



Science & Policy

What's on the EU's agenda?

February 2018



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

1 February 2018

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1. Activities of the European Institutions

1.1 European Commission

| Date | Event | Subject |
|----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| February | College Meeting | <i>Please consult the website</i> |

[All meetings of the College of Commissioners](#)

1.2 Council

| Date | Event | Location |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| 1-2 February | Informal Meeting of Competitiveness Ministers | Sofia, Bulgaria |
| 5 February | EU-Georgia Association Council | Brussels |
| 9 February | EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Council | Brussels |
| 15 February | Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council on Education | Brussels |
| 15-16 February | Informal Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers | Sofia, Bulgaria |
| 19 February | Agriculture and Fisheries Council | Brussels |
| 20 February | Economic and Financial Affairs Council | Brussels |
| 23 February | European Council: Informal Meeting of Heads of State or Government | Brussels |
| 26 February | Foreign Affairs Council | Brussels |
| 26 February | EU-Kazakhstan Cooperation Council | Brussels |

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| 26-27 February | Foreign Affairs Council: Informal Meeting of Trade Ministers | Sofia, Bulgaria |
| 27 February | General Affairs Council (Art. 50) | Brussels |
| 28 February | Informal Meeting of Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Ministers on Culture (EYCS) | Sofia, Bulgaria |
| All meetings of the Council | | |

1.3 European Parliament

Plenary Sessions

| Date | Event | Subjects | Location |
|--------------|-------------------------|---|------------|
| 5-8 February | Plenary | <i>Among others: European Central Bank Annual Report for 2016; Geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment; Commission Statement: Decision adopted on the Fair Taxation package II and III; cost-effective emission reductions and low-carbon investments; presentation of the following report: "Accelerating clean energy innovation."; debate with the Prime Minister of Croatia, Andrej Plenković, on the Future of Europe; statements by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini: situation in Zimbabwe; new agenda for the EU-Central Asia relations in the framework of the 13th Annual Ministerial Meeting; current human rights situation in Turkey; EU's perspectives for the first EU-Cuba Joint Council meeting. Commission statement: Decision adopted on the EU Enlargement Strategy- Western Balkans; Council and Commission statements: shrinking space for civil society; work and legacy of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Composition of the European Parliament; revision of the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission; reform of the electoral law of the European Union; EU external action funds; annual report on the financial activities of the European Investment Bank; situation of</i> | Strasbourg |

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| | | women human rights defenders and their support by the EU; debates on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law; | |
| Committee Meetings | | | |
| 1 February | Committee on Budgetary Control | Among others: Annual report on the control of the financial activities of the EIB for 2016; ECA Special Report; CONT Mission to Croatia and Serbia (17-20 July 2017); CONT Mission to Europol (19-20 September 2017); Annual CONT meeting with the Members of the European Court of Auditors; | Brussels |
| 1 February | Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety | Among others: Exchange of views with Mr Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, on the mobility package; exchange of views with Andrea Ammon, Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC); exchange of views with the Commission and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) on Lyme disease; introducing Community measures for the control of Newcastle disease; interpretation and implementation of the interinstitutional agreement on Better Law-Making; | Brussels |
| 1 February | Committee on Transport and Tourism | Among others: Presentation by the EC on Traffic Management System- the way forward; common rules for certain types of combined transport of goods between Member States; common rules for access to the international market for coach and bus services; | Brussels |
| 1 February | Committee on Regional Development | Among others: Debate on the future of cohesion policy after 2020; | Brussels |
| 1 February | Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs | Among others: Joint debate with the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and the Committee on Development (DEVE): The Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Annual report on the Situation of Fundamental Rights in the EU in 2016; 2016 discharge: Report on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the EU's agencies for the financial year 2016: performance, financial management and control; exchange of views with Simon Mordue, Deputy Director-General, DG HOME, European Commission: state of play of negotiations on Status agreements between | Brussels |

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| | | <i>the European Union and third countries for the purpose of actions carried out by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency on the territory of those countries;</i> | |
| 1 February | Committee on Foreign Affairs | <i>Among others: Exchange of views on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration with Ms. Michele Klein Solomon, Director, Global Compact for Migration, Office of the Director General, International Organization for Migration; implementation of the EU external financing instruments: mid-term review 2017 and the future post-2020 architecture (see separate programme);</i> | Brussels |
| 8 February | Special Committee on Terrorism | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 19-20 February | Committee on Development | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 19-20 February | Committee on International Trade | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 19-20 February | Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 19-20 February | Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 21-22 February | Committee on Budgets | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 21-22 February | Committee on Employment and Social Affairs | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 21-22 February | Committee on Industry, Research and Energy | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 21-22 February | Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 21-22 February | Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 21-22 February | Committee on Culture and | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |

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| | Education | | |
| 21-22 February | Committee on Legal Affairs | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 21-22 February | Committee on Petitions | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 26-27 February | Subcommittee on Security and Defence | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 26-27 February | Committee on Fisheries | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 26-27 February | Committee on Constitutional Affairs | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 26-27 February | Subcommittee on Human Rights | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| All European Parliament Committee Meetings | | | |

1.4 Committee of the Regions (CoR)

| Date | Event | Location |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| 1 February | [Y]Factor conference: Between Regional & European Identity | Brussels |
| 2 February | EU Aquaculture Farmed in the EU Regions | Brussels |
| 2 February | Reducing Health Inequalities Experienced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI) People | Brussels |
| 6 February | Cohesion Policy as an instrument to achieve sustainable territorial development | Brussels |
| 7 February | PEGASUS conference - Delivering environmental and social benefits from agriculture | Brussels |

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| 8 February | 17th Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE) Commission meeting | Brussels |
| 8 February | Open Day 2018- Organisational meeting | Brussels |
| 9 February | Stakeholder consultation on: "The rules for the internal market in natural gas" | Brussels |
| 19 February | Ris3, Culture and Creative Industries: an opportunity to articulate the territories | Brussels |
| 20 February | Connecting territories: the role of European Regions and Cities in the future EU policies for R&I | Brussels |
| 20-21 February | 9th plenary session of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) | Giza, Egypt |
| 21 February | 17th Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC) Commission Meeting | Brussels |

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

1.5 European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

| Date | Event | Location |
|----------------|---|-----------------|
| 2 February | How do Social Economy Enterprises contribute to the integration of migrants? | Brussels |
| 7-8 February | Policy Learning Forum (PLF) on "Upskilling pathways: a vision for the future" | Brussels |
| 8 February | Hearing on the effectiveness of EU policies for SMEs | Rome, Italy |
| 9 February | Women with disabilities (in the EU): situation and way forward | Brussels |
| 15 February | Civil Society in the EU: future scenarios for 2030 | Brussels |
| 20-21 February | Delivering on the Circular Economy– What's Next? | Brussels |

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| 22 February | Hearing on How effective is EU legislation for SMEs in Sweden? | Stockholm, Sweden |
| Further events of the European Economic and Social Committee | | |

2. Conferences & Meetings

2.1 DG JRC Conferences and Events

| Date | Event | Organiser | Location |
|---------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|
| 30 January- 2 February | Workshop on proficiency tests (PTs) & basic and advanced courses on gamma-ray spectrometry | DG JRC | Geel, Belgium |
| 15-19 February | AAAS 2018 Annual Meeting: "Advancing Science: Discovery to Application" | American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) | Austin, USA |
| 20 February | JRC-UNESCO Information Session on Water | DG JRC, UNESCO | New York, USA |
| 23 February | First Annual JRC Alumni Network Event Further information available on the JRC Alumni Network website (ECAS account creation/login and registration to the JRC Alumni Network) or by contacting JRC-ALUMNI@ec.europa.eu | DG JRC | Brussels |
| 8-9 March | Workshop: Safer Li-Ion Batteries by Preventing Thermal Propagation? | DG JRC | Petten, The Netherlands |

[Further upcoming DG JRC Events](#)

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

2.2 Further European Conferences and Meetings

| | | | |
|--------------|---|---|--------------------|
| 1 February | Doing more with less | European Investment Bank (EIB) | Brussels |
| 1 February | Financing energy efficiency in Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria | EC, UNEP Finance Initiative ANRE, Ministry of Energy of Romania | Bucharest, Romania |
| 2 February | EU Aquaculture Farmed in the EU Regions | EC, DG REGIO | Brussels |
| 5-6 February | European forum on eco-innovation for air quality | DG ENV, Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria | Sofia, Bulgaria |
| 6 February | European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Awareness Day in Serbia | European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development | Belgrade, Serbia |
| 7 February | Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) applicant seminar | European Regional Development Fund, Région-Hauts de France, UIA | Malmö, Sweden |
| 8 February | Smart grids studies– lighthouse projects and deployment workshop | EC | Brussels |
| 8 February | Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Panel meeting: Presentation of the in-depth STOA workshop report 'New technologies and regional policy- Towards the next Cohesion Policy framework'. For other STOA events please consult the website . | STOA, EP | Strasbourg |
| 9 February | Stakeholder workshop on cooperative intelligent transport systems | EC | Brussels |

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| 13 February | EIT Information Day for the 2018 Call for Proposals for two new Innovation Communities: EIT Manufacturing and EIT Urban Mobility | EIT | Brussels |
| 15-16 February | European conference: Investing in people, the way forward | EC, Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU | Sofia, Bulgaria |
| 20-21 February | Circular economy stakeholder conference– Delivering on the circular economy, what’s next? | EC, Economic and Social Committee (ECSC) | Brussels |
| 20-22 February | Workshop on Alternative Testing Methods | DG JRC, University of California | Los Angeles, USA |
| 22 February | Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) applicant seminar | EC, DG REGIO | Brussels |
| 22 February | Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform (SNETP) 10th Anniversary | SNEPT | Brussels |
| 22-23 February | Second European Industry Day | EC | Brussels |
| 1-2 March | International financial integration in a changing policy context– the end of an era? | DG ECFIN, EC | Brussels |
| 5-6 March | Civil Protection Forum | EC | Brussels |
| EIT 2018 Call for Proposals for new EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) in Urban Mobility and Added Value Manufacturing | | EIT | Brussels |

2.3 International Conferences and events

| Date | Event | Organiser | Location |
|----------------|--|---------------|------------------------|
| 7-13 February | World Urban Forum UN Habitat | UN Habitat | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| 15-19 February | American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting | AAAS | Austin, USA |
| 20-22 February | 56th session of the Bureau of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) | UNESCO | Paris, France |
| 20-22 | Workshop on Alternative Testing Methods | University of | Los Angeles, |

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| February | | California | USA |
| 9-14 July | EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) | ESOF | Toulouse, France |
| 15-31 August | European Forum Alpbach | European Forum Alpbach | Alpbach, Austria |
| 21-22 September | INGSA International Conference | Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) | Tokyo, Japan |
| 5-9 November | 2018 Symposium on International Safeguards | IAEA | Vienna, Austria |

3. DG JRC News

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 2016 | DG JRC Annual Report |
| January | DG JRC Newsletter January 2018 |
| Open | Open access to JRC Research Infrastructures- Call: Nuclear infrastructure (closing date 7 March 2018) Non-nuclear infrastructure (closing date 13 April 2018) |
| Open | The EU is recruiting researchers- Call for expressions of interest |
| Open | JRC Alumni Network: Membership registration for JRC Alumni |

January Highlights

17 January

[Peer eXchange and Learning workshop on innovation strategies for smart specialisation](#)

The S3 Platform organised a Peer eXchange and Learning workshop on Policy Instruments for innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3). Emilia-Romagna (Italy), Northern Netherlands (Holland) and Wielkopolska (Poland) regions provided a short account of their experience in designing and implementing policy instruments for the implementation of their respective RIS3. The event gathered representatives from more than 50 regional and national authorities.

23 January

[New JRC MOOC on monitoring Smart Specialisation strategies: Presentation at the Committee of Regions](#)

Which are the principles underpinning RIS3 and RIS3 monitoring? What are the core-indicators to monitor the sound implementation of research and innovation Smart Specialisation strategies (RIS3)? Where to find the key data-sources needed to monitor them? These are the insights which were gained from the MOOC, produced by the JRC on monitoring Smart Specialisation strategies. Dr Elisabetta Marinelli, from the JRC (Targeted Support for RIS3), presented its contents and explained how and when to register for the online course that will open in March, at a lunch-time briefing hosted by the Committee of Regions. The MOOC is open to anyone interested in monitoring knowledge-based regional development, and in particular Smart Specialisation Strategies. Specific audiences are: Civil servants working on regional development at the regional, national and European level, students or researchers interested in regional development, or research and innovation policies, consultants in regional development or research and innovation policy.

24-26 January

[Macro-Regional Innovation Week-Knowledge and Technology Transfer in Macro-Regions](#)

The 2018 edition of the Macro-Regional Innovation Week took place in Ispra (IT) from 24 to 26 January 2018, with the focus on Science and Technology knowledge for policy support and on collaboration with the JRC. The Macro-Regional Innovation Week promoted the opening of the JRC's research infrastructures and laboratories and showcased JRC's technical and scientific competences, in particular in the field of environment, energy, transport and biotechnologies. The event was an occasion to present key results of JRC's Scientific Support activities to the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) that may be relevant to other macro-regions. During the three-day event, participants also received the opportunity to visit the main site of the JRC in Ispra.

25 January

[First European Education Summit: learn about SELFIE and visit JRC stand](#)

The first European Education Summit gathered EU Education Ministers, global speakers, education practitioners & business leaders together to discuss, explore and pledge for a better future for education in Europe. The event was web-streamed through the Education Summit website. The Joint Research Centre presented its digital learning project for schools, [SELFIE](#), during a panel session in the afternoon. As the European Commission's science and knowledge service, the Joint Research Centre has been providing evidence-based policy support in the area of education, learning and skills since 2005 on many aspects including innovative, inclusive and relevant education and the rise of new (digital) skills and competences needed for employment, personal development and social inclusion.

25 January

[S3PEnergy- High Level Event](#)

The Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy have organised a High Level Event to showcase the results achieved so far and to discuss on the most effective ways to keep assisting regions specialised in the energy domain. Particular focus was given to the interregional cooperation dynamics in the domains of bioenergy, smart grids, sustainable buildings, marine renewables and solar.

25 January

[Workshop: Fiscal Policy and Microsimulation](#)

The JRC co-organised the workshop Fiscal Policy and Microsimulation that took place in Valencia (Spain). The workshop combined relevant keynote speakers with contributed papers and ran in parallel to the 25th Meeting on Public Economics, a 2-day general-purpose conference focused on Public Economics. The aim of the workshop was to provide an opportunity to bring together relevant research work in the field of fiscal policy evaluation, both from the micro and macro traditions.

29 January

[JRC Science Lecture: Meeting the new challenges for the EU: until 2030 and beyond](#)

This lunchtime science lecture was held at the CDMA Atrium by Ian Goldin the Oxford University Professor of Globalisation and Development and Director of the Oxford Martin Programme on Technological and Economic Change. It was an opportunity to share about his latest books including, 'Age of Discovery: Navigating the Storms of Our Second Renaissance', published by Bloomsbury and 'The Butterfly Defect: Globalisation and Systemic Risk', published by Princeton University Press. Ian Goldin identified the drivers of global growth, showing why emerging markets are likely to continue to grow at high levels for the coming decades. Rising life expectancy and declining fertility in Europe and elsewhere has dramatic consequences for pensions, retirement, dependency and employment patterns. Meanwhile, advances in artificial intelligence and robotics are transforming the nature of work. Technological change in other areas is leading to dramatic changes in business and consumption.

