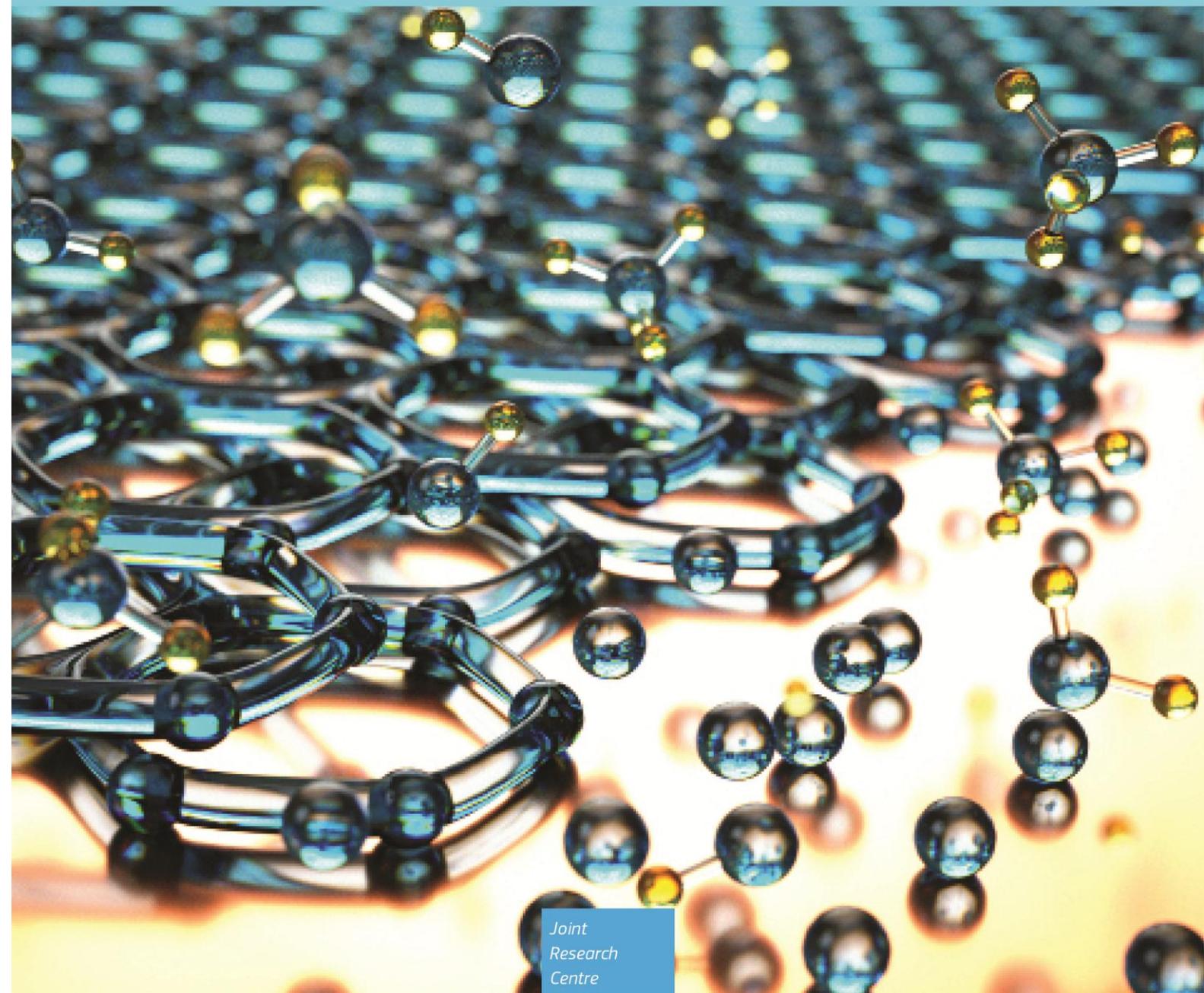


European
Commission

Science & Policy: What's on the EU's agenda?

March 2015



Joint
Research
Centre



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Policy Support Coordination
International, Interinstitutional and Stakeholder Relations

SCIENCE & POLICY: WHAT'S ON THE EU'S AGENDA?

9 March 2015

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1. Activities of the European Institutions

1.1 European Commission

Date	Event	Subject
10 March	College Meeting	

1.2 Council

Date	Event	Venue/Location
2-3 March	Competitiveness Council	Brussels
5 March	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council	Brussels
6 March	Environment Council	Brussels
9 March	Eurogroup	Brussels
9 March	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council	Brussels
10 March	Economic and Financial Affairs Council	Brussels
12-13 March	Justice and Home Affairs Council	Brussels
13 March	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council	Brussels
16 March	Foreign Affairs Council	Brussels
16-17 March	Agriculture and Fisheries Council	Brussels
17 March	General Affairs Council	Brussels
19-20 March	European Council	Brussels

1.3 European Parliament

Plenary Sessions

Date	Event	Subject	Venue/Location
9-12 March	EP Plenary session	European Council and Commission statements - Preparation for the European Council meeting (19-20 March 2015); European semester; European long-term investment funds;	Strasbourg
25 March	EP Plenary session	European Council and Commission statements - Conclusions of the European Council meeting of 19-20 March 2015	Brussels

Committee Meetings

9 March	Committee on Industry, Research and Energy - Extraordinary meeting	European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)	Strasbourg
9 March	Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	Exchange of views with Mr Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Better	Strasbourg

	- Extraordinary meeting	Regulation, Inter-Institutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights Green Employment Initiative: Tapping into the job creation potential of the green economy	
18 March	Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	Agenda not yet available	Brussels
23-24 March	Committee on Industry, Research and Energy	Agenda not yet available	Brussels
26 March	Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	Agenda not yet available	Brussels

[All European Parliament Committee meetings](#)

Events organised in the EP

30 March	<u>Interparliamentary committee meeting (the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and Members of national Parliaments)</u>	"From COP 21 Paris to 2050: a roadmap towards an innovative low-carbon, resource-efficient Europe"	Brussels
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1.4 International Relations

Date	Event	Venue/Location
17-19 April	<u>Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)</u>	Washington, D.C., USA
22 April	<u>College-to-College meeting between the European Commission and the African Union Commission</u>	TBC
21-22 May	<u>Eastern Partnership summit</u>	Riga, Latvia
2-3 June	<u>OECD Forum 2015</u>	Paris, France
7-8 June	<u>The 41st G7 Summit</u>	Schloss Elmau, Germany
10-11 June	<u>EU-CELAC Summit</u>	Brussels, Belgium
9-11 October	<u>2015 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund</u>	Lima, Peru

2. Conferences & Meetings

2.1 European Conferences and Meetings

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
6 March	High level meeting on Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation: Challenges and Monitoring Implementation	JRC	Seville, Spain
17 March	Conference: Innovation in a European Digital Single Market - The Role of Patents	JRC	Brussels, Belgium
28-29 April	EARTO-EIRMA Joint Conference 2015 "Infrastructures and Resources Sharing between Industry & RTOs in Europe"	EARTO and EIRMA	Luxembourg
25-29 May	2015 Geospatial World Forum – INSPIRE conference (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe)	Geospatial Media and Communications; European Commission / INSPIRE	Lisbon, Portugal
1-4 June	23rd European Biomass Conference and Exhibition 2015	Technical Programme coordinator: JRC; Event supported by: European Commission, UNESCO, EUBIA, WCRE	Vienna, Austria
3-4 June	European Development Days	European Commission	Brussels, Belgium
4-5 June	Week of Innovative Regions in Europe (WIRE 2015)		Riga, Latvia
10-12 June	EuroNanoForum 2015		Riga, Latvia
23-26 June	R&D Management conference "(Fast?) Connecting R&D"	Istituto di Management, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna	Pisa, Italy
14-18 September	EU PVSEC 2015 (European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition)	Technical Programme coordinator: JRC	Hamburg, Germany
Further upcoming JRC events			

2.2 International Conferences

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
9-12 March	UNCCD 3rd International Scientific Conference	UNCCD	Cancún, Mexico
14 – 18 March 2015	3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction JRC participation at the Conference	Coordinating body: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)	Sendai City, Japan
30-31 March	XIX Edoardo Amaldi Conference - International Cooperation for Enhancing Nuclear Safety, Security, Safeguards and Non-proliferation	Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in cooperation with the JRC	Rome, Italy
23-30 April	Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) 2015		Toyama, Japan
1 May - 31 October	The EU at Expo Milano 2015		Milano, Italy
27-28 May	Clean Energy Ministerial 6 (CEM6)	Hosted by the government of Mexico	Mérida, Mexico
23-25 June	Global Space Innovation Conference (GLIC 2015)	IAF, the German Aerospace Center (DLR), the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Media, Energy and Technology	Munich, Germany
7-10 July	"Our Common Future Under Climate Change" - International Scientific Conference	ICSU	Paris, France
13-16 July	UN Conference on Financing for Development	UN	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
12-23 October	Twelfth session of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Conference of the Parties	UN	Ankara, Turkey
4-7 November	World Science Forum 2015 Theme: "The Enabling Power of Science"	Hosted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in partnership with UNESCO, ICSU, AAAS, TWAS and EASAC	Budapest, Hungary
30 November – 11 December	United Nations Climate Change Conference	United Nations Office for disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)	Sendai City, Japan

3. JRC News

2014 | [JRC Annual Report](#)

January 2015 | [JRC Newsletter](#)

Open | [The EU is recruiting researchers - Call for expressions of interest](#)

26 February 2015 | [Creative and cultural industries: what impact on cities' economic and social development?](#)

A JRC-hosted roundtable on creative and cultural industries on 25 February brought together policy- and law-makers, as well as cultural associations and foundations and other stakeholders, who discussed how to measure the impact of this remarkably dynamic and innovative sector.

25 February 2015 | [Technology transfer - paving the way for advanced manufacturing](#)

How technology transfer activities can help EU industry and manufacturing SMEs to adopt advanced and clean manufacturing technologies was the main question of today's workshop, organised by the JRC in cooperation with the European Factories of the Future Research Association (EFFRA).

25 February 2015 | [The JRC and COST kick-start a scientific cooperation](#)

The JRC and the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) association today agreed on cooperation in a range of fields of common interest, including environment and climate change, energy, transport, agriculture and food security, health and consumer protection, information society, technological advances, innovation and standardisation.

24 February 2015 | [Geothermal energy – new report analyses the sector](#)

A new JRC report analyses the geothermal energy sector in the EU, assessing the status of the technology, ongoing developments, related policies and markets.

23 February 2015 | [Weakly hardened winter cereals in Europe](#)

The latest MARS Crop monitoring in Europe bulletin, published today, reports that winter cereals remain weakly hardened in much of Europe, and therefore more exposed to frost-kill damage.

20 February 2015 | [8th Summer School: Actinide Science & Applications \(15-19 June 2015\) - Registration Now Open](#)

Registration Now Open! - Every two years the JRC-ITU organises Summer Schools on Actinide Science at its laboratories in Karlsruhe. Young researchers from all over the world have participated in lectures, laboratory visits and demonstrations. The 8th Summer School will be held from the 15th to the 19th of June 2015.

17 February 2015	JRC's contribution to the production of neutron standards and covariance data
<i>The contribution of JRC to the development of methods for the production of covariance data and new standards for neutron induced reactions were published in Nuclear Data Sheets. The papers were presented at the 3rd International Workshop on Nuclear Data Covariances, April 28 - May 1, 2014, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA.</i>	
16 February 2015	The erosive force of rainfall is the harshest in southern Europe
<i>Rainfall is more likely to cause soil erosion in the Mediterranean and Alpine regions than in Northern Europe. This becomes evident from a new set of data that the JRC has collected on the erosive force of rainfall in different parts of Europe.</i>	
13 February 2015	EU Presidency fosters partnerships for smart specialisation
<i>The joint Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG Regional and Urban Policy) and JRC's Smart Specialisation Platform is the main tool to support regional and national authorities in designing their related strategies.</i>	
13 February 2015	JRC contributes to the Golden Rice project to fight vitamin A deficiency in Asia
<i>In collaboration with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), based in the Philippines, scientists at the Molecular Biology and Genomics Unit of the JRC developed a quantitative PCR detection method in support to the authorisation for cultivation of a rice variety producing provitamin A in the grain. This variety of rice would be cultivated in the Philippines and in other countries of the region (e.g. Vietnam and Bangladesh).</i>	
11 February 2015	JRC supports biosafety capacity building in Tunisia
<i>In the frame of JRC's international GMO testing capacity building activity, a delegation of Tunisian scientists and representatives from several ministries, members of the Tunisian Bio-safety commission, met with JRC experts in Ispra from 11 to 13 February to exchange information and share expertise on harmonisation of GMO detection and analysis.</i>	
10 February 2015	Call for collaborations on the new JRC-IPTS research in Open Education -- MOOCKnowledge
<i>Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) constitute one of the most discussed trends in Open Education in postsecondary education institutions. The Institute for Prospective Technological Studies of the Joint Research Centre (JRC-IPTS) is looking for collaborators to produce a large knowledge base for MOOC providers covering all relevant topics to analyse this phenomenon from a European perspective.</i>	
10 February 2015	Food security situation in North Korea
<i>The JRC collaborated with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on a recent outlook report, covering the period between October 2014 and November 2015, which predicts that a continued food security crisis situation will affect most households in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in 2015.</i>	
10 February 2015	Open-access satellite data for biodiversity conservation
<i>The JRC recently published a paper highlighting the importance of free open-access satellite data for biodiversity conservation.</i>	
10 February 2015	Happy Onlife! Play and learn how to have a healthy digital life
<i>Today, on the occasion of the 2015 Safer Internet Day, the JRC presents Happy Onlife; an interactive game for children and adults, aimed at raising awareness of the risks and opportunities of the internet and promoting the best practices online.</i>	

**9 February
2015**

[Guidance to report on land use, land-use change and forestry emissions](#)

A recent JRC report finds that EU Member States will face some challenges in meeting the new reporting and accounting requirements for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals from the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector, both under the Kyoto Protocol and under recent EU legislation.

**6 February
2015**

[New map quantifies urbanisation in Europe](#)

Covering all rural and urban areas in the EU, the new European settlement map created by the JRC provides the first comprehensive overview of all built-up areas in Europe.

**6 February
2015**

[New guidelines to enhance GMO testing across the European Union](#)

A new report provides guidelines for a correct sample preparation during GMO analysis on food, feed, seed, plants and propagating material samples. Sample preparation, a key step between sampling and analysis, has so far suffered from a lack of guidance and harmonisation. The new guidelines provide details and practical hints which will contribute to foster harmonised test results in the official controls conducted by National Reference Laboratories (NRLs).

**5 February
2015**

[Determination of arsenic and inorganic arsenic in food matrices remains a challenge](#)

The European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) on Heavy Metals (HM) organised two proficiency tests (PTs) to assess the capability of laboratories to determine cadmium, lead, arsenic, mercury and inorganic arsenic in mushrooms. Results show that arsenic and inorganic arsenic remain a challenge for a significant number of laboratories.

**5 February
2015**

[Breakthrough towards animal-free testing for chemicals that might cause skin allergies](#)

The adoption by the OECD of two new test guidelines will contribute to reducing the number of animals currently used worldwide to identify chemicals with the potential to trigger skin allergies. The new JRC recommended test methods will support the identification of chemicals that can lead to allergic contact dermatitis (ACD), one of the most common occupational diseases. Skin allergies are a growing health problem and are estimated to affect already 20% of the population in Europe.

**4 February
2015**

[Mapping well-being in Europe](#)

A recent JRC report reviews the literature on the concept of well-being, and describes a method that can provide an integrated description of well-being across Europe. The authors measure well-being using 12 indicators available from Eurostat for all European regions. A map of regional well-being in Europe was elaborated based on the performance of each indicator for each region with respect to the EU average. Based on the criteria used in the study, the map highlights discrepancies in levels of well-being across Europe.

**4 February
2015**

[World cancer day - enhancing European cancer data](#)

A new common procedure for the collection of cancer data in Europe will improve the quality and coherence of the data gathered by European cancer registries. The comprehensive and standardised list of cancer data quality checks launched by the JRC and the European Network of Cancer Registries (ENCR) will bolster harmonisation of data and avoid duplication of efforts and the fragmentation of the cancer data. This presents a major step towards a European cancer information system.

**3 February
2015**

[New mobile app to support water and sanitation projects in developing countries](#)

In support of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI), the JRC and EuropeAid have developed a new mobile app that provides guidance on best practices for implementing water and sanitation projects in the developing world. It is free of charge and can be used to steer this type of projects throughout its lifecycle.