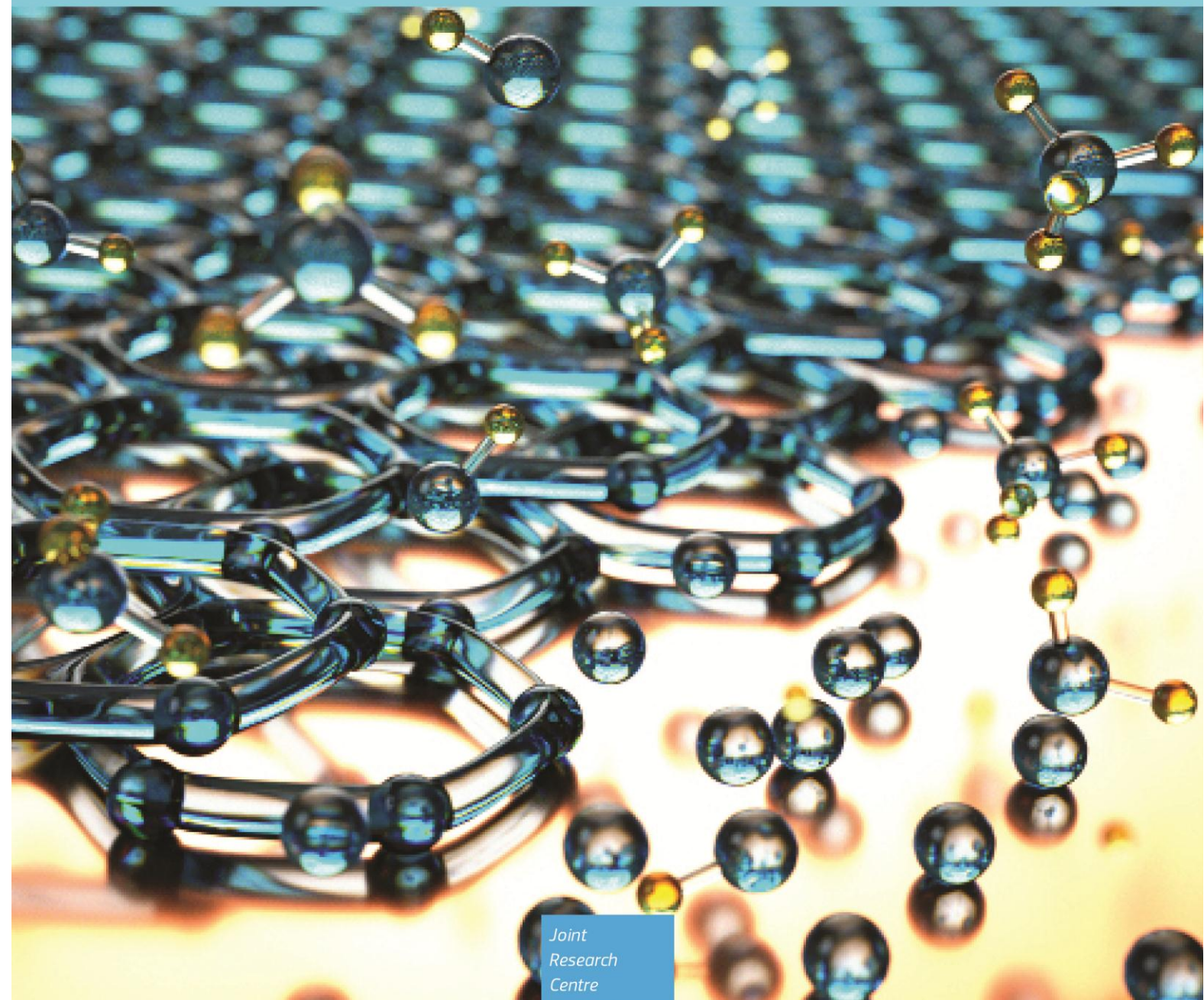




Science & Policy: *What's on the EU's agenda?*

October 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?

1 October 2014

The JRC's monthly briefing to the scientific community, N° 29

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1. Activities of the European Institutions

1.1 European Commission

Date	Event	Subject
1 October	College Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRADE – Communication regarding the regulation of product coming from Equatorial areas ECFIN – Last economic developments
8 October	College Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2014-2015
15 October	College Meeting	Not yet publicly available
21 October	College Meeting	Not yet publicly available
29 October	College Meeting	Not yet publicly available

1.2 Council

Date	Event	Venue/Location
8 October	Transport, Telecommunications & Energy Council	Luxembourg
13-14 October	Agriculture and Fisheries Council	Luxembourg

1.3 European Parliament

Plenary Sessions

Date	Event	Subject	Venue/Location
20-23 October	EP Plenary session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EP vote of consent about the new College of Commissioners 	Strasbourg
24-27 November	EP Plenary session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First participation of the new college of Commissioners 	Strasbourg
15 – 18 December	EP Plenary session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First participation of the new President of the European Council 	Strasbourg

Committee Meetings

29 September – 7 October	Hearings of the Commissioners-designate (by the Committees in charge of their respective portfolio)		Brussels
30 September	Committee on Industry, Research and Energy	Hearing for Carlos Moedas, Commissioner-designate for Research, Science and Innovation	Brussels

1 October	Committee on Culture and Education	Hearing for Tibor Navracsics , Commissioner-designate for Education, Culture, Youth and Citizenship	Brussels
6-7 October	Committee on Agriculture and Rural development		Brussels
16 October	Committee on Fisheries		Brussels
20-23 October	European Parliament Committee meetings		Strasbourg
Events organised in the EP			
15-16 October	European Conference on Public Communication (EuroPcom)	Public Communication	EP, Brussels
18 November	STOA Annual Lecture	Keynote Speaker: Thomas C. SUDHOF, 2013 Nobel Prize laureate in Physiology	EP, Brussels

1.4 International Relations

Date	Event	Venue/Location
30 September – 2 October	Arctic Council - 4th Scientific cooperation Task Force Meeting	Tromsø, Norway
Late September (tbc)	EU-Canada 2014 Summit	Brussels
5-7 October	Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum – 11th Annual Meeting	Kyoto, Japan
7 October	EU-JAPAN Space Dialogue	Tokyo, Japan
13 October (tbc)	17th EU-China Summit	Brussels
14-15 October	Arctic Futures Symposium 2014	Brussels
16-17 October	Asia-Europe Meeting – 10th ASEM Summit, theme: "Responsible partnership for sustainable Growth and Security"	Milan, Italy
15-16 November	G20 Leader's Summit 2014	Birsbane, Australia
3–4 December	EU-South Africa Joint Science&Technology Cooperation Committee	South Africa
2014 (tbc)	EU-Mexico Summit	Brussels
End 2014 (tbd)	EU- RUSSIA space dialogue	Brussels
2014 (tbd)	EU-Mexico Summit	Brussels
16-17 October	First Angola – EU Ministerial Meeting	Brussels
27 November (tbc)	EU-South Africa Space Dialogue meeting	Brussels
28 November	EU-South Africa Cooperation Council	Brussels
1-2 December	Meeting of the Joint EU-Australia S&T Cooperation Committee	Canberra, Australia
3-4 December	EU-South Africa Joint S&T Cooperation Committee	South Africa
8-9 December	Joint EU-New Zealand S&T Cooperation Committee	Wellington, NZL
17-19 April 2015	Spring Meeting of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) work	Washington

2. Conferences & Meetings

2.1 European Conferences Meetings

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
29 September – 1 October	<u>Let's (Leading Enabling Technologies for Societal Challenges 2014) Conference 2014</u>	Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union	Bologna, Italy
30 September	<u>JRC-EASAC launch event of the joint report on the "Management of spent nuclear fuel and its waste"</u>	JRC-EASAC	Brussels
1 October	<u>Social economy and social innovation as drivers of competitiveness, growth and social well-being</u>	EESC	Brussels
1 October	<u>Ocean Energy Conference</u>	Ocean Energy Europe	Paris, France
2 October	<u>Conference: What development opportunities does the TTIP bring to Europe?</u>	EESC, EFNI (European forum for new ideas)	Sopot, Poland
2-3 October	<u>High level conference on Roma inclusion on the ground - The ROMACT experience</u>	EC/Council of Europe	Brussels
2-3 October	<u>Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and innovation funds: Stairway to Excellence (launching event of S2E)</u>	JRC – DG REGIO	Prague, Czech Republic
6-7 October	<u>High Level conference "Future of Europe is Science"</u>	JRC, BEPA, Office of CSA	Lisbon, Portugal
6-9 October	<u>Open Days 2014 – 12 European Week of Regions and Cities</u>	Committee of the regions	Brussels

7-9 October	<u>Conference of the Animal Welfare Intergroup in the European Parliament: "Act4Animals"</u>	Eurogroup for animals	EP, Brussels
8-9 October	<u>Bioeconomy Stakeholder Conference</u>	Presidency of the Council of the EU, EC	Turin, Italy
8-9 October	<u>Nanosafety Forum for Young Scientists</u>	Nanosafety Cluster and MODENA COST action	Siracusa, Italy
13-17 October	<u>Climate Symposium 2014</u>	World Climate Research Program (WCRP) - European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)	Darmstadt, Germany
21-22 October	6th JRC/ DG AGRI annual conference on "Commodity Market Development in Europe – Outlook"	JRC, AGRI	Brussels
4 November	Conference: "Disruptive innovative technologies: the flying car"	JRC	Brussels
5-8 November	<u>Energising cities – energy intelligent cities of tomorrow"</u>	Eurocities	Munich, Germany
12 – 14 November	<u>2014 Conference on Big Data From Space (BiDS '14)</u>	JRC, ESA, Satcen	Frascati, Italy
12 November	<u>Conference: A new Industrial Policy for Europe</u>	European Policy Centre, EESC	Brussels
19 - 20 November	<u>20th MARS (Monitoring Agricultural Resources) annual Conference</u>	JRC	Dresden, Germany
19-20 November	<u>20th Annual GeoCAP Conference</u>	JRC	Dresden, Germany
20 November	Europeaid Infopoint Conference	Europeaid	Brussels
20 November	<u>European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 Conference</u>	Committee of Regions	Brussels
27-28 November	<u>Counterfactual Methods for Policy Impact Evaluation (COMPIE) Conference</u>	JRC / DG EMPL / Centre for Research on Impact Evaluation (CRIE)	Rome, Italy
1 December	<u>Co-operative banks: a real model to finance the real economy</u>	(EESC), the International Confederation of Popular Banks (CIBP) and the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (UEAPME)	Brussels
December 2014(tbc)	<u>SET (Strategic Energy technology)-Plan Conference</u>	JRC – European Energy Research Alliance	Rome, Italy

2.2 International Conferences

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
5-8 October	<u>HUPO 13th Annual World Congress</u>	Human Proteome Organization	Madrid, Spain
5-7 October	<u>11th Science and Technology in Society</u>	Science and Technology in	Kyoto, Japan

	(STS) Forum	Society (STS)	
5-11 October	XXIV International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress 2014	IUFRO	Salt Lake City, UT, United States
5-10 October	10th Congress of the World Association of Theoretical and Computational Chemists (WATOC 2014)	WATOC	Santiago, Chile
8-10 October	Ninth International Life Cycle Assessment of Foods Conference	American Center for Life Cycle Assessment	San Francisco, USA
13-16 October	16th International Conference on Thin Films	Rudjer Boskovic Institute, Div. Materials Physics	Dubrovnik, Croatia
13-17 October	Climate Symposium 2014	WCRP / EUMETSAT	Darmstadt, Germany
19-22 October	World Health Summit 2014	WHS	Berlin, Germany
20-21 October	International Conference ECO-MOBILITY 2014	Austrian Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (bmvit) and the Austrian Agency for Alternative Propulsion Systems (A3PS)	Vienna, Austria
21 October	Conference: "Continuing Vocational Training in Eastern Europe: mobilising the demand, enhancing the supply"	ETF and CoR/CORLEAP	Kiev, Ukraine
26-30 October	NuMat (Nuclear Materials) Conference 2014	DoE-INL, Elsevier	Clearwater (FL), USA
31 October – 2 November	2014 Assembly of Arctic Circle	Arctic circle	Reykjavik, Iceland
4-6 November	1st Agrifood Nanotechnology International Conference	National Institutes for Agricultural Technology (INTA) and Industrial Technology (INTI)	Buenos Aires, Argentina
9-15 November	20th Latin American Soil Science Congress	IASS (Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies) / Global Soil Forum	Cuzco, Peru
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
18-23 January 2015	9th Arctic Frontiers Conference		Tromsø, Norway
14 – 18 March 2015	3rd world Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction	Coordinating body: United Nations Office for Disaster	Sendai City, Japan

		Risk Reduction (UNISDR)	
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

Date	News
2013	Annual Report 2013
June - July 2014	JRC Newsletter

26 September [European PV conference calls for more interaction between actors](#)

Speakers at the European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition (EU PVSEC) held in Amsterdam on 22 - 26 September highlighted the increasingly competitive prices of PV electricity and called for increased collaboration between different policy sectors in the promotion of solar energy.

"The success of solar energy does not only depend on technological innovation, it also requires social and economic inputs. For this reason, I am delighted to see the broad scope of this year's conference, which includes topics such as grid integration, system reliability and policies", said Henk Kamp, Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs, in his introductory speech during the opening session.

24 September [Review of available methods for assessing chemical safety promotes alternatives to animal testing](#)

In support of EU legislation on safety of chemicals, the JRC has published a state-of-the-art review of test methods and non-testing (computational) approaches that help promote the replacement, reduction, and refinement of animal experiments - known as the 3Rs - in the safety assessment of chemicals. The report "Alternative methods for regulatory toxicology – a state-of-the-art review" focuses on "non-standard" methods, i.e. those that are not included in current regulatory guidelines. .

22 September [Burnt areas from forest fires halved in 2013](#)

In 2013, forest fires burnt 305 904 hectares in the EU. 95% of this area (291 101 hectares) was located in the five larger EU countries of the Mediterranean region: Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Greece, with some severe fire events also taking place in northern countries. This figure represents a 34% decrease of the total burnt area when compared to the last 15 years' average but it is also half of the area burnt in 2012, when a particularly active fire season ravaged the EU leaving 607 304 hectares burnt. On average, 460 000 hectares of land burn each year in the European Union with around 90% of the total burnt area located in the Mediterranean region.

19 September [A new intelligent path for the visually impaired opens in Germany](#)

A JRC-designed path for the visually impaired was inaugurated today in Melsungen, Germany. The new path will enable a visually impaired person to move around independently in the historical centre of Melsungen using a walking cane, which recognises the signals emitted by microchips placed in the pavement.

The path was inaugurated by the Mayor of Melsungen Marcus Boucsein and Hessian State Secretary Mark Weinmeister, who in his opening speech stressed the importance of the needs of the visually impaired and called for a greater use of communication techniques to respond to those needs. JRC Director Stephan Lechner presented the SESAMONET (Secure and safe mobility network) technology behind the path, which the participants could also test in practice during the inauguration event.

16 September [Call for applications - Membership of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\)](#)

The European Commission is to renew the membership of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF). The committee will be composed of scientific experts competent in the area of fisheries and aquaculture management. It aims to advise the Commission on matters pertaining to the conservation and management of living aquatic resources, including biological, economic, environmental, social and technical considerations. Interested candidates are invited to send an application by 15 December 2014.

12 September [Quality of production and working conditions top farmers' investment intentions](#)

A JRC study looking into the investment intentions of European farmers in the period 2014-2020 found that 56% of farmers interviewed plan to invest during that period: most of them would rely on their own resources and would target better quality of production and improved working conditions.

These are some of the findings of the study, based on face-to-face interviews. Its sample was limited to six EU countries representing more than half of EU agricultural land: Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, France, Italy and Poland. Although the sample is too limited to predict farm investment across the EU-28, this survey is one of the very few that covers cross-country and cross-farm in this area and provides up-to-date information on investment patterns that is not otherwise available.

10 September [Last decade's slow-down in global warming enhanced by an unusual climate anomaly](#)

A hiatus in global warming ongoing since 2001 is due to a combination of a natural cooling phase, known as multidecadal variability (MDV) and a downturn of the secular warming trend. The exact causes of the latter, unique in the entire observational record going back to 1850, are still to be identified, according to a JRC article which analysed the phenomena.

The earth hasn't warmed at the same pace during the 20th century. The noticeable temperature increases during some periods interspersed with fairly stable or decreasing levels during others have been explained as a combination of secular global warming (likely manmade) and natural climate variability. We are currently, in the early 21st century, experiencing a hiatus period, during which surface temperatures have not risen at the same rate as higher atmospheric radiative forcing.

4 September [The effect of river nutrients on marine life](#)

A recently published JRC article describes the strong link between the nutrients in European rivers and marine productivity (up to fish production) in the Mediterranean Sea from 1960 to 2012.

The article is the first ever to describe a strong and significant correlation between river nutrient loads and biological production holding over a substantial time period in the Mediterranean Sea. It also provides the first quantitative evidence of the close relationship between chemical conditions, marine productivity and fish abundance in the basin. It postulates that such abundance is due primarily to environmental factors such as nutrient concentration.

2 September [Highly skilled may be more important than highly educated in modern economies for social well-being](#)

Being highly proficient in literacy and numeracy may be more important than having a higher level of education when considering the role of these two skills in integration and engagement in the social and economic life of advanced economies.

These are some of the conclusions laid out in a report compiled by the JRC's Centre for Research on Education and Lifelong Learning (CRELL), which analysed the links between formal education, skills among the working age population, as well as different aspects of social well-being, including interpersonal trust, volunteering, health and an individuals' sense of having influence on the political process.

