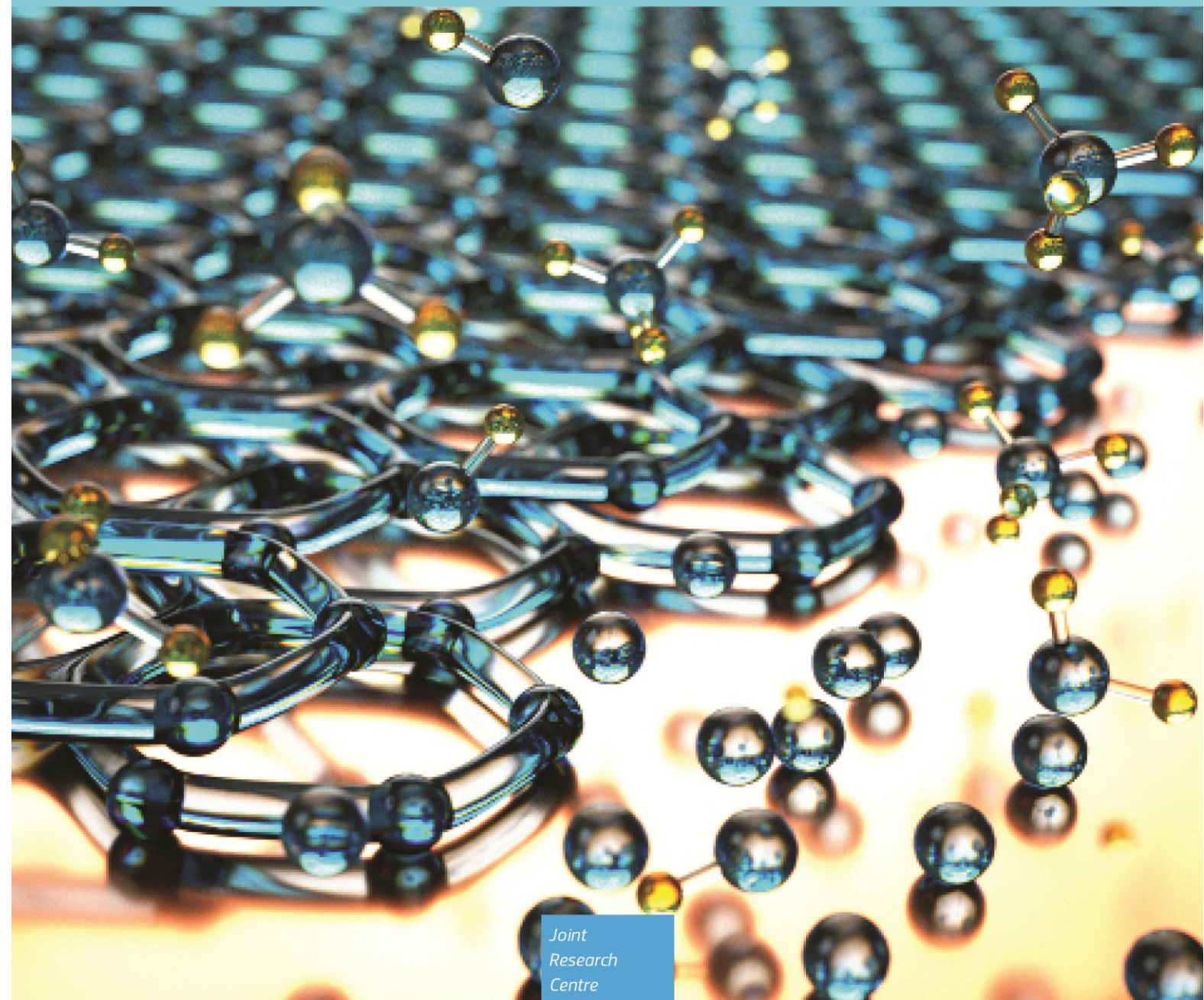




Science & Policy: *What's on the EU's agenda?*

November 2014



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?

3 November 2014

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1. Activities of the European Institutions

1.1 European Commission

Date	Event	Subject
3 November	College Meeting	<i>First Meeting of the new College of Commissioners</i>
5 November	College Meeting	<i>Communications from The President of the European Commission Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Decision of the President concerning organization and responsibilities of the new College.</i> 2. <i>Communication to the Commission regarding the rules for the composition of the cabinets and regarding the Spokesperson service.</i> 3. <i>Communication regarding the mission, the tasks and the structure of the European Centre of Political Strategy.</i>
12 November	College Meeting	<i>Not yet publicly available</i>
18 November	College Meeting	<i>Not yet publicly available</i>
26 November	College Meeting	<i>Not yet publicly available</i>

1.2 Council

Date	Event	Venue/Location
7 November	Economic and Financial Affairs Council	<i>Brussels</i>
10-11 November	Agriculture and Fisheries Council	<i>Brussels</i>
14 November	Economic and Financial Affairs Council	<i>Brussels</i>
17-18 November	Foreign Affairs Council	<i>Brussels</i>
18-19 November	General Affairs Council	<i>Brussels</i>
25 November	Education, Youth, Culture & Sport Council	<i>Brussels</i>
27 November	Transport, Telecommunication and Energy Council	<i>Brussels</i>

1.3 European Parliament

Plenary Sessions

Date	Event	Subject	Venue/Location
24-27 November	<i>EP Plenary session</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>First participation of the new college of Commissioners</i> 	<i>Strasbourg</i>
15 – 18 December	<i>EP Plenary session</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>First participation of the new President of the European Council</i> 	<i>Strasbourg</i>

Committee Meetings

3-4 November	<i>Committee on Culture and</i>		
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	<i>Education</i>		
5-6 November	<i>Committee on Industry, Research and Energy</i>		<i>Brussels</i>
5-6 November	<i>Agriculture and Rural Development - Fisheries</i>		<i>Brussels</i>
17 November	<i>Committee on Industry, Research and Energy</i>		<i>Brussels</i>
1-2 December	<i>Committee on Culture and Education</i>		<i>Brussels</i>
3-4 December	<i>Committee on Industry, Research and Energy</i>		<i>Brussels</i>

Events organised in the EP

4 November	EP event: Call for a European Action Plan on Medical Imaging	<i>Medical Imaging</i>	<i>EP, Brussels</i>
4 November	STOA Workshop	<i>The climate change challenge</i>	<i>EP, Brussels</i>
4 November	European Energy forum debate:	<i>"The role of high-quality biofuels in decarbonizing road transport"</i>	<i>EP; Brussels</i>
17 November	European Energy Forum debate	<i>"Thermal Power Generation in 2030 – Added Value for EU Energy Policy"</i>	<i>EP, Brussels</i>
18 November	STOA Annual Lecture	<i>"Towards understanding the Brain" Keynote Speaker: Thomas C. SUDHOF, 2013 Nobel Prize laureate in Physiology</i>	<i>EP, Brussels</i>
25 November	European Energy Forum debate	<i>"Nuclear energy in the European Union: contribution to EU policy objectives, challenges, and perspectives"</i>	<i>EP, Brussels</i>

1.4 International Relations

Date	Event	Venue/Location
15-16 November	G20 Leader's Summit 2014	<i>Birsbane, Australia</i>
3-4 December	EU-South Africa Joint Science&Technology Cooperation Committee	<i>South Africa</i>
19 November	<i>EU-Canada Joint S&T cooperation Committee meeting</i>	<i>Ottawa, Canada</i>
26 November	<i>EU-South Africa Joint S&T Cooperation Committee</i>	<i>South Africa</i>
27 November (tbc)	<i>EU-South Africa Space Dialogue meeting</i>	<i>Brussels</i>
28 November	<i>EU-South Africa Cooperation Council</i>	<i>Brussels</i>
1-2 December	<i>Meeting of the Joint EU-Australia S&T Cooperation Committee</i>	<i>Canberra, Australia</i>
3-4 December	<i>EU-South Africa Joint S&T Cooperation Committee</i>	<i>South Africa</i>
8-9 December	<i>Joint EU-New Zealand S&T Cooperation Committee</i>	<i>Wellington, NZL</i>
18-23 January 2015	<i>9th Arctic Frontiers Conference</i>	<i>Tromso, Norway</i>
17-19 April 2015	Spring Meeting of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) work	<i>Washington</i>
2-3 June 2015	<i>OECD Forum 2015</i>	<i>Paris</i>

4-5 June 2015	<i>The 41st G7 Summit</i>	<i>Germany</i>
June 2015	<i>EU-CELAC Summit</i>	<i>Brussels</i>

2. Conferences & Meetings

2.1 European Conferences Meetings

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
4 November	Conference: "Disruptive innovative technologies: the flying car"	JRC	Brussels
5-8 November	Energising cities – energy intelligent cities of tomorrow"	Eurocities	Munich, Germany
12 – 14 November	2014 Conference on Big Data From Space (BiDS '14)	JRC, ESA, Satcen	Frascati, Italy
12 November	Conference: A new Industrial Policy for Europe	European Policy Centre, EESC	Brussels
14 November	Science&Business summit: "The EU energy challenge: Can Innovation fill the gap?"	Science/Business	Brussels
18 November	6th European Innovation Summit.	Knowledge4Innovation	Brussels
18-20 November	Care Innovation 2014 Conference	International CARE electronics	Vienna, Austria
19 - 20 November	20th MARS (Monitoring Agricultural Resources) annual Conference	JRC	Dresden, Germany
19-20 November	20th Annual GeoCAP Conference	JRC	Dresden, Germany
19-21 November	Conference: Science, Innovation and Society: Achieving responsible Research and Innovation	Italian National Research Council (CNR) and the Agency for the Promotion of European Research	Rome, Italy
20 November	European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 Conference	Committee of Regions	Brussels
24 November	Central Europe Energy Conference		Bratislava, Slovakia
27-28 November	Italian Presidency event: Counterfactual Methods for Policy Impact Evaluation (COMPIE) Conference	JRC / DG EMPL / Centre for Research on Impact Evaluation (CRIE), Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU	Rome, Italy
1 December	Co-operative banks: a real model to finance the real economy	(EESC), the International Confederation of Popular Banks (CIBP) and the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (UEAPME)	Brussels
3 December	Euro-CASE Annual Conference: "Evidence-based Policy Advice and Innovation Policy beyond Horizon 2020"	Euro-CASE	Brussels
4-5 December	Conference on "Transport Safety: Societal Challenges Research Solutions"	DG RTD, Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU	Genoa, Italy

9-10 December	EC Security research Conference	DG ENTR + Italian Government	Genoa, Italy
December 2014(tbc)	SET (Strategic Energy technology)-Plan Conference	JRC – European Energy Research Alliance	Rome, Italy

2.2 International Conferences

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
9-15 November	20th Latin American Soil Science Congress	IASS (Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies) / Global Soil Forum	Cuzco, Peru
10-12 November	8th World Mycotoxin Forum Conference		Vienna, Austria
12-19 November	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Parks Congress	IUCN	Sydney, Australia
17-21 November	2nd International Ocean Research Conference	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and the Oceanography Society	Barcelona, Spain
19-21 November	Global Energy Storage Conference	EASE (European Association of Storage of Energy ESA (US Energy Storage Association) – JRC (day one sessions tbc)	Paris, France
27-28 November	5th International Conference Future-Oriented Technology Analysis (FTA) "Engage today to shape tomorrow"	JRC	Brussels
1-12 December	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (NFCCC) Convention of the Parties COP-20	UN	Lima, Peru
2-5 December	1st Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI) Conference	JRC (EcoFINDERS project) / Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI)	Dijon, France
14 – 18 March 2015	3rd world Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction	Coordinating body: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)	Sendai City, Japan
23-30 April 2015	Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) 2015		Toyama, Japan
2-3 June 2015	OECD Forum 2015	OECD	Paris, France
30 November – 11 December 2015	United Nations Climate Change Conference	United Nations Office for disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)	Sendai City, Japan

3. JRC News

**September-
October
2014**

[JRC Newsletter](#)

29 October

[Alpha irradiation induced anti-tumour immunity in mice](#)

A study evaluating the immunogenicity of tumour cells after they have been irradiated with the alpha particle emitter bismuth-213 (²¹³Bi) showed resistance to further tumour challenge. The study, performed in cooperation with five research organisations, used a vaccination approach, i.e. the tumour cells were irradiated with alpha radiation in vitro, and subsequently injected into mice.

After certain time intervals, “vaccinated” as well as untreated animals received injections with live carcinoma cells. The vaccination with ²¹³Bi irradiated tumour cells protected mice against recurrence. 88% of the vaccinated animals survived the injection of live tumour cells, compared to 16% of animals in the control group. This protection was also observed in all the surviving animals subjected to a second challenge with live tumour cells two months after vaccination.

28 October

[JRC work in support of new rules on banks' contributions to resolution funds](#)

The European Commission adopted on Tuesday 21 October rules defining how banks contributions to resolution funds, and in particular to the Single Resolution Fund under the Banking Union, should be calculated. In this context, JRC supported the preparation of such legislation by conducting extensive quantitative analyses addressing several technical aspects of how these contributions should be computed.

The resolution funds are foreseen by the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive (BRRD) and the Single Resolution Mechanism (SRM) Regulation, both adopted earlier this year. The BRRD establishes that EU countries must set up national resolution funds (RF), ex-ante funded, that contribute to effective bank resolution, e.g. by providing temporary support to distressed banks via loans, guarantees and other measures. In the SRM legislation, resolution funds of the participating countries are pooled into a Single Resolution Fund (SRF). Banks contributions to the (S)RF should reflect both the size of the bank and its risk profile, based on a number of explicitly defined risk criteria.

22 October

[Scientific and technical support to international nuclear safeguards](#)

On 20-24 October, in Vienna, the international community working in the field of nuclear non-proliferation has gathered for the symposium on international safeguards: linking strategy, implementation and people. The aim of the event, which is held once every four years and hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), is to assess the technical progress in the field of nuclear safeguards implementation.

The European Union has an important role in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and operates a large support programme for IAEA, for which the JRC is responsible. In recognition of this role, Vladimír Šucha, the Director-General of the JRC addressed the opening session of the symposium and explained that the JRC is constantly working on state-of-the-art technologies for nuclear safeguards and training of nuclear inspectors to stay ahead of the evolving challenges.

On the occasion of the symposium, the JRC has published a report covering major achievements in the field of safeguards R&D.

22 October

[Which areas on the planet are at risk of desertification?](#)

A recently published JRC study identified the following geographic regions as prone to desertification: north-eastern Brazil, south-western Argentina, the southern Sahel, Zambia and Zimbabwe, Sub-Himalayan India, and north-eastern China. These areas were identified by analysing spatial changes in climate indicators over the last 60 years.

The analysis highlighted significant shifts in climate zones at global and continental scales between the periods 1951-1980 and 1981-2010. Over the past decades, a continuous rise in global air temperatures has resulted in changes in the global hydrological cycle, classifying climate zones as hotter and more arid.

17 October [Guiding local action for sustainable energy in neighbouring countries](#)

Recently published JRC guidebooks to develop sustainable energy plans help local authorities in Asia and the south Mediterranean region to decrease CO2 emissions by reducing energy consumption and increasing the supply from renewable energy sources.

The guidebooks provide tailor-made and detailed guidance to develop an effective Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) in four phases i.e., initiation, planning, implementation, and monitoring and reporting. It gives local authorities defined criteria to set up energy inventories; allowing for flexibility to take local specificities and objectives into consideration.

16 October [Scientific support to food security - World Food Day](#)

Through its scientific work linked to food security and rural poverty alleviation, the JRC supports the goals of the UN World Food Day, celebrated on 16 October 2014 under the theme "Family Farming: Feeding the world, caring for the earth".

In low income economies, food security relies on small-scale farming systems. Smallholder production is particularly critical for the poor, for instance in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa. The 2014 UN World Food Day highlights the significant role of this type of "family farming" in eradicating hunger and poverty and improving livelihoods in a sustainable way, in particular in rural areas.

14 October [Standards at the JRC: pursuing harmonisation and interoperability](#)

The World Standards Day, celebrated internationally on 14 October, puts the focus on the benefits of standards and harmonised measurements for global and regional economies, as well as for societies. Around 70% of the JRC work is related in one way or another to standardisation. Our scientists provide scientific and technical support in a range of areas from environmental monitoring to critical infrastructure protection, and from food and feed safety to nuclear safety and security.

In order to underpin the standardisation processes, research done at the JRC deals with pre- and co-normative research, harmonised methods and reference measurements and methodologies, providing the scientific base needed for the development, approval and implementation of standards.

10 October [JRC call for Brazilian scientists](#)

The Joint Research Centre has launched a call of interest addressed to Brazilian scientists to be hosted at JRC institutes. The call covers a wide range of fields, ranging from monitoring water pollutants and forest degradation, to biodiversity and alien invasive species in Brazilian protected areas. It covers molecular biology for the authentication of agricultural products, safety of offshore oil and gas operations, and analysis of the status of bioenergy in Latin America. The call also includes economic analysis of global agricultural markets, nanoparticle characterisation and global navigation satellite systems security.

9 October [How sustainable is the EU's production scheme? Answers in the new bioeconomy observatory](#)

The bioeconomy today? What is the state of the bioeconomy sectors across the EU? What are the related policy initiatives taken at EU and national levels? Replies to those and similar questions can be found on the bioeconomy observatory website, set up by the JRC. The observatory was launched at the bioeconomy stakeholders' conference (Turin, 8- 9 October).

Bioeconomy is understood as the sustainable production and exploitation of biological resources, which will allow the production of more from less, including wastes. The bioeconomy observatory website includes statistics on investments in research, innovation and skills, mapping of policy initiatives at EU and national levels, bioeconomy profiles for EU Member States and EU regions, socio-economic analysis of bio-based value chains and environmental sustainability assessment of bio-based products. Data and information are grouped along the three key pillars highlighted in the EU bioeconomy strategy: research (i.e. investments in research, innovation and skills); policy (i.e. reinforced policy interaction and stakeholder engagement) and markets (i.e. enhancement of markets and competitiveness in bioeconomy).

7 October [Sharing knowledge to protect our marine environment](#)

The JRC has set up the MSFD Competence Centre (MCC) to help EU countries achieve ‘Good Environmental Status’ of their marine waters by 2020, the main aim of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). In achieving this aim, the MSFD seeks to protect the fragile balance of marine ecosystems, upon which many economic and social activities such as fishing or tourism depend.

The MCC acts as a science-policy interface, facilitating cooperation and information exchange for the successful implementation of the Directive

6 October [Nuclear security: implementing capacity building in south-east Asia](#)

In cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the JRC and experts of international organisations provided high-level technical expertise for the development of an integrated national security system for nuclear and radioactive materials during a training course that took place in Jakarta (Indonesia) earlier this month.

This project is one of 19 currently implemented in south-east Asia. It provides several support activities such as legal and regulation review and recommendations, inventory of nuclear and radioactive materials, storage establishment and national response plans. These activities are implemented through national and regional training courses combined with technical visits and bilateral meetings to tailor activities to specific country needs.

3 October [Gearing up for research and innovation funds in new EU countries](#)

The Stairway to Excellence (S2E) project, launched on October 3rd, will help new Member States optimise usage of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and Horizon 2020 for research, development and innovation. The project will be managed by the Smart Specialisation Platform of the Joint Research Centre and the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy.

2 October [New tsunami alert system tested in Portugal](#)

A new tsunami alert system developed by the JRC was tested in Setubal, Portugal. The experiment confirmed the effectiveness of using a sea level measurement device to trigger automatic alerts. This new system could be used to detect any kind of tsunami before they reach the sea shore, and issue automatic warnings to populations at risk in order to facilitate timely evacuations.

2 October [Students and teachers need to catch up on digital competence](#)

Low digital skills and competences among school pupils and the need to integrate effective use of information and communication technologies into teacher training are among the most pressing challenges faced by European school education today. These are the main findings of a new report published today, co-authored by the JRC, the Directorate-General for Education and Culture and the New Media Consortium, a US-based not-for-profit body bringing together experts in education technology.