arctic Change variables for an integrated Arctic observing system serving scientific and operational purposes*". The morning of day-two will be dedicated to a discussion on the "*Status of data availability and strategies to build an integrated data access platform*". The objective of these discussion sessions is to benefit from the outcomes of initiatives which are already more advanced in their implementation and to compare the different approaches in order to build synergies, avoid duplication of efforts and to identify eventual gaps. The expected conclusions will contribute to the identification of future concrete actions for collaboration addressing the priorities set out in the context of the Transatlantic Ocean Research Alliance and, more broadly, the White House Arctic Science Ministerial.

The afternoon of the day-two will focus on the identification of strategies and mechanisms to facilitate international Arctic science cooperation. The aim is to draft a white paper to be finalised in the weeks following the workshop.