



Science & Policy

What's on the EU's agenda?

January 2019



Joint
Research
Centre



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

1 January 2019

The DG JRC's monthly briefing to the scientific community, N° 76

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1. Activities of the European Institutions

1.1 European Commission

Date	Event	Subject
9 January	College Meeting	<i>Among others: Preparation of the Romanian Presidency of the Council Initial policy debate: 2019 European Parliament elections: guidelines on the ethical standards applicable to the participation of the Members of the Commission in the election campaign;</i>
All meetings of the College of Commissioners		

1.2 Council

Date	Event	Location
8 January	General Affairs Council	Brussels
21 January	Foreign Affairs Council	Brussels
22 January	Economic and Financial Affairs Council	Brussels
28 January	Agriculture and Fisheries Council	Brussels

[All meetings of the Council](#)

1.3 European Parliament

Plenary Sessions

Date	Event	Subjects	Location
14-17 January	Plenary	<p><i>Among others: Union's authorisation procedure for pesticides; use of vehicles hired without drivers for the carriage of goods by road; gender mainstreaming in the European Parliament; European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy; assessing how the EU budget is used for public sector reform; EU guidelines and the mandate of the EU Special Envoy on the promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside the EU; gender equality and taxation policies in the EU; autonomous driving in European transport; Review of the Austrian Council Presidency; Conclusions of the European Council meeting of 13 and 14 December 2018; 20th Anniversary of the Euro; presentation of the programme of activities of the Romanian Presidency; debates on foreign affairs issues in the presence of the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (tbd); European Central Bank Annual report 2017; Banking Union- Annual report 2018; implementation of trade and association agreements in Latin America; implementation of the EU-Colombia and Peru Trade Agreement; implementation report on the trade pillar of the Association Agreement with Central America; European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF); European Social Fund Plus (ESF+); establishing the InvestEU Programme; strengthening fiscal responsibility and the medium-term budgetary orientation in the Member States; debate with the President of the Government of Spain, Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón, on the Future of Europe; situation of fundamental rights in the European Union in 2017; combating late payment in commercial transactions; Annual Report on the financial activities of the European Investment Bank; Annual Report 2017 on the control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank; establishing the "Fiscalis" programme for</i></p>	Strasbourg

		<p>cooperation in the field of taxation; establishing the Rights and Values programme; protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States; nuclear decommissioning assistance programme of the Ignalina nuclear power plant in Lithuania; European Instrument for Nuclear Safety complementing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument; differentiated integration; Ombudsman's strategic inquiry OI/2/2017 on the transparency of legislative discussions in the preparatory bodies of the Council of the EU; differentiated integration; Ombudsman's strategic inquiry OI/2/2017 on the transparency of legislative discussions in the preparatory bodies of the Council of the EU; debates on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law;</p>	
10 January	<p>Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs</p>	<p>Among others: European Commission reporting back to the Committee on concluded EBCG Status Agreement negotiations; establishing the Asylum and Migration Fund; European Border and Coast Guard; establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code); establishing the Internal Security Fund; listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement, as regards the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union; Draft Agreement on Cooperation between Eurojust and Georgia; conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and Federative Republic of Brazil amending the Agreement between the European Union and the Federative Republic of Brazil on a short-stay visa waiver for holders of ordinary passports; conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and Federative Republic of Brazil amending the Agreement between the European Union and the Federative Republic of Brazil on a short-stay visa waiver for holders of diplomatic, service or official passports;</p>	Brussels

10 January	Committee on Transport and Tourism	<i>Among others: Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 with regard to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union; time limit for the implementation of the special rules regarding maximum length in case of cabs delivering improved aerodynamic performance, energy efficiency and safety performance; European Maritime Single Window environment; Proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Treaty establishing the Transport Community;</i>	Brussels
10 January	Committee on Employment and Social Affairs	<i>Among others: Amending Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 as regards on minimum requirements on maximum daily and weekly driving times, minimum breaks and daily and weekly rest periods and Regulation (EU) 165/2014 as regards positioning by means of tachographs; enforcement requirements and specific rules for posting drivers in the road transport sector; amending Regulation (EC) No 1071/2009 and Regulation (EC) No 1072/2009 with a view to adapting them to developments in the sector;</i>	Brussels
14 January	Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development	<i>Among others: Discontinuing seasonal changes of time; exchange of views on the implementation of the EU Forest Strategy, in the presence of Commissioner Phil Hogan;</i>	Strasbourg
15-17 January	Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Strasbourg
17 January	Committee on Regional Development	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Strasbourg
21-22 January	Committee on Foreign Affairs	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
21-22 January	Committee on Development	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels

21-22 January	Committee on Budgetary Control	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
21-22 January	Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
21-22 January	Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
21-22 January	Committee on Transport and Tourism	<i>Among others: Discontinuing seasonal changes of time; Policy Department workshop on seasonal changes of time; Discharge 2017: General budget of the EU-European Commission; Discharge 2017: European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA); Discharge 2017: European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA); Discharge 2017: European Union Agency for Railways (ERA); Discharge 2017: Joint undertaking- safety of air navigation (SESAR); Discharge 2017: Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (SHIFT2RAIL); feedback on trilogues (European maritime single window environment; in camera); scrutiny: presentation by the Commission of draft Delegated Act on specifications for Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems; scrutiny: presentation by the Commission of Delegated act on drones for use in the open category;</i>	
21-22 January	Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection	<i>Among others: Copyright in the Digital Single Market; promoting fairness and transparency for business users of online intermediation services; prolongation of the transitional use of means other than the electronic data-processing techniques provided for in the Union Customs Code; contracts for the supply of digital content; rules and procedures for compliance with and enforcement of Union harmonisation legislation on products; establishing the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre and the Network of National Coordination Centres; type-approval requirements for motor vehicles and their trailers, and systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles, as regards their general safety and the protection of vehicle occupants and</i>	Brussels

		<p>vulnerable road users; insurance against civil liability in respect of the use of motor vehicles, and the enforcement of the obligation to ensure against such liability; preventing the dissemination of terrorist content online; strengthening the competitiveness of the Internal Market by developing the EU customs union and its governance; import of cultural goods; Regulation on ENISA, the "EU Cybersecurity Agency", and repealing Regulation (EU) 526/2013, and on Information and Communication Technology cybersecurity certification ("Cybersecurity Act"); harmonisation as principle for single market legislation; presentation of the Council Presidency's programme; exchange of views with Věra Jourová, Commissioner responsible for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality; legislative scrutiny session: Medical Devices Regulation; recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the Vice President of Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the Institutional Framework Agreement between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation;</p>	
21-22 January	Committee on Regional Development	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
21-22 January	Committee on Culture and Education	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
21-22 January	Committee on Petitions	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
22 January	Committee on Constitutional Affairs	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
23-24 January	Subcommittee on Human Rights	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
23-24 January	Subcommittee on Security and Defence	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels

Committee on International Trade

23-24
January

Among others: Ad-hoc delegation to the Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, Geneva, Switzerland, 6-7 December 2018; Protocol to the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the United Mexican States, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union; Recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the Vice President of Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the Institutional Framework Agreement between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation; Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the EU and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade; Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the EU and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade; Implementation of the GSP Regulation No 978/2012; presentation by the Commission of the outcome of the G-20 Summit, 30 November-1 December 2018, on trade related aspects, including work related to the Global Forum on Steel Overcapacity; presentation by Ștefan-Radu Oprea, Minister of Business Environment, Trade and Entrepreneurship, representing the President-in-Office of the Council, on the priorities of the Romanian Presidency in the area of International Trade Policy; presentation of a study "Consequences of US Trade Policy on EU-US Trade Relations and the Global Trading System"; Europe-Asia Connectivity: what is the impact on trade?; presentation by the Commission on the implementation of Trade and Sustainable Development chapter of the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement; Monitoring Groups Activities; mechanism for the selection and appointment of members of international investment courts in connection to the EU's agreements; state of play of discussions in UNCITRAL on multilateral negotiations on the reform of ISDS; Annual Report on the Implementation of Free Trade Agreements- 1 January 2017- 31 December 2017; Proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the relevant agreements under Article XXI GATS

Brussels

		<i>with Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the Separate customs territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu (Chinese Taipei), Columbia, Cuba, Ecuador, Hong Kong China, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, the Philippines, Switzerland, and the United States, on the necessary compensatory adjustments resulting from the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden to the European Union;</i>	
23-24 January	Committee on Budgets	<i>Among others: Overview of the execution of the 2018 budget- presentation by the European Commission on main execution figures in commitments and payments, autonomous transfers and decommitments; Building policy- EC: Helios (ex- Drosbach) and Laccolith building, Luxembourg; ECA special report No 34/2018 on 'Office accommodation of EU institutions', presentation by Jan Gregor, Member of the European Court of Auditors</i>	Brussels
23-24 January	Committee on Industry, Research and Energy	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
23-24 January	Committee on Fisheries	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
23-24 January	Committee on Employment and Social Affairs	<i>Among others: Exchange of views with Marius-Constantin Budăi (Romanian Minister of Labour and Social Justice); Commission Delegated Regulation amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/2195 on supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Social Fund, regarding the definition of standard scales of unit costs and lump sums for reimbursement of expenditure by the Commission to Member States;</i>	
23-24	Committee on Legal Affairs	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels

January			
23-24 January	Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality	<i>Among others: Mission to Italy– 2018; women's role in preventing radicalisation; implementation of the EU Funds aimed at fighting violence against women and girls; Council Presidency;</i>	Brussels
24 January	Special committee on financial crimes, tax evasion and tax avoidance	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
29 January	Special committee on financial crimes, tax evasion and tax avoidance	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels

[All European Parliament Committee Meetings](#)

1.4 Committee of the Regions (CoR)

Date	Event	Location
17 January	European Entrepreneurial Region (EER) 2020 Info Day	Brussels
21 January	Europe for Her	Brussels
24 January	Monitoring and evaluation of Smart Specialisation - State of the play and next steps	Brussels
29 January	Commission for the Environment, Climate change and Energy (ENVE) stakeholders consultation - A Clean Planet for all	Brussels
6 February	133rd CoR plenary session	Brussels

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

1.5 European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Date	Event	Location
16 January	European Philanthropy: an untapped potential	Brussels
23-24 January	540th Plenary session	Brussels
24-25 January	Social Innovation for Refugee Inclusion: a Sense of Home Co-organised conference	Brussels
29 January	Taxation in the digitalised economy- Which way forward?	Brussels
30 January	Digital Health literacy	Brussels
1 February	The future of live-in care work in Europe- Stockholm	Stockholm, Sweden
6 February	Resilient Democracy- A strong and diverse civil society	Brussels

[Further events of the European Economic and Social Committee](#)

2. Conferences & Meetings

2.1 DG JRC Conferences and Events

Date	Event	Organiser	Location
8-9 January	Promoting Sustainable Finance	JRC, European Commission's Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Finance (TEG), Community of Practice in Financial Research (CoPFiR)	Brussels
14 January-4 February	Web Conference on Land Degradation and Restoration Knowledge Gaps and Needs	The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), JRC	Online (EU)
17-19 January	Science meets Parliaments: Green and blue growth-France	JRC	Guadeloupe, France
31 January	Science meets Parliaments: Science for policy- Estonia	JRC, Estonian Parliament	Tallinn, Estonia
31 January	Peer eXchange and Learning (PXL) workshop on governance of the Smart Specialisation Strategies	EC, S3 Platform, Innovation and Business development of the Region Östergötland	Linköping, Sweden
5 February	Second Annual JRC Alumni Network Event	JRC	Brussels
6-7 February	Science meets Parliaments: What role for science in the 21st century policy-making	JRC, Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA)	Brussels

[Further upcoming DG JRC Events](#)

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

2.2 Further European Conferences and Meetings

10 January	Innovative solutions for research in healthcare	European Parliament's Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Panel	Brussels
14 January	Citizens' dialogue in Stockholm with Vice-President Jyrki Katainen	EC	Stockholm, Sweden
14 January	EU Energy Day– Sectoral integration and the clean energy transition	EC, DG ENER	Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
15 January	2nd stakeholder workshop to support the fitness check of the EU ambient air quality directives	DG ENV	Brussels
15 January	Roundtable of industry experts on European non-performing loans	EC, DG FISMA	Brussels
17 January	2019 Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Transport call- Virtual information day	EC, Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA)	Online
17 January	Citizens' dialogue in Potsdam with Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis	EC	Potsdam, Germany
17 January	Citizens' Dialogue in Weißenfels with Richard Kühnel, Head of the European Commission's Representation in Germany	EC	Weißenfels, Germany
17-18 January	Marie Skłodowska-Curie– Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) 2018- Coordinators' Day	EC, Research Executive Agency (REA)	Brussels
18 January	Citizens' Dialogues in San Roque with Teresa Frontán, Head of Information & Communication Team, European Commission's Representation in Spain	EC	San Roque, Spain

21 January	Cybersecurity standardisation and the EU Cybersecurity Act: Where are we today?	European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA), European Standard Organizations	Brussels
21 January	Citizens' Dialogues in Lepe with Teresa Frontán, Head of Information & Communication Team, European Commission's Representation in Spain	EC	Lepe, Spain
22 January	Horizon 2020 energy efficiency information day	EC, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME)	Brussels
22-23 January	11th conference on European space policy– Space for Europe, European space in the world	Business Bridge Europe (BBE)	Brussels
23 January	1st Transport cybersecurity conference	European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA), DG MOVE, European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), European Union Agency for Railways (ERA), European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)	Lisbon, Portugal
24 January	Citizens' Dialogue in Schönebeck with Patrick Lobis, Head of the Political Team, European Commission's Representation in Germany	EC	Schönebeck, Germany
24 January	Forum on the future of learning	EC, DG HR	Brussels
24 January	Conference on sustainable corporate governance	EC, DG JUST	Brussels
24 January	Blue Invest in the Mediterranean 2019	EC	St. Julian's STJ, Malta
25 January	Citizens' Dialogue in Dublin with Commissioner Margrethe Vestager	EC	Dublin, Ireland
28-30 January	HepHIV2019 conference: Challenges of timely and integrated testing and care	Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU, Integrate Joint Action	Bucharest, Romania

29 January	Citizens' Dialogue in Dublin with Commissioner Tibor Navracsics	EC	Dublin, Ireland
29 January	Citizens' Dialogue in Blankenburg with Bernhard Schnittger, Deputy Head of the European Commission's Representation in Germany	EC	Blankenburg, Germany
29 January	Fiscal policy in an uncertain environment	EC, DG ECFIN	Brussels
29 January	Taxation in the digitalised economy– which way forward?	European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)	Brussels
29 January	Delivering for the future III: Workshop on developments in the postal sector	EC, DG GROW	Brussels
29 January	Workshop on intra-EU communication services	Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)	Brussels
31 January	Responding to public opposition to low-carbon energy technologies	European Parliament's Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Panel	Brussels
5 February	4th EU-Norway energy conference	EC, DG ENER	Brussels
5-6 February	EU Industry Days 2019	EC	Brussels
5-7 February	Science Week at the European Parliament	European Parliament's Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Panel	Brussels
12-14 March	New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics (NTTS) 2019 International Conference	EC, Eurostat	Brussels, Belgium

2.3 International Conferences and events

Date	Event	Organiser	Location
14-19 January	World future Energy Summit (WFES)	WFES	Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
14-17 February	American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting: Science Transcending Boundaries	AAAS	Washington DC, USA
11-15 March	Fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4)	United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEP)	Nairobi, Kenya
25-29 March	The World Bank Development Group- Land and Poverty Conference 2019: Catalyzing Innovation	The World Bank (IBRD IDA)	Washington DC, USA
10-12 April	UN-Habitat Governing Council (27th session)	UN Habitat	Nairobi, Kenya
28 April- 4 May	Science and Policy for People and Nature (IPBES) 7 Plenary session	United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Paris, France
29 April-3 May	Global Young Academy (GYA) 9th International Conference for 2019 Young Scientists (1-2 May 2019) and 10th Anniversary AGM (Annual General Meeting) 2019: Re-Enlightenment? Truth, reason and science in a global world	GYA	Halle, Germany
8-9 May	European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA) 25th anniversary: Science and Society in Present-Day Europe	ALLEA	Bern, Switzerland
13-17 May	Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk	Geneva,

		Reduction (UNISDR)	Switzerland
14-30 August	European Forum Alpbach: Liberty and Security	European Forum Alpbach	Alpbach, Austria
16-20 September	IAEA 63rd General Conference	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	Vienna, Austria
24-27 September	International Symposium on Digital Earth (ISDE)	ISDE	Florence, Italy
23 September	UN Climate Summit: A race we can win. A race we must win	United Nations (UN)	New York, USA
11-22 November	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 25	UNFCC	Chile
20-23 November	World Science Forum 2019	World Science Forum	Budapest, Hungary

3. DG JRC News

December	DG JRC Newsletter December 2018
2017	JRC Annual Report
Open	Open access to JRC Research Infrastructures- Call Actinide User Laboratory-ActUsLab
Open	The EU is recruiting researchers- Call for expressions of interest
Open	JRC Alumni Network: Membership registration for JRC Alumni and staff

December Highlights

3-14 December

[JRC at the COP 24 - 24th conference on climate change](#)

COP24 is the informal name for the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The key objective of COP24 was to adopt the implementation guidelines of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The organisation of side events in the EU Pavilion contributed to showcase the EU progress in implementing actions to achieve the climate goals agreed upon in Paris. The JRC provided scientific and technical advice for the development and implementation of EU policies. JRC scientists and experts co-lead side events and engaged in panel discussions to contribute to the scientific and technical discussions on climate action.

3 December

[How can EU policy benefit from new microdata?](#)

The JRC organised a roundtable discussion and book presentation on "Data-Driven Policy Impact Evaluation: How Access to Microdata is Transforming Policy Design". The book can be [downloaded](#) for free.

5 December

[Launch event: Artificial Intelligence: A European perspective](#)

We are only at the beginning of a rapid period of transformation of our economy and society due to the convergence of many digital technologies. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is central to this change. This event presented the JRC policy report on "Artificial Intelligence: A European perspective" as well as an anticipation of the AI Watch platform, which monitors the development, uptake, and socio-economic impact of AI in Europe.

9 December

[From theory to practice: innovative uses of evidence for forward-looking migration policies](#)

The challenges to global governance on international migration include "understanding what causes and controls migration" and "to use that knowledge to design appropriate policies". The JRC side event to the UN Intergovernmental Conference on the Global Compact for Migration addressed these challenges. It focused in particular on ways to "minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin" (Objective 2); support policymakers to use 'accurate, timely, accessible and transparent information to develop migration policies that provide a high degree of predictability and certainty' (Objective 3).

9-11 December

[Evidence-informed Policymaking Seminar: Water-Energy-Food-Health](#)

Water, energy, food security and health remain in the scientific and policy making spotlight in Africa. The Evidence Informed Policy Making (EIPM) seminar trained participants to use evidence for policy making by focusing on challenges and interrelations of those fields.

10 December

[Workshop on perceptions and attitudes of the European public opinion](#)

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) has organised a workshop on perceptions and attitudes of the public opinion towards European policies. The workshop brought together researchers and policy makers from all over Europe. The meeting took place in Seville with videoconference facilities in Ispra, Brussels and Madrid.

12 December

[Energy, climate change & sustainable development- Poland](#)

The Wielkopolskie region is part of the pilot initiative on European coal regions in transition. The conference explored the possibilities of a transition to a hydrogen-based energy system.

14 December

[European Commission's Technology Transfer Competence Centre: launch event](#)

Past 14 December, the European Commission launched the Competence Centre for Technology Transfer (CCTT). It represents the European Commission's primary platform for policy support and capacity building in technology transfer at the EU, national, regional and local level. The core mission of the CCTT is to provide expert services to DGs, regional and local authorities and relevant stakeholders in three key areas: technology transfer operational support, financial instruments conception and design and support to innovation ecosystems and clusters.

[All DG JRC news](#)

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