



Science & Policy

What's on the EU's agenda?

January 2018

The background of the lower half of the cover is a complex, abstract network of glowing blue nodes connected by thin, light blue lines. The nodes are of varying sizes and brightness, creating a sense of depth and connectivity. The overall color scheme is a deep blue with bright blue highlights from the network nodes.

Joint
Research
Centre



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

15 January 2018

The DG JRC's monthly briefing to the scientific community, N° 65

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1. Activities of the European Institutions

1.1 European Commission

Date	Event	Subject
10 January	College Meeting	<i>Among others: The Members of the Commission are invited to the Royal Palace in Brussels on Thursday 11 January to present their New Year wishes to the Belgian Sovereigns; the Commission will then meet the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council in Sofia on 11 and 12 January; policy debate on the multiannual financial framework after 2020; overview of institutional priorities for 2018; progress report on the setting-up of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and 'Doing Less More Efficiently';</i>

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

1.2 Council

Date	Event	Location
22 January	Foreign Affairs Council	Brussels
23 January	Economic and Financial Affairs Council	Brussels
25-26 January	Informal Meeting of Justice and Home Affairs Ministers	Sofia, Bulgaria
29 January	Agriculture and Fisheries Council	Brussels
29 January	General Affairs Council (Art. 50)	Brussels

[All meetings of the Council](#)

1.3 European Parliament

Plenary Sessions

Date	Event	Subjects	Location
15-18 January	EP Plenary	<p><i>Among others: Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources; energy efficiency; Governance of the Energy Union; conservation of fishery resources and protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures; management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention Area of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation; implementation of EU macro-regional strategies; international ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals; women, gender equality and climate justice; review of the Estonian Presidency; conclusions of the European Council meeting of 14 and 15 December 2017; EU support to the Colombian peace process; situation in Zimbabwe; control of exports, transfer, brokering, technical assistance and transit of dual-use items; trade and sustainable development chapters in EU trade agreements; presentation of the programme of activities of the Bulgarian Presidency; debate with Leo Varadkar, Prime Minister of Ireland, on the Future of Europe; jurisdiction, recognition and enforcement of decisions in matrimonial matters and matters of parental responsibility, and international child abduction; Marrakesh Treaty: facilitating the access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled; fight against trafficking of women and girls for sexual and labour exploitation in the EU; implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative in the Member States; implementation of the Professional Qualifications Directive and the need for reform in professional services; debates on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law;</i></p>	Strasbourg

Committee Meetings

11 January	<u>Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs</u>	<p><i>Among others: Priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the area of Justice and Home Affairs; mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders; joint hearing with the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality on Victims' rights, in the context of the upcoming implementation report; Steering Committee of the European Migration Forum; establishing a centralised system for the identification of Member States holding conviction information on third country nationals and stateless persons (TCN) to supplement and support the European Criminal Records Information System; media pluralism and media freedom in the European Union; European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) amending Regulation; conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment; Standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection and for the content of the protection granted and amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC of 25 November 2003 concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents; European Public Prosecutor's Office: exchange of views on the current state of play, implementation and timing;</i></p>	Brussels
11 January	<u>Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs</u>	<p><i>Among others: Harmonisation of gross national income at market prices (GNI Regulation); 2016 discharge: European Banking Authority (EBA)/ European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA)/ European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA); European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2018; mandatory automatic exchange of information in the field of taxation in relation to reportable cross-border arrangements; Pan-European Personal Pension Product;</i></p>	Brussels
11 January	<u>Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety</u>	<p><i>Among others: Exchange of views with Mr Christos Stylianides, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, on Civil Protection Mechanism; report back on ongoing interinstitutional negotiations; Rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing</i></p>	Brussels

		<i>powers; report back on ongoing interinstitutional negotiations; exchange of views with the Commission on the Commission report on the state of paediatric medicines in the EU- 10 years of the EU Paediatric Regulation;</i>	
11 January	<u>Committee on Industry, Research and Energy</u>	<i>Among others: Establishing the European Defence Industrial Development Programme aiming at supporting the competitiveness and innovative capacity of the EU defence industry; accelerating Clean Energy Innovation; agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Federative Republic of Brazil; the next multiannual financial framework (MFF): preparing the Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020; common rules for the internal market in natural gas; a European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR);</i>	Brussels
11 January	<u>Committee on Transport and Tourism</u>	<i>Among others: Exchange of views with Eurostat on Memoranda of Understanding on rail statistics with ERA and DG MOVE; Rail transport statistics (recast); Study requested by the TRAN Committee, commissioned and managed by the Policy Department: 'Odometer Tampering- Measures to Prevent It'; European Added Value Assessment of 'Odometer manipulation in motor vehicles: revision of the EU legal framework'; presentation by the Commission of Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Transport Community Treaty; safeguarding competition in air transport;</i>	Brussels
11 January	<u>Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development</u>	<i>Among others: Implementation of CAP young farmers' tools in the EU after the 2013 reform; presentation by Vice-President McGuinness on her participation to the EP delegation to the 11th Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Buenos Aires; integrated farm statistics; exchange of views with Members of the Commission for Natural Resources of the Committee of the Regions on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy; exchange of views with Members of the Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment of the European Economic and Social Committee on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy;</i>	Brussels

11 January	<u>Committee on Constitutional Affairs</u>	<i>Among others: Interpretation and implementation of the interinstitutional agreement on Better Law-Making;</i>	Brussels
11 January	<u>Committee on Employment and Social Affairs</u>	<i>Among others: Report on ongoing interinstitutional negotiations; European Solidarity Corps;</i>	Brussels
11 January	<u>Committee on Budgetary Control</u>	<i>Among others: Appointment of two Members of the European Court of Auditors; ECA hearings- evaluation, votes and adoption of draft reports; evaluation of the funding programs for the outermost regions, in particular Guyana, and the new European strategy in favour of the outermost regions; ECA Special Report 23/2017 (2017 Discharge): Single Resolution Board: Work on a challenging Banking Union task started, but still a long way to go; financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union; joint debate with the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE): European Public Prosecutor's Office;</i>	Brussels
15 January	<u>Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs</u>	<i>Among others: Interoperability package: Presentation by Julian King, Commissioner for the Security Union; Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council State of play and possible ways forward as regards the situation of non-reciprocity with certain third countries in the area of visa policy and assessment of the effectiveness of the reciprocity mechanism provided for in Article 1(4) of Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001: presentation by Matthias Oel, Director DG HOME, European Commission; Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council First Report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism;</i>	Strasbourg
15 January	<u>Committee on Legal Affairs</u>	<i>Among others: Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)</i>	Strasbourg
18 January	<u>Committee on Budgetary Control</u>	<i>Among others: 2016 discharge: EU general budget- European External Action Service; Exchange of views with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, in the presence of the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, Pietro Russo; Annual report on the control of the financial activities of the EIB for 2016;</i>	Strasbourg

22 January	<u>Committee on Foreign Affairs jointly with Committee on Development Subcommittee on Human Rights</u>	<i>Among others: Exchange of views with the 2017 Sakharov Prize laureates; implementation of the EU association agreement with Moldova/Georgia/Ukraine;</i>	Brussels
22-23 January	<u>Committee on International Trade</u>	<i>Among others: Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Armenia, of the other part; Recommendations to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS on the negotiations on the EU-Azerbaijan Comprehensive Agreement; state of play of the trade negotiations with Mexico; state of play of EU-India trade and investment relations; protection against dumped and subsidised imports from countries not members of the EC; reform of the European Union's system of own resources; Recommendations to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS on the negotiations on the EU-Azerbaijan Comprehensive Agreement; Ad-hoc delegation to the Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO and to the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-13 December 2017; exchange of views on the future of the WTO; annual report on the implementation of the Common Commercial Policy; interpretation and implementation of the interinstitutional agreement on Better Law-Making; screening of foreign investment in the EU; presentation by Cecilia Malmström, Commissioner for Trade, on the finalisation of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA);</i>	Brussels
22-23 January	<u>Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection</u>	<i>Among others: Cross-border parcel delivery services; approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles and their trailers, and of systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles; contracts for the supply of digital content; Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council introducing a European services e-card and related administrative facilities; Directive of the European parliament and of the Council on the legal and operational framework of the</i>	Brussels

		<p>European services e-card introduced by Regulation; establishing a single digital gateway to provide information, procedures, assistance and problem solving services; Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee: The Goods Package: reinforcing trust in the single market; Proposal for a Regulation laying down rules and procedures for compliance with and enforcement of Union harmonisation legislation on products and amending Regulations and Directives; Proposal for a Regulation on the mutual recognition of goods lawfully marketed in another Member State; approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles and their trailers, and of systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles; establishing the European Defence Industrial Development Programme aiming at supporting the competitiveness and innovative capacity of the EU defence industry; free flow of non-personal data in the European Union;</p>	
22-23 January	Committee on Culture and Education	<p>Among others: Better services for skills and qualifications (Europass); proposal for a Council recommendation on a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships; 2016 discharge: EU general budget-Commission; cross-border restitution claims of works of art and cultural goods looted in armed conflicts and wars; European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2018; presentation of the priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency by Minister of Education and Science, Krasimir Valchev, Minister of Youth and Sport, Krasen Krlev and Minister of Culture, Boil Banov; presentation by the Commission on projects to increase independent news production around EU affairs; public hearing on The EU Youth Strategy;</p>	Brussels
22-23 January	Committee on Constitutional Affairs	Please consult the website	Brussels
22-23 January	Committee on Petitions	Please consult the website	Brussels
24 January	Committee on Legal Affairs	<p>Among others: Interpretation and implementation of the interinstitutional agreement on Better Law-Making; adapting a number of legal acts in the area of Justice providing for the use of the regulatory</p>	Brussels

		<i>procedure with scrutiny to Article 290 and 291 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU; contracts for the online and other distance sales of goods;</i>	
24 January	Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
24-25 January	Subcommittee on Human Rights	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
24-25 January	Committee on Development	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
24-25 January	Subcommittee on Security and Defence	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
24-25 January	Committee on Budgets	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
24-25 January	Committee on Regional Development	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
24-25 January	Committee on Fisheries	<i>Among others: Exchange of views with Rumen Porodzanov, Bulgarian Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forests, on the priorities of the Bulgarian Chairmanship; multiannual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea and the fisheries exploiting these stocks; protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Mauritius; EC/Comoros partnership agreement in the field of fisheries; denunciation; Council Decision denouncing the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Union of the Comoros, adopted by Council Regulation (EC) No 1563/2006 of 5 October 2006; public hearing and multiannual plan for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea and the fisheries exploiting these stocks; exchange of views with Pascal Savouret, Director of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) on the work program 2018;</i>	Brussels
All European Parliament Committee Meetings			

1.4 Committee of the Regions (CoR)

Date	Event	Location
5 January	17th Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX) commission meeting	Brussels
11 January	Joint Natural Resources Commission (NAT) and Agriculture for Rural Development (AGRI) meeting	Brussels
15 January	The European Committee of the Regions massive open online course (CoR MOOC) 2018: Make the most of EU resources for your region and city	Brussels
22 January	17th NAT Commission meeting	Brussels
22 January	International trade and globalization – Implications for regional growth, employment and industrial renewal	Brussels
23 January	NAT Stakeholders Consultation: The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) beyond 2020	Brussels
24 January	Annual Conference of the European Entrepreneurial Regions: Building the entrepreneurial ecosystems of the future	Brussels
24 January	Enabling the circular economy – boosting separate paper collection	Brussels
31 January- 1 February	127th CoR plenary session	Brussels

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

1.5 European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Date	Event	Location
9 January	Public hearing on the European "Cybersecurity act"	Brussels
17-18 January	531st Plenary Session	Brussels

24 January	EU Funds for integration - How can we better support people with a migrant background?	Brussels
Further events of the European Economic and Social Committee		

1.6 International Relations		
Date	Event	Location
17 January	Delegation of the EU to the US Breakfast Briefing on EU-U.S. Space Cooperation: Achievements and Renewed Ambitions	Washington DC, USA
18 January	EU-US Space Dialogue	Washington DC, USA

2. Conferences & Meetings

2.1 DG JRC Conferences and Events

Date	Event	Organiser	Location
12 January	Bulgarian semester opening ceremony	DG JRC	Ispra, Italy
22 January	Science meets Regions	DG JRC	Udine, Italy
23 January	MOOC: Monitoring Smart Specialisation Strategies	DG JRC	Brussels
23 January	Roundtable Supporting European Expertise in Nuclear Decommissioning	DG JRC	Brussels

25 January	S3PEnergy - High Level Event	DG JRC, EC	Brussels
24-26 January	Macro-Regional Innovation Week- Knowledge and Technology Transfer in Macro-Regions	DG JRC	Ispira, Italy
25 January	Workshop "Fiscal Policy and Microsimulation"	DG JRC, University of Valencia	Valencia, Spain
30 January -2 February	Workshop on proficiency tests (PTs) & basic and advanced courses on gamma-ray spectrometry	DG JRC	Geel, Belgium
23 February	First Annual JRC Alumni Network Event Further information is available on the JRC Alumni website or by contacting JRC-ALUMNI@ec.europa.eu	DG JRC	Brussels
Further upcoming DG JRC Events			
Further upcoming events in the EU Newsroom Calendar			

2.2 Further European Conferences and Meetings

8-9 January	Shaping Our Future: Designing the Next Multiannual Financial Framework	EC	Brussels
9 January	High-level meeting of the Clean Energy Industrial Forum on renewables	EC	Brussels
9 January	Citizens' dialogue in The Hague with Commissioner Phil Hogan	EC	The Hague, Netherlands
11 January	Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) applicant seminar	EC, DG REGIO	Bucharest, Romania
15 January	CoR MOOC 2018: Make the most of EU resources for your region and city	EC, CoR, European Investment Bank	Brussels

15 January	Citizens' Dialogue with Commissioner Violeta Bulc	EC	Luxembourg City, Luxembourg
15-16 January	Tour d'Europe (Vienna)	EC, DG RTD	Vienna, Austria
16 January	EU Energy Day: EU's clean energy future- from technology development to system integration	EC, EU-GCC Clean Energy Technology Network	Abu Dhabi, UAE
16-17 January	Workshop 'EU Aviation Research Policy on Noise'	EC, DG RTD	Brussels
17 January	Workshop on GDP-linked government bonds	EC, DG ECFIN, OECD	Brussels
18 January	Fiscal policy in an environment of high debt	EC, DG ECFIN	Brussels
18-19 January	RISE 2018 Coordinators Day	EC, Research Executive Agency (REA)	Brussels
19 January	Citizens' dialogue in Berlin with Commissioners Vytenis Andriukaitis and Phil Hogan	EC	Berlin, Germany
23 January	Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) applicant seminar	EC, DG RTD	Zagreb, Croatia
23-24 January	10th European conference on European Space Policy	EC, EP, EESA, Eurospace, et al.	Brussels
24 January	EU mission-oriented R&I policy	EP, Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA)	Brussels
25 January	Tour d'Europe (Turin)	EC, DG RTD	Turin, Italy
29 January	Tour d'Europe (Sofia)	EC, DG RTD	Sofia, Bulgaria

30 January	Public hearing on simpler withholding tax procedures for Europe	EC, DG FISMA, DG TAXUD	Brussels
31 January	Info day on the 2018 calls for proposals for grants for information provision and promotion measures concerning agricultural products	EC, Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFAEA)	Brussels
13 February	EIT Information Day for the 2018 Call for Proposals for two new Innovation Communities: EIT Manufacturing and EIT Urban Mobility	European Institute of Information and Technology (EIT)	Brussels
22 February	Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform (SNETP) 10th Anniversary	SNEPT	Brussels
5-6 March	Civil Protection forum	EC	Brussels

2.3 International Conferences and events

Date	Event	Organiser	Location
21-26 January	Arctic Frontiers 2018-Connecting the Arctic	Arcticfrontiers	Tromsø, Norway
7-13 February	World Urban Forum UN Habitat		Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
14-19 February	American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting	AAAS	Austin, USA

20 February	JRC-UNESCO Information Session on Water	JRC, UNESCO	New York City
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	<u>DG JRC Annual Report</u>
January	<u>DG JRC Newsletter January 2018</u>
Open	<u>Open access to JRC Research Infrastructures - Call</u>
Open	<u>The EU is recruiting researchers - Call for expressions of interest</u>

December Highlights

4 December	<u>A gateway to knowledge on health</u>
<p>The European Commission has launched a Knowledge Gateway on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention to support the implementation of health policies across the EU. The new web gateway, developed by the JRC and European Commission Directorate-General Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), provides reliable, independent and up-to date information on topics related to the promotion of health and the prevention of non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer. The Gateway provides structured, concise, up-to-date and peer-reviewed information. The first six briefs published address marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages, health inequalities as well as the intake of dietary fibre, protein, fruit, vegetables and whole grain. In addition to defining the issue at hand and its health-related implications, each brief provides a summary of EU data and lists best-practices, actions, interventions as well as concrete policies that address the topic.</p>	

14-16 December

[The 2nd International workshop on Modelling of Physical, Economic and Social Systems for Resilience Assessment](#)

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) in close collaboration with NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology, US Department of Commerce) and Colorado State University organised the 2nd International Workshop on Modelling of Physical, Economic and Social Systems for Resilience Assessment. The workshop aimed to explore how high-level strategic needs and current scientific advances on modelling of physical, economic and social systems are linked in order to support resilience assessment in various dimensions.

15 December

[JRC Science Lecture: "A multi-location, European and global community of social innovators & entrepreneurs as a research base and dissemination mechanism for policy making"](#)

This lunchtime science lecture was held at the CDMA Atrium, by Gabriela Gandel the Executive Director of Impact Hub, Vienna. It was an opportunity to share about the uniqueness of the Impact Hub network, as a research & dissemination base, underlining the added value and potential of the surrounding community. The lecturer's aim was to provide understanding of the Impact Hub Network among staff and stakeholders of the Joint Research Centre. Gabriela Gandel gave a strategic direction which served as a bridge with the EU policy Lab, and explored potential synergies and cooperation.

15 December

[Pooling data to combat rare diseases](#)

The JRC and the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety are developing a European Platform on Rare Diseases Registration (EU RD Platform) to tackle the issue of fragmentation of data regarding rare disease patients. The "Set of Common Data Elements for Rare Diseases Registration" is the first practical instrument released by the EU RD Platform aiming for an increased interoperability of the data registries. It defines the minimum data elements to be registered by all rare diseases registries across Europe, and provides instructions on how and in which format each data element should be registered. The document describes the 16 data elements considered to be essential to enable further research. They refer to patient's personal data, diagnosis, disease history and care pathway, as well as information to be provided for research purposes. All existing and new data registries across Europe are recommended to use this standard as the basis for their data collection activities. The standard was produced by a Working Group coordinated by the JRC and composed of experts from EU projects working on common data sets: EUCERD Joint Action, EPIRARE and RD-Connect.

[All DG JRC news](#)