



Science & Policy

What's on the EU's agenda?

May 2018



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

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1. Activities of the European Institutions

1.1 European Commission

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

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

1.2 Council

| Date | Event | Location |
|-----------|--|----------|
| 3-5 May | EU-Moldova Association Council | Brussels |
| 5 May | Informal meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers on Defence | Sofia |
| 14 May | EU-Algeria Association Council | Brussels |
| 14 May | General Affairs Council (Art. 50) | Brussels |
| 22-23 May | Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council | Brussels |
| 25 May | Economic and Financial Affairs Council | Brussels |
| 28 May | Foreign Affairs Council | Brussels |
| 28-29 May | Competitiveness Council | Brussels |

[All meetings of the Council](#)

1.3 European Parliament

Plenary Sessions

| Date | Event | Subjects | Location |
|---------|-------------------------|--|----------|
| 2-3 May | Plenary | <i>Among others:</i> Debate with the Prime Minister of Belgium, Charles Michel, on the Future of Europe; Commission decision adopted on the MFF post 2020 package- Commission statement; Annual report on the control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank for 2016; Annual report 2016 on the protection of EU's Financial Interests- fight against fraud; stalking crimes and victim protection in the EU-Council and Commission statements; protection of children in migration; addressing farm safety in the EU; short presentations of the following reports: current situation and future prospects for the sheep and goat sectors in the EU; cohesion policy and thematic objective 'promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures'; a global ban to end to animal testing for cosmetics; | Brussels |

Committee Meetings

| | | | |
|-----------|--|---|----------|
| 3 May | Committee on Budgets | <i>Among others:</i> Commission proposals on the Multi-annual Financial Framework beyond 2020 and Own Resources; presentation by Günther Oettinger, Commissioner responsible for Budget and Human Resources | Brussels |
| 3 May | Committee on Petitions | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 14-15 May | Committee on Budgetary Control | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 14-15 May | Committee on Transport and Tourism | <i>Among others:</i> Charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures; charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures, as regards certain provisions on vehicle taxation; interoperability of electronic road toll systems and facilitating cross-border exchange of information on the failure to pay road fees in the Union (recast); | Brussels |

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|-----------|--|--|----------|
| | | <i>Europe on the Move: an agenda for the future of mobility in the EU; exchange of views with the General Rapporteur for Budget 2019, Mr Viotti; presentation of a Pol Dep study on 'Resources, energy and lifecycle greenhouse gas emission aspects of electric vehicles'; exchange of views with H.E. Mr. Akbar al Baker, CEO of Qatar Airways; 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; amending Regulation (EC) No 1071/2009 and Regulation (EC) No 1072/2009 with a view to adapting them to developments in the sector; use of vehicles hired without drivers for the carriage of goods by road;</i> | |
| 14-15 May | Committee on Fisheries | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 14-15 May | Committee on Legal Affairs | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 14-15 May | Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 16-17 May | Committee on Foreign Affairs | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 16-17 May | Special Committee on Terrorism | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 16-17 May | Committee on Development | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 16-17 May | Committee on International Trade | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 16-17 May | Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 16-17 May | Committee on Industry, Research and Energy | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 16-17 May | Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |

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|--|--|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 16-17 May | Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 16-17 May | Committee on Culture and Education | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| 24 May | Committee on Constitutional Affairs | <i>Please consult the website</i> | Brussels |
| All European Parliament Committee Meetings | | | |

1.4 Committee of the Regions (CoR)

| Date | Event | Location |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| 2 May | ECON external Seminar: Shaping change- towards a holistic industrial strategy | Brussels |
| 3 May | 4th Enlargement Day 2018 | Brussels |
| 3-4 May | European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation's (EGTC) contribution to the Future of Europe debate | Athens |
| 4 May | The role of cultural heritage in the construction of the Europe for citizens | Burgos, Spain |
| 16 May | 129th CoR plenary session | Brussels |
| 24 May | 19th NAT Commission meeting and Conference on Olive oil, the basis of the Mediterranean diet and a valuable ally for health | Pilos, Greece |

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

1.5 European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

| Date | Event | Location |
|--|--|--------------------|
| 3 May | 26th meeting of the European Economic Area (EEA) Consultative Committee | Reykjavik, Iceland |
| 9 May | Lithuania - Improving the effectiveness of EU policies for SMEs | Brussels |
| 15 May | The Multiannual Financial Framework post 2020: Challenges and opportunities | Brussels |
| 16 May | The future of live-in care work in Europe | Rome, Italy |
| 24-25 May | Civil Society Days 2018 | Brussels |
| 30 May | Artificial Intelligence | Brussels |
| 31 May | Energy transition in Europe's Regions- Assessing regional economic effects of the transition to a smart and low-carbon energy supply | Brussels |
| Further events of the European Economic and Social Committee | | |

1.6 International Relations

| Date | Event | Venue/Location |
|--------|---|----------------|
| 17 May | EU-Western Balkans Summit | Sofia |

2. Conferences & Meetings

2.1 DG JRC Conferences and Events

| Date | Event | Organiser | Location |
|---------------|---|--|---------------------|
| 3-4 May | Smart Specialisation and Technology Transfer as Innovation Drivers for Regional Growth | Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, EC, JRC | Sofia, Bulgaria |
| 3-18 May | Putting science at the heart of European policymaking- JRC science exhibition | JRC | Sofia, Bulgaria |
| 4 May | Meeting on the use of certified reference materials for Abeta42 | JRC | Geel, Belgium |
| 14-17 April | 26th EU Biomass Conference (EUBCE) & Exhibition | JRC, EUBCE | Copenhagen, Denmark |
| 18 May | Seminar lecture by Kristin Connors, Procter & Gamble (P&G) | JRC | Ispra, Italy |
| 23 May | Smart Specialisation in the EU and Latin America: regional challenges, transcontinental opportunities | JRC | Barcelona, Spain |
| 28-30 May | Workshop on checks and management of agricultural land in Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) | Lithuanian Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre (VIC), JRC | Vilnius, Lithuania |
| 30 May | International Federation of Chemical Chemistry (IFCC) Working Group on Faecal Immunochemical Testing | JRC | Geel, Belgium |
| 31 May | Seminar lecture on "Transporters impact the biokinetics of environmental chemicals" | JRC | Ispra, Italy |
| 31 May-1 June | EUROLIB General Assembly 2018 | JRC, EP, Council, Committee of the Regions, ECB, EESC | Ispra |

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|---|--|-----|----------|
| 4-5 June | FTA 2018- Future in the making | JRC | Brussels |
| 9-13 July | ELINDER Generic Course 5 - 'Decommissioning Summer School' | JRC | Ispra |
| Further upcoming DG JRC Events | | | |
| Further upcoming events in the EU Newsroom Calendar | | | |
| upcoming | | | |

2.2 Further European Conferences and Meetings

| | | | |
|-----------|--|--|-----------------|
| 2-3 May | EU AgriResearch conference - Innovating for the future of farming and rural communities | EC | Brussels |
| 5 May | Open Day of the European Institutions in Brussels | Council of the EU, European Parliament (EP), European Commission (EC), European Court of Auditors (ECA), European External Action Service (EEAS), European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), European committee of the Regions (CoR), European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) | Brussels |
| 10-12 May | State of the Union Conference 2018 | European University Institute (EUI) | Florence, Italy |
| 14-15 May | 5th European Conference on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP): Planning for multimodal cities | EC, European Platform on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, The Urban Mobility Observatory (ELTIS) | Nicosia, Cyprus |
| 14-19 May | Commissioner Phil Hogan: high-level mission to China | EC | Shanghai, China |
| 17 May | Blue Invest 2018 | EC | Brussels |

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|---------------|--|---|------------------|
| 17 May | European Natura 2000 Award | EC | |
| 17 May | Strengthening cooperation between the STS forum and the EU through the 9th Framework Program | EP, Science and Technology Assessment (STOA) | Brussels |
| 18 May | Forum Circular economy and clean technologies | Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, EC | Sofia, Bulgaria |
| 21-25 May | EU Green Week 2018: Green cities for a greener future | EC | Brussels |
| 29-30 May | 2d ENISA-EASA training on aviation cybersecurity | European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA), European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) | Athens, Greece |
| 29-30 May | Joint Horizon 2020 Workshop - Advancing the Assessment of Chemical Mixtures and their Risks for Human Health and the Environment | EC | Ispra, Italy |
| 30 May | Pan-European personal pension product – Regulation, effects and problems | Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, EC, University of Business Finance and Entrepreneurship (VUZF) | Sofia, Bulgaria |
| 30-31 May | Meeting of the European Electricity Regulatory Forum | EC | Florence, Italy |
| 31 May | Financing energy efficiency in Greece and Cyprus | Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece, EC, UNEP Finance Initiative | Athens, Greece |
| 31 May | STOA-ERC event- Investing in Young Researchers, Shaping Europe's Future | EP, STOA | Strasbourg |
| 31 May- 1June | 2018 European Maritime Day conference | EC, DG Mare | Burgas, Bulgaria |

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|---|--|---|-----------------|
| 8 June | High Level Conference Dedicated to EU Cohesion Policy: post-2020 Perspectives for Convergence and Sustainable Regions. | Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, EC | Sofia, Bulgaria |
| EIT 2018 Call for Proposals for new EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) in Urban Mobility and Added Value Manufacturing | | EIT | Brussels |
| EIT Call for expressions of interest for the selection of new members of the EIT Governing Board (deadline 14 May) | | EIT | Brussels |

2.3 International Conferences and events

| Date | Event | Organiser | Location |
|-----------------|--|---|-------------------------|
| 7-10 May | Seeds&Chips – The Global Food Innovation Summit | Seeds & Chips | Milan, Italy |
| 14-18 May | Understanding Risk Forum 2018 | World Bank | Mexico City, Mexico |
| 18-20 June | 4th World Congress of Latvian Scientists | Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia | Riga, Latvia |
| 18-22 June | 5th International Adaptations Futures Conference (AF2018): Dialogues for Solutions | Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts, and Adaptation (PROVIA) | Cape Town, South Africa |
| 9-13 July | LERU Summer School 2018: The Global Society- The Importance of Interdisciplinary Collaboration to Tackle Societal Challenges | University of Leuven | Leuven, Belgium |
| 9-18 July | High level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018 on Sustainable Development | HLPF | New York, USA |
| 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 |

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|--------------------|--|------|-----------------|
| 25-28 September | World Social Science Forum (WSSF) | WSSF | Fukuoka, Japan |
| 5-9 November | 2018 Symposium on International Safeguards | IAEA | Vienna, Austria |

3. DG JRC News

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|--------------|---|
| April | DG JRC Newsletter April 2018 |
| Open | Call for expression of interest - Science meets Parliaments / Science meets Regions - pilot project funded by the European Parliament (deadline: 1 June 2018) |
| Open | Open access to JRC Research Infrastructures- Call: Actinide User Laboratory-ActUsLab (deadline 31 August 2018) |
| Open | The EU is recruiting researchers- Call for expressions of interest |
| Open | JRC Alumni Network: Membership registration for JRC Alumni and staff |

April Highlights

8-13 April

[European Geosciences Union \(EGU\) General Assembly](#)

The European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly 2018 took place in Vienna, Austria. The EGU 2018 General Assembly, the largest geosciences meeting in Europe, brings together thousands of geoscientists from all over the world into one meeting covering all disciplines of the earth, planetary and space sciences. It provides an opportunity for journalists and science writers to talk to researchers, learn about new developments and find out about the latest discoveries in a variety of areas, such as climate, space and planetary science missions, natural disasters, and seafloor exploration. A JRC presentation on crop monitoring with sentinels and crowd-sourced street level imagery as part the session Citizen Science for Earth Systems in the Era of Big Data took place.

9-10 April

[Skills for evidence-informed policy making \(EIPM\) - workshop](#)

How should policies be made? Ideally policy makers make decisions after weighing the facts and reconciling the different values that exist in plural democratic societies. Reality often looks different. Operating at both sides of the science-policy interface is made challenging due to the over-supply of knowledge on one side and the complexity of the political process on the other. The amount of information to be considered by the policy makers is overwhelming and ever more complex while our information processing can be skewed by our biases. Yet there remain important evidence gaps on 'what works' in many policy areas. As a result, science, politics and the needs of people are harder than ever to reconcile just when we most need evidence-informed policies.

Objectives and programme

Having identified these needs, the Joint Research Centre and the OECD organised a workshop on 'Skills for policymakers for evidence-informed policy making'. The event was held at the OECD Headquarters in Paris on 9-10 April 2018. It aimed at promoting evidence-informed policy making for good public governance. The workshop was open to policymakers and experts working at the science/policy interface. This work follows in the footsteps of the [OECD's reports on Skills for a High Performing Civil Service](#) and [JRC's Framework for Skills essential for researchers active in the science-policy interface](#). In order to grant a successful agenda, the public sector needs to build capacity to commission, understand, use and evaluate evidence to support political decision making. This entails developing the skills and capacities to promote evidence use at the individual level, as well as institutional procedures, incentives and resources to support policy implementation.

10-13 April

[Analytica Fair 2018](#)

The European Commission, Joint Research Centre had a booth during the Analytica Fair 2018. The JRC provided information on reference materials. The JRC is one of the major developers and producers of reference materials in

the world. Reference materials are reliable quality assurance tools that improve confidence in test results obtained by laboratories. They play a key role in the calibration of laboratory instruments by providing precise reference values and data. The JRC currently provides nearly 800 different reference materials under the BCR®, IRMM and ERM® brands in the fields of food and feed analysis, environmental analysis, engineering and health applications. All these materials come with clear traceability statements on their certificate. Reference materials can be ordered directly from the JRC, Geel or from one of the authorised distributors. More information can be found [here](#).

12 April

[Peer eXchange and Learning \(PXL\) workshop on Multi-level Governance for RIS3](#)

The [JRC-managed Smart Specialisation Platform](#) organised a Peer eXchange and Learning (PXL) workshop on multi-level governance for RIS3 as part of a new series of peer review workshops in co-operation with the Basque Government and Orkestra-Basque Institute of Competitiveness. It brought together national, regional and sub-regional policy makers from EU countries, representatives from the European Commission and researchers on the field. The aim is to explore the coordination among different level of governments within the RIS3 governance. The workshop was based on the PXL methodology developed by the S3 Platform. The PXL exercise explored opportunities and challenges related to multi-level governance aspects in the RIS3 context. For agenda and more information please visit the [event website](#).

16-19 April

[Transport Research Arena 2018](#)

Digitisation, Automatisisation and Decarbonisation are major trends that will drastically change the way we live, work and use mobility and transport in the future. Under the heading of “A digital Era for Transport”, the [Transport Research Arena 2018 \(TRA 2018\)](#) was held on 16-19th April in Vienna, Austria, explored, discussed and demonstrated these major paradigm shifts specifically directed at important areas of our life, such as transport, mobility, logistics and industrial production. TRA 2018 is an arena for researchers, companies and public authorities active in the field of transport. It welcomed policy makers and stakeholders framing research and transport policy. Together they shared and discussed new ideas, research results, technological solutions and new business models. Together they experienced and shaped the future of transport and mobility for people and goods. Key focus areas were:

- How digitalisation is transforming transport & mobility systems
- Decarbonisation & future growth– how to change our mobility system & remain competitive
- Shaping the new mobility landscape– a vision for transport & mobility for Europe

The JRC played a major role in both the programme committee and the exhibition organisation.

17 April

[Evidence for policy: securing tomorrow's energy](#)

To meet its broader climate and energy goals, Europe must modernise and expand its energy network. The Baltic Energy Markets Interconnector Plan is a key component to an open and integrated electricity and gas market in the Baltic Sea region. To discuss this regional approach to a modern energy infrastructure the Joint Research Centre (JRC) together with the [Estonian National Parliament \(Foresight Centre\)](#) and the [Academy of Sciences](#) organised this event on securing tomorrow's energy. Focusing on energy security, politicians and policymakers can meet with JRC and

Estonian scientists as well as regulators, operators and civil society (NGOs) working in the energy field.

The morning session's topics were:

- Increasing use of renewables– potential of wind energy
- Financing schemes for energy security investments in power markets
- How models can contribute to decision-making – case study: gas risk assessment
- LNG terminals as cornerstones for energy security

In the afternoon, there was a joint session of four parliamentary committees

- Preliminary results of social appreciation study
- Synchronisation of electricity networks

How models can contribute to decision-making – case study: gas risk assessment

18-19 April

Demographic Scenarios for the EU and the role of migration

Migration becomes the main component of demographic changes in Europe. Projections of future population trends by age and sex in Europe are insufficient. They lack in assessing economic and social impacts of alternative migration scenarios. Those projections also lack in evaluating the broader impacts of migration in Europe. Assessing the impact of migration on Europe's changing population is essential for policymaking.

The workshop organised by the [Centre of Expertise on Population and Migration \(CEPAM\)](#) enables policy-makers and scientists to discuss alternative migration scenarios. The outcome of this exchange informs microsimulation and multi-dimensional macro projection models.

The workshop aimed at developing alternative quantitative migration scenarios that correspond to possible alternative policies and at helping demographers to provide projections which should better inform the policy making process.

18-20 April

10-years anniversary of the EU Clearinghouse

Learning from others using operational experience to improve the safety of nuclear power plants has been the mission of a group of experts from the JRC and member states in the last 10 years. The European Union has set up in 2008 a regional network to improve the collection and implementation of operational experience. This initiative, called 'the EU Clearinghouse', was organised as a network, operated by a centralised office located at the JRC. The EU Clearinghouse project is a joint effort of the EU countries with operating nuclear power plants (NPPs), and its Membership is mainly composed of nuclear safety regulatory authorities and their technical support organizations. The JRC celebrated the 10-year Anniversary of Clearinghouse's establishment on 20 April 2018 in Amsterdam, along with its Annual Meeting (18-19 April 2018). During this conference, the Clearinghouse initiative was reviewed, presenting its current achievements and discussing its vision and plans for the future, with the participation of senior representatives of national regulators from EU states (members and non-members of the Clearinghouse), international organizations and industry, together with individuals who played a key role in the creation of the network.

19-20 April

[JRC at Global Bioeconomy Summit 2018](#)

The widely recognized Global Bioeconomy Summit took place in Berlin with more than 700 participants from about 80 countries defining how bioeconomy would best contribute to green growth, the sustainable development goals and to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Bioeconomy has taken a steep and exciting way towards GBS2018, organised by the German Bioeconomy Council and funded by the German Government. The JRC delivered a session on Policy Measuring and Monitoring the Bioeconomy.

24 April

[Biodiver-City: Enhancing urban biodiversity and ecosystem services to make cities more resilient](#)

Background and objectives

If we think about nature conservation or increasing essential ecosystem services we usually think of protected areas, conserving valuable ecosystems such as forests and wetlands, or maintaining rural landscapes. But can cities also help achieve biodiversity goals and targets? This largely depends on the amount, the quality and management of urban green infrastructure. However, the potential of cities to help protect biodiversity and ecosystem services is likely underestimated.

This conference aimed at delivering a set of key messages and principles on how cities can contribute to regional, national and European biodiversity policies, goals and targets.

The conference addressed the following key questions:

- What is our present knowledge of urban biodiversity? What indicators are used and what do the current patterns and trends reveal about urban biodiversity?
- Why is urban biodiversity important? What are the links between urban biodiversity, urban ecosystem services and well-being?
- Is high urban biodiversity important for citizens and other stakeholders? How can citizens monitor biodiversity?
- How can urban green infrastructure be designed and managed to maintain and enhance urban biodiversity and ecosystem services?

[All DG JRC news](#)