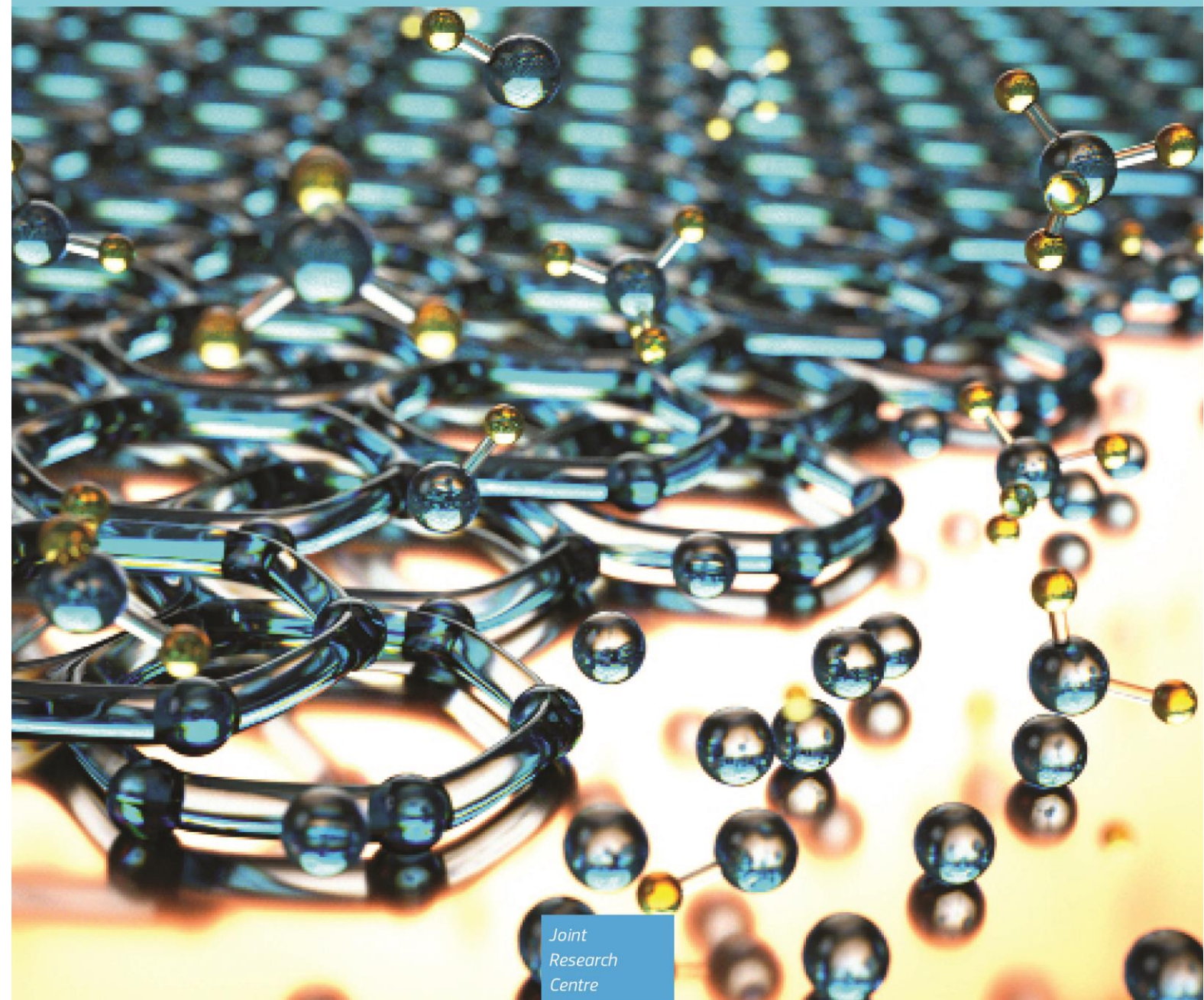




# *Science & Policy:* *What's on the EU's agenda?*

**April 2016**



Joint  
Research  
Centre



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

1 April 2016

### The JRC's monthly briefing to the scientific community, N° 46

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#### Correspondence:

International, Interinstitutional and Stakeholder Relations – JRC

European Commission, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Telephone: (32-2) 299 11 11

Office: CDMA 05/155

[JRC-STAKEHOLDERS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:JRC-STAKEHOLDERS@ec.europa.eu)

Prepared by Dr. Dr. Elisebha Fabienne Platzer

# 1. Activities of the European Institutions

## 1.1 European Commission

Date	Event	Subject
	<a href="#">College Meeting</a>	<i>Agenda not yet available</i>
<a href="#">All meetings of the College of Commissioners</a>		

## 1.2 Council

Date	Event	Venue/Location
11 April	<a href="#">Informal Meeting of Energy Ministers</a>	Amsterdam
11 April	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries Council</a>	Luxembourg
12 April	<a href="#">Informal Meeting of Ministers and State Secretaries for European Affairs</a>	Amsterdam
12 April	<a href="#">Informal Meeting of the General Affairs Council</a>	Amsterdam
14-15 April	<a href="#">Informal Meeting of Environment Ministers</a>	Amsterdam
14-15 April	<a href="#">Informal Meeting of Transport Ministers</a>	Amsterdam
18-19 April	<a href="#">Foreign Affairs Council</a>	Luxembourg
18-20 April	<a href="#">Informal Meeting of Employment, Social Policy and Health Ministers</a>	Amsterdam
21 April	<a href="#">Justice and Home Affairs Council</a>	Luxembourg
22 April	<a href="#">European Research Area and Innovation Committee</a>	Brussels
22-23 April	<a href="#">Informal Meeting of Economic and Financial Affairs Ministers</a>	Amsterdam

29 April	<a href="#">European Research Area and Innovation Committee</a>	Brussels
23 May	<a href="#">Foreign Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
24 May	<a href="#">General Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
25 May	<a href="#">Economic and Financial Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
30-31 May	<a href="#">Informal meeting of agriculture ministers</a>	Amsterdam

[All meetings of the Council](#)

## 1.3 European Parliament

### Plenary Sessions

Date	Event	Subjects	Venue/Location
11-14 April	<a href="#">EP plenary session</a>	<i>Among Others: Towards improved single market regulation; towards improved single market regulation; learning EU at school; Erasmus+ and other tools to foster mobility in vocational education and training; the EU role in the framework of international financial, monetary and regulatory institutions and bodies; small-scale coastal fishing in regions dependent on Fishing; United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea: fisheries aspects; external dimension of the CFP, including fisheries agreements; agreement on strategic cooperation between Brazil and Europol; new instrument to provide emergency support within the Union; statement by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President Federica Mogherini- Main aspects and basic choices of the common foreign and security policy and the common security and defence policy; the EU in a changing global environment- a more connected, contested and complex world; implementation and review of the EU-Central Asia Strategy; the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration; European Council and Commission statements- Conclusions of the European Council meeting of 17and 18 March 2016;</i>	Strasbourg

		<i>protection of trade secrets against their unlawful acquisition, use and disclosure; debates on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law;</i>	
<b>Committee Meetings</b>			
4 April	<a href="#"><u>Committee on Foreign Affairs</u></a>	<i>Among Others: European Border and Coast Guard; exchange of views with Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, UN Envoy to Yemen; exchange of views with Peter Burian, EU Special Representative for Central Asia;</i>	Brussels
4 April	<a href="#"><u>Committee on International Trade</u></a>	<i>Among Others: Macro-financial assistance to Tunisia; presentation and outcome of the missions to Ottawa and Montréal (Canada), Quito (Ecuador), Istanbul and Ankara (Turkey);</i>	Brussels
4 April	<a href="#"><u>Committee on Budgets</u></a>	<i>Among others: New instrument to provide emergency support within the Union; European Border and Coast Guard;</i>	Brussels
7 April	<a href="#"><u>Committee on Budgetary Control</u></a>	<i>Among others: Discharge 2014: EU general budget- European Commission/European External Action Service/European Parliament</i>	Brussels
7 April	<a href="#"><u>Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs</u></a>	<i>Among others: European Central Bank Annual Report for 2015</i>	
7 April	<a href="#"><u>Committee on Industry, Research and Energy</u></a>	<i>Among Others: Discussion on the Market Economy Status for China: possible implications for European industry, presentation by Director Leopoldo Rubinacci, European Commission; competitiveness of the European Rail Supply Industry; a new forward-looking and innovative future strategy on trade and investment; space capabilities for European security and defence; EFSI - Reflections on the first year and the way forward, exchange of views with EFSI Managing Director Wilhelm Molterer; energy efficiency labelling; delivering a New Deal for Energy Consumers</i>	Brussels
7 April	<a href="#"><u>Committee on Transport and Tourism</u></a>	<i>Among Others: Technical requirements for inland waterway vessels (repealing Directive 2006/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council); European Border and Coast Guard; implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with</i>	Brussels



		<i>special regard to the Concluding Observations of the UN CRPD Committee;</i>	
7 April	<a href="#">Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs</a>	<i>Agenda not yet available</i>	Brussels
7 April	<a href="#">Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector</a>	<i>Among Others: Exchange of views with European Commission - DG GROW, DG CLIMA and DG ENV; Exchange of views on the working plan and working methods of the committee of inquiry</i>	Brussels
11 April	<a href="#">Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs- Extraordinary Meeting</a>	<i>Agenda not yet available</i>	Strasbourg
18-19 April	<a href="#">Committee on Employment and Social Affairs</a>	<i>Agenda not yet available</i>	Brussels
18-19 April	<a href="#">Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety</a>	<i>Agenda not yet available</i>	Brussels
18-19 April	<a href="#">Committee on Fisheries</a>	<i>Agenda not yet available</i>	Brussels
18-19 April	<a href="#">Committee on Regional Development</a>	<i>Agenda not yet available</i>	Brussels
18-19 April	<a href="#">Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality</a>	<i>Agenda not yet available</i>	Brussels
18-19 April	<a href="#">Committee on Culture and Education</a>	<i>Agenda not yet available</i>	Brussels
19 April	<a href="#">Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector</a>	<i>Among others: Exchange of views with European Commission– Vladimir Šucha, Director-General of DG JRC</i>	Brussels
20 April	<a href="#">Subcommittee on Human Rights</a>	<i>Agenda not yet available</i>	Brussels
20 April	<a href="#">Committee on Constitutional Affairs</a>	<i>Agenda not yet available</i>	Brussels

20-21 April	<a href="#">Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs</a>	<i>Agenda not yet available</i>	Brussels
20-21 April	<a href="#">Committee on Development</a>	<i>Agenda not yet available</i>	Brussels
20-21 April	<a href="#">Subcommittee on Security and Defence</a>	<i>Agenda not yet available</i>	Brussels
20-21 April	<a href="#">Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection</a>	<i>Among others: TTIP: Public Procurement-challenges and opportunities for the EU and the US; virtual currencies; control of the acquisition and possession of weapons; Single Market Strategy; exchange of views with Günter H. Oettinger, Commissioner responsible for Digital Economy &amp; Society; contracts for the supply of digital content; contracts for the online and other distance sales of goods; the Single Market Strategy; Unfair trading practices in the food supply chain; exchange of views with Andrus Ansip, Vice-President responsible for the Digital Single Market</i>	Brussels

[All European Parliament Committee meetings](#)

Other meetings and events

6 April	<a href="#">STOA workshop: Quantum technologies for Europe. Opportunities for economy and society</a>	<i>Among others: The STOA workshop will serve as a basis for addressing the establishment of a comprehensive European synergy, which is now essential for the full development of the field of quantum technologies. It will provide an overview on the main advances in the last years and identify game-changing directions for future research. Prospects for industrial take-up and economic exploitation of quantum technologies will be discussed as well as the balance that has to be maintained between the fundamental and the application-oriented side of the research. Among the speakers: Günther Oettinger, EU Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society; Vladimír Šucha, Director-General of DG JRC; the event is chaired by the STOA Chairman Paul Rübzig</i>	Brussels
21 April	<a href="#">STOA Working Breakfast -</a>	<i>Among others: The role of science and technology in overcoming barriers; resources</i>	Brussels

	<a href="#">The gender dimension</a>	<i>on gender and science, the contribution of GenPORT to policy making and beyond</i>	
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## 1.4 Committee of the Regions (CoR)

Date	Event	Venue/Location
4 April	<a href="#">COMMITting to the social dimension of universities and the “2016 EUCEN Policy Talks”</a>	CoR, Brussels
6 April	<a href="#">Discussion "Empowering Migrants with Skills"</a>	CoR, Brussels
7-8 April	<a href="#">117th CoR plenary session</a>	European Parliament, Brussels
19 April	<a href="#">8th CIVEX Commission Meeting</a>	CoR, Brussels
19 April	<a href="#">For a rural agenda in the programming period post 2020</a>	CoR, Brussels
20 April	<a href="#">8th SEDEC Commission Meeting</a>	CoR, Brussels
20-22 April	<a href="#">26th Congress of European Municipalities and Regions</a>	Nicosia, Cyprus
21 April	<a href="#">8th ENVE Commission meeting</a>	CoR, Brussels
8-9 July	<a href="#">7th European Summit of Regions and Cities</a>	Bratislava, Slovakia

[Further events of the Committee of the Regions](#)

## 1.5 European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Date	Event	Venue/Location
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4 April	<a href="#">The impact of the conclusions of COP21 on European transport policy</a>	EESC, Brussels
5 April	<a href="#">Granting market economy status to China</a>	EESC, Brussels
5 April	<a href="#">Anti-gypsyism, possible responses</a>	EESC, Brussels
6-7 April	<a href="#">European Migration Forum – 2nd meeting</a>	EESC, Brussels
11 April	<a href="#">Round-table on Strategic Implementation Plan of the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials</a>	Lisbon, Portugal
19 April	<a href="#">Financing SGIs in the aftermath of the crisis: what role for financial instruments?</a>	EESC, Brussels
20 April	<a href="#">ECI DAY 2016: Forging Change</a>	EESC, Brussels
21 April	<a href="#">2016 Digital Day: Innovation in the digital era. Reinventing our economy</a>	EESC, Brussels
<a href="#">Further events of the European Economic and Social Committee</a>		

## 1.6 International Relations

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue/Location</b>
4 May	<a href="#">EU-USA Energy Council</a>	Washington D.C., USA

## 2. Conferences & Meetings

### 2.1 JRC Conferences and Meetings

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
5 April	<a href="#">Launch of the European Energy Efficiency Platform (E3P)</a>	JRC	Brussels, Belgium
5 April	<a href="#">S2E and S3P National Event: SLOVENIA</a>	JRC	Ljubljana, slovenia
7-8 April	<a href="#">ICT-Enabled Social Innovation Workshop</a>	JRC	Seville, Spain
18-21 April	<a href="#">6th European Transport Research Conference</a>	JRC, Ministry of Infrastructure and Construction of Poland, CEDR, Road and Bridge Research Institute, ERTRAC, ALICE, ERRAC	Warsaw, Poland
19 May	Launch of the Competence Centre for Micro-Economic Evaluation	JRC	Seville, Spain
4-5 July	How to build Smart Energy Regions	JRC, Technology Region Karlsruhe	Karlsruhe, Germany
28-30 September	<a href="#">Changing Patterns of Territorial Policy: Smart Specialisation and Innovation in Europe</a>	JRC	Seville, Spain

[Further upcoming JRC events](#)

[Further upcoming events in the EU Newsroom Calendar](#)

### 2.2 Further European Conferences and Meetings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Organiser</b>	<b>Venue/Location</b>
1 April	<a href="#">SME Envoy Network meeting</a>	European Commission, The Netherlands EU Presidency 2016	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
4 April	<a href="#">Open Science Conference</a>	European Commission, The Netherlands EU Presidency 2016	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
5 April	<a href="#">High Level Conference on attracting investment in tourism</a>	European Commission	Brussels, Belgium
8 April	<a href="#">Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation in Horizon 2020</a>	European Commission	Brussels, Belgium
12 April	<a href="#">Science and technology, Regions and local development</a>	European Commission	Brussels, Belgium
12 April	<a href="#">Automotive Intelligence Centre Forum: Innovation in the automotive sector</a>	European Commission	Brussels, Belgium
12 April	<a href="#">Public hearing on the SCENIHR opinion 'Biological effects of ultraviolet radiation relevant to health with particular reference to sunbeds for cosmetic purposes'</a>	European Commission	Brussels, Belgium
12-13 April	<a href="#">BioEconomyUtrecht2016</a>	European Commission, The Netherlands EU Presidency 2016	Utrecht, The Netherlands
18 April	<a href="#">The Atlantic Strategy in Action</a>	European Commission	Brussels, Belgium
19 April	<a href="#">2016 Road transport conference</a>	European Commission	Brussels, Belgium
19-20 April	<a href="#">The European Culture Forum</a>	European Commission	Brussels, Belgium

26 April	European Intersectoral Summit on Research and Innovation	Atomium–European Institute for Science, Media and Democracy (EISMD), European Commission, European Parliament, Dutch Presidency of the Council of Ministers	Brussels, Belgium
23-27 July	<a href="#">Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF)</a>	EuroScience	Manchester, United Kingdom

## 2.3 International Conferences

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
2-7 April	<a href="#">US-IALE Annual meeting</a>	Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center, Southern Research Station of the USDA Forest Service	Asheville, North Carolina, USA
4-5 April	<a href="#">A Joint Africa – EU strategy on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture</a>	RTD	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
5-6 April	<a href="#">Stakeholder Forum to implement the Africa-EU R&amp;I Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture</a>	RTD	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
14-15 April	<a href="#">ELSA Jahrestagung 2016: Boden und Bodenschutz in Europa - Zwischen Anspruch und Wirklichkeit</a>	European Land and Soil Alliance, Evangelische Akademie Tutzing	Tutzing, Germany
16-22 April	<a href="#">International Radiation Symposium 2016</a>	University of Auckland	Auckland, New Zealand
17-22 April	<a href="#">European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2016</a>	EGU	Vienna, Austria
18-22 April	<a href="#">OECD Integrity Week</a>	OECD	Paris, France

19-20 April	<a href="#">Global Water Summit 2016</a>	GWJ	Abu Dhabi, UAE
27-29 April	<a href="#">AfriGEOSS Symposium 2016 "Earth Observations for the Africa We Want"</a>	GEO	Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
16-17 May	<a href="#">Second Stakeholder Forum of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership "Business and Science: Leading the Way to Sustainable Energy"</a>	African Union, Italian Government, European Commission	Milan, Italy
23-24 May	<a href="#">World Humanitarian Summit</a>	UN OCHA	Istanbul, Turkey
23-27 May	<a href="#">International Conference on Advancing the Global Implementation of Decommissioning and Environmental Remediation Programmes</a>	IAEA	Madrid, Spain
26-27 May	<a href="#">G7 Summit Japan</a>	Government of Japan	Ise-Shima, Japan
31 May-2 June	<a href="#">OECD Forum 2016 &amp; Ministerial Meeting</a>	OECD	Paris, France
6-7 June	<a href="#">Global Green Growth Forum</a>	3GF	Copenhagen, Denmark
22-23 June	<a href="#">OECD 2016 Ministerial: Meeting the policy challenges of tomorrow's digital economy. The digital economy, innovation, growth and social prosperity</a>	OECD	Cancun, Mexico
4-9 July	<a href="#">Bridging ICTs and the Environment. Geospatial Technologies and Remote Sensing for Monitoring SDGs.</a>	CEU, UNOOSA	Budapest, Hungary
11-15 July	<a href="#">Bridging ICTs and the Environment. Innovations in Disaster Risk Reduction</a>	CEU, UNDP	Budapest, Hungary
19-21 September	<a href="#">OECD Blue Sky 3 2016 – Informing science and innovation policies: Towards the next generation of data and indicators</a>	OECD	Ghent, Belgium
7-9 October	<a href="#">Arctic Circle Assembly</a>	Arctic Circle	Reykjavik, Iceland
17-19 October	<a href="#">2016 EU-US Frontiers of Engineering Symposium</a>	Euro CASE	Helsinki, Finland
17-20 October	<a href="#">UN Habitat III– UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development</a>	UN HABITAT	Quito, Ecuador

7-18 November	<a href="#">UNFCCC COP 22</a>	UNFCCC	Marrakesh, Morocco
14 November	<a href="#">Euro-CASE Annual Conference 2016: Big Data– Smarter Products, Better Societies</a>	Euro-CASE, ATV, Technical University of Denmark (DTU)	Lyngby, Denmark
7-13 January 2017	<a href="#">16th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering</a>	WCEE and Chilean Association of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering- ACHISINA	Santiago, Chile
22-24 February 2017	<a href="#">World Ocean Summit</a>	The Economist	Bali, Indonesia

## 3. JRC News

<b>2015</b>	<a href="#">Overview of the scientific process of the EU Agencies network for scientific advice (EU-ANSA)</a>
<b>March</b>	<a href="#">JRC Newsletter March 2016</a>
<b>Open</b>	<a href="#">The EU is recruiting researchers - Call for expressions of interest</a>

### March Highlights

#### **3 March** [S2E - National Event of Prague - Czech Republic: "The Synergies with Research and Innovation Funds: Stairway to Excellence"](#)

The Czech Republic National Event was co-organised by the S3 Platform - S2E project and the Government Office of the Czech Republic.

#### **3-4 March** [New Currents in Science: The Challenges of Quality](#)

Each sector of science now has distinct challenges of quality. For scientific research, it is reproducibility; for application consequences; for science advice, acceptability; and for the autonomous 'citizen' and 'DIY' sciences, governance. The workshop considered current challenges to quality assurance in science and their effects on the trustworthiness of science, as knowledge, in applications and in policy.



<b>4 March</b>	<b><a href="#">Evidence-informed policy-making: What's on the TEN Section's agenda?</a></b>
<p>Together with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), the JRC is organising a series of panel discussions in the framework of the Section for Transport Energy, Infrastructure and the Information Society (TEN Section). The discussions include: energy storage and energy security; decarbonisation of transport- alternative fuels (biofuels, electric vehicles), alternative fuels' infrastructure, CO2 emissions; Digital Transformation of the Economy: Innovation in Education, Digital Skills and Employment implications</p>	
<b>7-11 March</b>	<b><a href="#">COSINUS 2016 - COoperation Simulation of NUclear Security</a></b>
<p>One of the keys in implementing an efficient Nuclear Security programme is the communication between a country's Front Line Officer (FLO) organizations that participate in Nuclear Security detection activities and the Technical Support organization(s) providing scientific services. Since Nuclear Security incidents often involve cross-border movement of nuclear and other radioactive material out of regulatory control, regional and international cooperation should be strengthened. COSINUS is a Simulation Exercise that aims both to promote the exchange of good practices amongst international organizations, and to provide a platform for testing internal (i.e. Front Line Officer- Technical Support) and external (i.e. among countries) communications.</p>	
<b>8-10 March</b>	<b><a href="#">Counter Nuclear Smuggling Workshop 2016</a></b>
<p>In the run-up to the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit, the JRC and the US Department of State (DoS) co-hosted the 2016 Counter Nuclear Smuggling (CNS) Workshop in Karlsruhe, Germany. The workshop focused on the relationship between law enforcement investigations and the technical toolsets that may be applied to support a nuclear smuggling investigation and provide evidence for successful prosecution.</p>	
<b>9 March</b>	<b><a href="#">Celebrating 35 years of European Commission – IAEA co-operation on nuclear safeguards</a></b>
<p>On the 9th of March 2015 a joint reception was held between the European Commission, Hungary and Japan celebrating significant cooperation milestones in nuclear safeguards activity. Since 1981 the Joint Research Centre has provided scientific and technical support to the work of the IAEA. Marking the 35th anniversary of the Commission, Hungary and Japan jointly celebrated this significant achievement.</p>	
<b>8-9 March</b>	<b><a href="#">Annual Clearinghouse Meeting</a></b>
<p>The 2016 Annual Meeting of the European Clearinghouse on Nuclear Power Plant Operating Experience Feedback was held at the premises of the JRC Petten site. The main objective of this meeting was to present and review the recent progress of the project and discuss the work program for 2016.</p>	
<b>11 March</b>	<b><a href="#">S2E National Event - Estonia: The Synergies with Research and Innovation Funds: Stairway to Excellence</a></b>
<p>The Estonia National Event was co-organised by the S3 Platform- Stairway to Excellence and the Estonian Research Council.</p>	
<b>13-15 March</b>	<b><a href="#">Arctic Council Workshop on Resilience</a></b>
<p>As part of this year's Arctic Science Summit Week (12-18 March 2016), IES scientist Julian Wilson participated in the Arctic Council Workshop on Resilience as a nominated member of the workshop steering committee.</p>	
<b>14-15 March</b>	<b><a href="#">China-EU Workshop on Water &amp; Air</a></b>
<p>This joint China-EU Workshop on Water &amp; Air policy provided an opportunity for policy makers, experts and stakeholders to examine the policy challenges and the responses to these major environmental threats, including the legislative frameworks, effective implementation, monitoring and enforcement as well as possible future areas of joint EU-China cooperation. The results of these discussions will help shape and strengthen future cooperation activities between the EU and China. IES scientist Philippe Thunis participated in the workshop as part of a European Commission delegation.</p>	
<b>14-16 March</b>	<b><a href="#">5th Meeting of the International Forum on Life Cycle Assessment Cooperation</a></b>
<p>5th Meeting of the International Forum on LCA Cooperation was co-organised by the United Nations Environment</p>	

Programme (UNEP) and the Brazilian Institute for Information in Science and Technology (IBICT). The first two days were focused on global cooperation around LCA data, with the meeting of the Global Network of Interoperable LCA databases; this Network has the objective to facilitate the access to existing LCA databases for all LCA practitioners and does so by coordinating representatives from governments, academia, database owners, as well as from businesses and industries. The third day of the meeting was targeted at government officials, and focus on experience sharing of implementation of LCA/LCT in policy, and on further defining/strengthening the role of international cooperation in LCA/LCT. IES scientist Simone Fazio was invited by the IBICT and UNEP to participate in this 3-day event.

**14-18 March**

**[Fifth Working Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils \(ITPS\)](#)**

The Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils met for its 5th Working session from 14-18 March 2016 in Rome. The key points that were under discussion during this intense working week include: review and finalization of the first draft of the “Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management”; follow up of the “Status of the World’s Soil Resources” report; follow up on the GSP Plans of Action and the Regional Implementation Plans; report on the collaboration between ITPS and the SPI of UNCCD, IPBES and IPCC; review of the work plan for ITPS 2015-2017; support to the SDG process through soil indicators; preparation of an ITPS publication for 2016, report to the Fourth GSP Plenary Assembly. IES scientist Luca Montanarella is Chair of the IPTS.

**14-18 March**

**[Air Quality 2016](#)**

The 10th International Conference on Air Quality- Science and Application brought together participants from the air quality, climate and health research and user communities to discuss the latest research advances, new applications and highlight important implications for policy and users. In its 20th year, the Conference continues to be the international dissemination hub of air quality research and its applications.

**15-16 March**

**[User Workshop of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service - User perspective on the current status & future evolution](#)**

The JRC hosted this year’s edition of the users’ workshop of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (EMS). The workshop focused on the mapping component and aimed at reviewing the current status of the service and addressing its future evolution.

**15-17 March**

**[2016 Conference on Big Data from Space \(BiDS’16\)](#)**

Big Data from Space refers to the massive spatio-temporal Earth and Space observation data collected by space-borne and ground-based sensors. This emerging domain is currently facing sharp increase- fortunately paralleled by tremendous amount of new developments and breakthroughs software developments, such as multi-temporal data analysis, data management and information extraction technologies. In addition, the recent multiplication of open access initiatives to Big Data from Space is giving momentum to the field by widening substantially the spectrum of users as well as awareness among the public while offering new opportunities for scientists and value-added companies. The objective of the Big Data from Space conferences was to bring together researchers, engineers and users working in the area of Big Data from Space.

**16 March**

**[Workshop on Risk Assessment for Natural-Hazard Impact on Hazardous Chemical Installations](#)**

This training workshop gave an overview of the risks of natural-hazard impact on hazardous chemical facilities and provided hands-on training on the JRC’s RAPID-N tool for rapid Natech risk assessment and mapping to support decision making. This event was organised in the framework of the JRC Enlargement and Integration Action

**16-18 March**

**[9th International Conference Improving Energy Efficiency in Commercial Buildings and Smart Communities \(IEECB&SC’16\)](#)**

The IEECB was jointly organised by Messe Frankfurt and the JRC. The conference took place on 16-18 March 2016 in Frankfurt during Light+Building, the world’s leading trade fair for Architecture and Technology. The commercial and public building sector is one of the fastest growing energy consuming sectors. This is mainly due to the growth of commercial and public activities and their associated demand for heating, cooling ventilation (HVAC), ICT services and lighting.

