

A photograph showing two people in dark suits shaking hands. The background features a large, complex sculpture of interconnected spheres and rods, resembling a molecular model or a network structure, set against a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

# A Science Diplomacy Approach for Belgium?!

▶ Royal Library, Brussels, 01/12/2016

# Welcome

- ▶ **our assignment of today = reflect on**  
**how** to best ***link*** science and innovation cooperation  
***with*** diplomacy and political influence
  
- ▶ **European Commission**
  - Moedas: [a Science & Innovation policy 'open to the world'](#)
  - Mogherini: [a Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy](#)
  
- ▶ **Challenge:**
  - Structure of the Belgian state and the distribution of competencies
  - Reflect now on the 'if' and 'how' of a science diplomacy approach

# Science diplomacy: three in one

- ▶ **Diplomacy for science:**

  - Diplomatic activities facilitate scientific activities

- ▶ **Science for diplomacy**

  - Scientific channels/activities are used for diplomatic purposes

- ▶ **Science in diplomacy**

  - Scientific advice supports political decision making

- ▶ **BUT: difficult balancing act !**

# Today's programme (1)

## ▶ **The EU Approach to Science Diplomacy**

→ dr. Kostas Glinos, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission

## ▶ **Concept and best practices**

→ Science and Diplomacy – a new dimension in International Relations  
prof. dr. Pierre-Bruno Ruffini, Université du Havre (FR)

→ The SESAME research infrastructure  
dr. Zehra Sayers, Sabanci University (TR)

→ Science Diplomacy and International Projects at FECYT  
dr. Guillermo Orts-Gil, Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT), Embassy of Spain in Germany (ES)

## ▶ **Presentation of the “European Leadership in Cultural, Science and Innovation Diplomacy” project**

→ prof. dr. Luk Van Langenhove, Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

# Today's programme (2)

## ▶ Panel discussion

→ Moderator: prof. dr. Caterina Carta, Vesalius College & Vrije Universiteit Brussel

→ Questions:

- × Rationale for Science Diplomacy Strategy for Belgium
- × How to reconcile perspectives of research and diplomacy
- × Roles of different actors
- × Global, regional or bilateral approach?
- × Hindering factors
- × Success factors and best practices
- × Initiatives: who, what, ...?

## ▶ Wrap-up

→ prof. dr. Richard Higgot, Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

## ▶ Closure

→ Dr. Frank Monteny, Belgian Science Policy Office

# Belgian institutional context

## Federal level

BELGIUM  
THE FEDERAL STATE



## Community level

THE FLEMISH  
COMMUNITY



THE FRENCH  
COMMUNITY



THE GERMAN-SPEAKING  
COMMUNITY



## Regional level

THE FLEMISH  
REGION



THE BRUSSELS-CAPITAL  
REGION



THE WALLOON  
REGION



*No hierarchy between the levels !*

Science policy domain:

- Some Dedicated programmes
- Federal scientific institutes
- Space & Nuclear energy research

External relations policy domain:

- Representation of Belgium abroad
- Diplomatic agreements

Science policy domain:

- Basic research
- (international) S&I agreements

External relations policy domain:

- Representation of Flanders abroad
- International (Bilateral) agreements

Science policy domain:

- Applied Science
- (international) S&I agreements

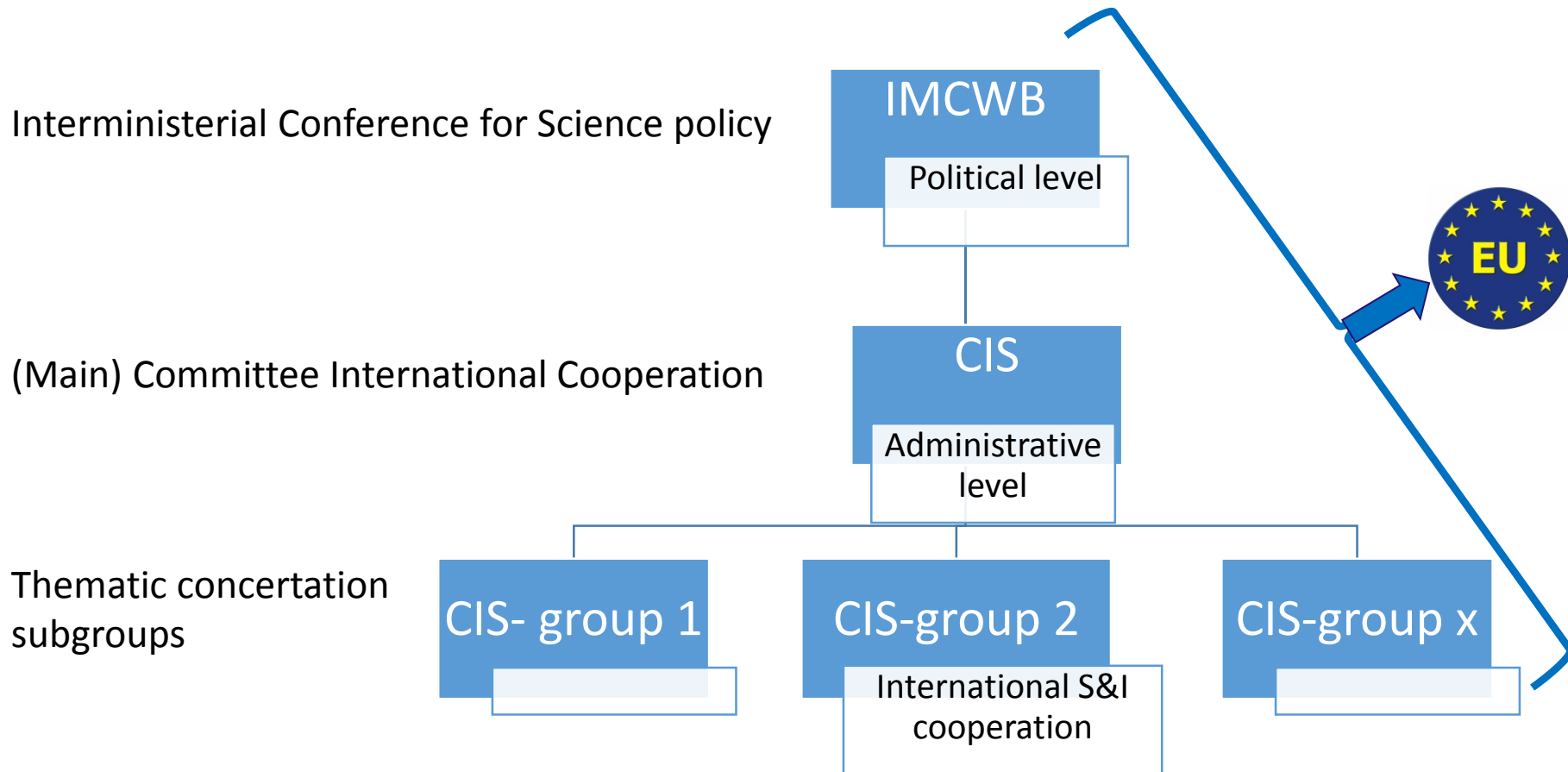
Innovation policy domain:

- Direct support and infrastructure

External relations policy domain:

- Foreign Trade and Investment
- International (Bilateral) agreements

# Intra-Belgian concertation platform



Each Belgian federated entity is represented according to the intra-Belgian competency distribution.

# Thanks to all

- ▶ the speakers, moderator and panellists
- ▶ all participants
- ▶ the organisers (and their sponsors).



Brigitte Decadt  
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