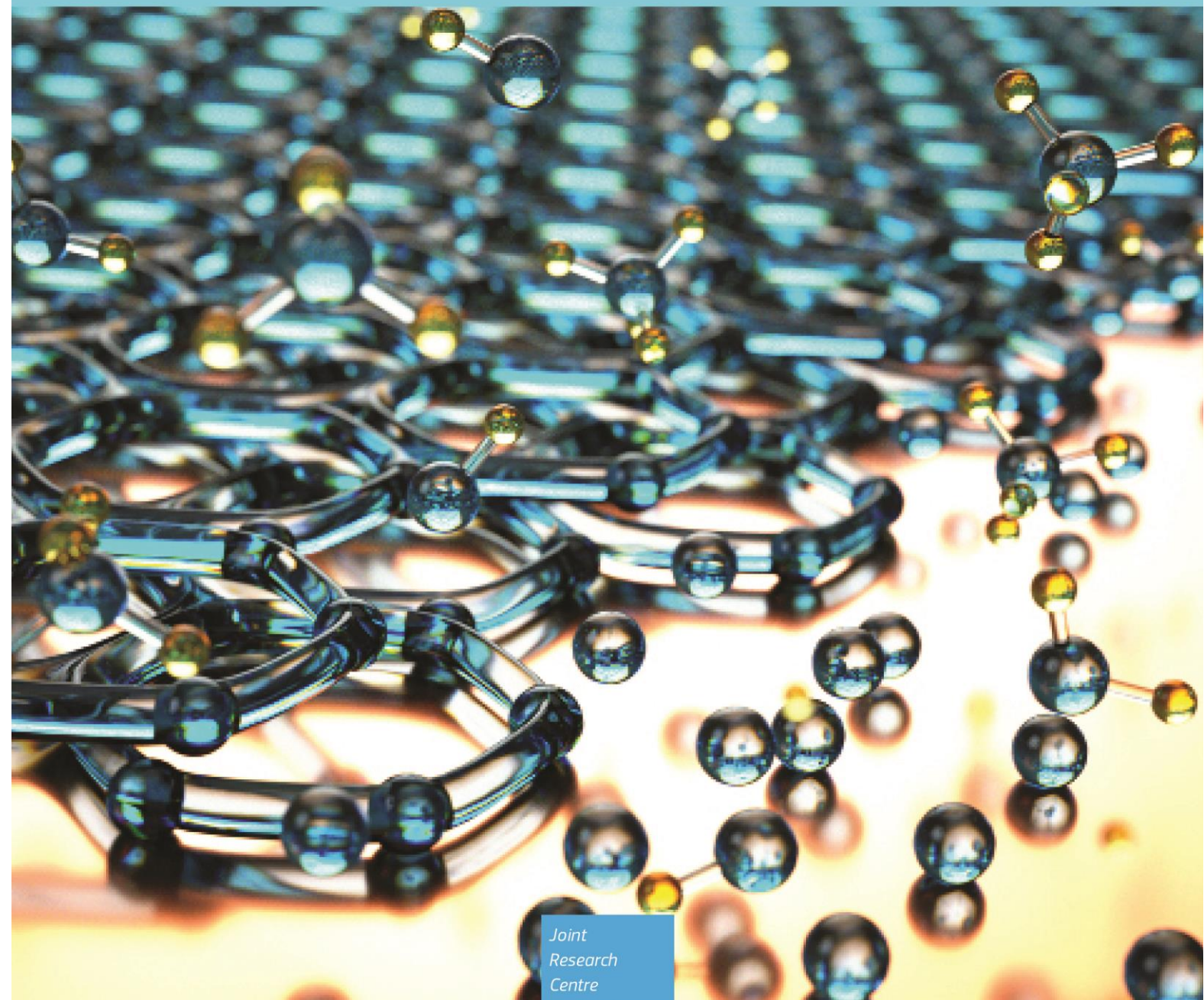




European  
Commission

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

**December 2015**



Joint  
Research  
Centre



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Policy Support Coordination  
International, Interinstitutional and Stakeholder Relations

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

3 December 2015

### The JRC's monthly briefing to the scientific community, N° 42

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# 1. Activities of the European Institutions

## 1.1 European Commission

Date	Event	Subject
2 December	<a href="#">Weekly College Meeting</a>	Circular economy package, Security package, European Accessibility Act
<a href="#">All meetings of the College of Commissioners</a>		

## 1.2 Council

Date	Event	Venue/Location
1 December	<a href="#">Competitiveness Council</a>	Brussels
3-4 December	<a href="#">Justice and Home Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
7 December	<a href="#">Eurogroup meeting</a>	Brussels
7-8 December	<a href="#">Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
8 December	<a href="#">Economic and Financial Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
10-11 December	<a href="#">Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council</a>	Brussels
14-15 December	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries Council</a>	Brussels
14-15 December	<a href="#">Foreign Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
15 December	<a href="#">General Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
16 December	<a href="#">Environment Council</a>	Brussels
17-18 December	<a href="#">European Council</a>	Brussels
<a href="#">All meetings of the Council</a>		

## 1.3 European Parliament

### Plenary Sessions

Date	Event	Subjects	Venue/Location
2 December	<a href="#">EP Plenary session</a>	<i>Among others:</i> Commission statement - Decision adopted on the Circular Economy Package; Special report of the European Ombudsman in own-initiative inquiry concerning Frontex; Sustainable urban mobility; Council and Commission statements - Implementation and legacy of the European Year for Development	Brussels
14-17 December	<a href="#">EP Plenary session</a>	<i>Among others:</i> Energy Union; Completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union; Trade marks; Council and Commission statements - Preparation of the European Council meeting (17-18 December 2015); Commission statement - Decision adopted on European	Strasbourg

*Border & Coast Guard Package; Council and Commission statements - Outcome of the COP 21; Patents and Plant Breeders Rights*

Committee Meetings

1 December	<a href="#">Joint meeting of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection</a>	Towards a Digital Single Market Act	Brussels
1 December	<a href="#">Committee on Development</a>	<i>Among others:</i> Public hearing on the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition; The role of development cooperation within EU external actions- Exchange of views with Federica Mogherini, HRVP; Fact-finding mission of the Committee on Development to assess the long-term consequences of the Ebola epidemic, 1-5 November 2015 -mission report by Norbert Neuser, Head of Delegation; presentation of the Mobile Laboratories Project by Professor Stephan Guenther, EMLab Coordinator, Bernhard Nocht Institute, Hamburg; Work programme and operational strategy of DG ECHO for 2016 - Exchange of views with Christos Stylianides, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management	Brussels
1 December	<a href="#">Committee on Regional Development</a>	<i>Among others:</i> New territorial development tools in Cohesion policy 2014-2020: Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) and Community-Led Local Development (CLLD); Exchange of views with Corina Crețu, Commissioner for Regional Policy	Brussels
1 December	<a href="#">Committee on international trade</a>	<i>Among others:</i> State of Play of International Trade Negotiations - Exchange of views with Jean-Luc Demarty, Director General DG Trade, Commission	Brussels
1 December	<a href="#">Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety</a>	<i>Among others:</i> Exchange of views with the European Commission on the Fitness Check on Oil Refining Industry; Exchange of views with WHO, EFSA and the European Commission on glyphosates; European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2016; Exchange of views with Commission representatives on the Ambient Air Quality Directive	Brussels
1 December	<a href="#">Joint meeting of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs</a>	Economic Dialogue and exchange of views on the Annual Growth Survey and the Alert Mechanism Report with: - Valdis Dombrovskis, Vice-President and Commissioner for the Euro & Social Dialogue - Pierre Moscovici, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs - Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour	



		Mobility	
3 December	<a href="#">Committee on Transport and Tourism</a>	<i>Among others:</i> Presentation by Commission of a comitology measure on classification of serious infringements in road transport; Presentation by EMSA Executive Director, Mr Mylly; Tourism Task Force - Presentation by the UNWTO Secretary General, Mr Taleb Rifai	Brussels
3 December	<a href="#">Joint Extraordinary meeting of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, the Committee on Development, and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety</a>	Exchange of views with FAO Special Ambassador, Professor Tekalign Mamo, on the occasion of the International Year of Soils	Brussels
3 December	<a href="#">Committee on Budgetary Control</a>	<i>Among others:</i> Discharge 2014: EU general budget - Exchange of views with the Member of the European Commission responsible for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, in the presence of the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible, Alex Brenninkmeijer;	Brussels
7 December	<a href="#">Committee on Transport and Tourism</a>	<i>Among others:</i> Presentation by Commissioner Bulc of the aviation package	
7 December	<a href="#">Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection</a>	<i>Among others:</i> High common level of network and information security across the Union; Regulation on medical devices; Single Market governance within the European Semester 2016; Presentation by the Commission of the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons (Firearms Directive)	
7 December	<a href="#">Committee on Fisheries</a>	<i>Among others:</i> Presentation by the policy department of 'Sardine fishing: Assessment of resources and of the social and economic situation'; Fisheries aspects within the international agreement on marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; Fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland; Exchange of views with the Commission and the Court of Auditors on Special Report No 11/2015, entitled 'Are the Fisheries Partnership Agreements well managed by the Commission?'	Brussels
10 December	<a href="#">Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection</a>	<i>Among others:</i> The single market strategy; Presentation of the Study: Reducing the barriers and the costs for businesses within the Single Market	Brussels
10 December	<a href="#">Committee on Fisheries</a>	<i>Among others:</i> Exchange of views with Pascal	

Savouret, Director of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA); How to make fisheries controls in Europe uniform; Discharge 2014 : European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA); Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Commission

[All European Parliament Committee meetings](#)

Other meetings and events

9 December	<a href="#">STOA Annual Lecture: A discovery tour in the world of quantum optics - International Year of Light</a>		Brussels
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### 1.4 Committee of the Regions (CoR)

Date	Event	Venue/Location
2 December	<a href="#">Connecting Europe's regions and cities</a>	CoR, Brussels
7 December	<a href="#">CEMR Conference: European Cities and Regions united against climate change</a>	Paris, France
7-9 December	<a href="#">7th European Innovation Summit</a>	EP/CoR, Brussels
9 December	<a href="#">Putting SME Internationalisation into practice: what tools are available to regions and cities?</a>	CoR, Brussels
11 December	<a href="#">Lunchtime debate: The EU budget, programmes and projects</a>	CoR, Brussels

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

### 1.5 European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Date	Event	Venue/Location
1 December	<a href="#">The new energy market design – fit for the future?</a>	EESC, Brussels
2 December	<a href="#">Intermediary Europe at the heart of the EU2020 Strategy: Bringing Europe closer to citizen</a>	Luxembourg
5 December	<a href="#">Putting a socially responsible price on carbon – a challenge for society</a>	Paris, France
14 December	<a href="#">Partnership for urban development – future of the EU Urban Agenda</a>	EESC, Brussels

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

### 1.6 International Relations

Date	Event	Venue/Location
1 December	<a href="#">JRC at COP21</a>	Paris, France
1-3 December	<a href="#">Workshop on Developing the Arctic Futures Initiative</a>	Laxenburg, Austria
2 December	EC-UNEP Dialogue on Science-Policy	Brussels
8-9 December	<a href="#">South Africa Science Forum</a>	Pretoria, South Africa
10 December	8th Meeting of the US-EU Dialogue on Space Cooperation	Washington DC

## 2. Conferences & Meetings

### 2.1 European Conferences and Meetings

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
1 December	<a href="#">EU agricultural outlook conference</a>	European Commission	Brussels, Belgium
TBD	<a href="#">High-level Conference on the digital transformation of European industry and enterprises</a>	European Commission	Brussels, Belgium
3 December	<a href="#">Towards a Model of Sustainable Construction and Energy Efficient Buildings</a>	Co-organised by the 'Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy' of the European Commission and the Andalusian Energy Agency, of the Government of Andalusia	Seville, Spain
4 December	<a href="#">STS Contro-Corrente Seminar: Against Excellence - Prof. Jack Stilgoe, London School of Economics</a>	JRC – European Commission, with London School of Economics	Ispra, Italy
4-5 December	<a href="#">“Africa in Profile 2015 – Launch of the French version of the Soil Atlas of Africa”</a>	Co-organised by the JRC – European Commission and the University of Leuven (KUL)	Leuven, Belgium
7 December	<a href="#">Conference of maritime spatial planning and marine environment</a>	European Commission	Brussels, Belgium
7-9 December	<a href="#">Launch of the Covenant on demographic change</a> Including: “Innovation for age-friendly environments in Europe: joint AFE-INNOVNET and AFEE workshops for policy makers”	Committee of the Regions, European Commission and the AFE-INNOVNET Thematic Network	Brussels, Belgium
8 December	<a href="#">H2020 Energy Efficiency Info Day</a>	European Commission	Brussels, Belgium
8 December	<a href="#">Together for the next generation</a>	Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission	Brussels, Belgium
9	<a href="#">Conference of the European</a>	European Commission	Brussels,

December	<a href="#">Innovation Partnership (EIP) on raw materials and Horizon 2020 brokerage event on raw materials</a>		Belgium
9-11 December	<a href="#">Plenary of the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer ECIBC: Improving breast cancer screening, diagnosis and care in Europe</a>	Coordinated by the JRC – European Commission	Baveno, Italy
10 December	<a href="#">Workshop on synthetic biology</a>	European Commission and the Luxembourg Ministry of Health	Belval, Luxembourg
15 December	<a href="#">Transforming Europe towards the digital age</a>	Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the EU	Luxembourg
15 December	<a href="#">Modelling energy scenarios for south eastern Europe</a>	JRC – European Commission	Vienna, Austria
26-28 January 2016	<a href="#">Mapping and assessment of ecosystem services in enlargement countries</a>	JRC – European Commission	Ispra, Italy

[Further upcoming JRC events](#)

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

## 2.2 International Conferences

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
30 Nov – 11 Dec	<a href="#">United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 21/ CMP 11</a>	UNFCCC	Paris, France
4 December	<a href="#">High-level conference "Lund Revisited - Next steps in tackling Societal Challenges?"</a>	Swedish Ministry of Education and Research, the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, the Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet) and the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA) in co-operation with Lund University and the City of Lund	Lund, Sweden



## 3. JRC News

<b>2015</b>	<a href="#"><u>Overview of the scientific process of the EU Agencies network for scientific advice (EU-ANSA)</u></a>
<b>2014</b>	<a href="#"><u>JRC Annual Report</u></a>
<b>December</b>	<a href="#"><u>JRC Newsletter December 2015</u></a>
<b>Open</b>	<a href="#"><u>The EU is recruiting researchers - Call for expressions of interest</u></a>

<b>30 November</b>	<a href="#"><u>JRC at COP21: Supporting the EU to get a fair and ambitious climate deal</u></a>
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One of the Commission's top priorities for 2015 is to secure a fair, ambitious and legally binding global climate deal at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP21), which starts today.

<b>30 November</b>	<a href="#"><u>Urban air pollution – what are the main sources across the world?</u></a>
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Together with the World Health Organisation, the JRC has identified the main categories of particulate matter in the air of 51 cities; on average traffic is the biggest source of air pollution.

<b>30 November</b>	<a href="#"><u>JRC develops methods for measuring bisphenol A and its replacing substances in food</u></a>
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Scientists from the JRC developed fit-for-purpose analytical methods for the determination of bisphenol A and 12 similar substances (analogues) in food matrices to support possible future monitoring studies.

<b>27 November</b>	<a href="#"><u>Extreme heatwaves may hit Europe in the short term</u></a>
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Regional climate projections for the two coming decades (2021-2040) suggest enhanced probability of heatwaves anywhere in Europe, which would be comparable or greater than the Russian heatwave in 2010 - the worst since 1950.

<b>26 November</b>	<a href="#"><u>DNA sequences in GMOs: largest database now publicly available</u></a>
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The JRC has published a new database, JRC GMO-Amplicons, which contains more than 240 000 DNA sequences appearing in genetically modified organisms (GMOs). It will help to verify the presence of GMOs in food, feed and environment.

<b>25 November</b>	<a href="#"><u>New tools for learning from accidents</u></a>
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New tools for accident investigators and trainers have been developed by the European Safety, Reliability & Data Association (ESReDA), of which the JRC is member. The tools include a model to analyse what has been learned and what has not, a list of barriers that prevent learning, and guidelines on accident investigation training. It is important to learn from accidents in order to prevent similar ones from reoccurring. One of the elements of a successful organisation is the ability to learn from both success and failure, and the ability to learn from others.

<b>25 November</b>	<a href="#"><u>Global growth in CO2 emissions stagnates</u></a>
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After a decade of rapid growth in global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which increased at an average annual rate of 4%, much smaller increases were registered in 2012 (0.8%), 2013 (1.5%) and 2014 (0.5%).

<b>23 November</b>	<a href="#"><u>Soil security – a call to arms</u></a>
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In a Comment published in Nature today, JRC scientist Luca Montanarella calls for a voluntary international agreement to protect soil from erosion and degradation through a reinvigorated Global Soil Partnership.

<b>23 November</b>	<b><a href="#">Improved weather conditions for winter crops</a></b>
The latest MARS crop monitoring bulletin finds that growing conditions have been good for recently sown and emerging winter crops, thanks to above-average temperatures in most European agricultural regions from late October to mid-November.	
<b>23 November</b>	<b><a href="#">JRC-IRMM develops and releases new GMO certified reference materials</a></b>
The JRC released a new GMO (genetically modified organism) certified reference material (CRM) to be used by GMO testing laboratories to analyse the GMO maize VCO-Ø1981-5 product in food and feeding stuff.	
<b>20 November</b>	<b><a href="#">Sharing knowledge on R&amp;I will boost the potential of the blue economy in the Mediterranean</a></b>
This week's declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), a partnership of EU28, the European Commission and 15 Mediterranean countries, focused on closer cooperation to promote growth, jobs and investments deriving from the marine and maritime sectors.	
<b>19 November</b>	<b><a href="#">JRC-IRMM released its first reference material certified for radioactivity in a food matrix: IRMM-426</a></b>
JRC-IRMM developed and released the first fruit matrix reference material (IRMM-426 Wild Berries) certified for the two most important anthropogenic (man-made) radionuclides, <sup>137</sup> Cs and <sup>90</sup> Sr, and for the natural <sup>40</sup> K. This reference material supports the precise measurement of radionuclides in agricultural products.	
<b>18 November</b>	<b><a href="#">Uganda – JRC's early flood warning system triggers pre-disaster humanitarian action</a></b>
To prevent waterborne diseases (e.g. dysentery) brought on by floods, the Red Cross last week distributed preparedness items to households in flood-prone villages 300 km north-east of Uganda's capital, Kampala.	
<b>18 November</b>	<b><a href="#">Enhancing stakeholder collaboration to boost regional growth</a></b>
The JRC and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy have supported Greek authorities in order to help entrepreneurs and authorities to find out in which areas they should prioritise and further specialise if they want to strengthen their competitive advantage.	
<b>18 November</b>	<b><a href="#">Preparation and sublimation of uranium tetrafluoride for the production of thin <sup>235</sup>UF<sub>4</sub> targets</a></b>
Scientists of the JRC-Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM) determined the yields of a wet chemical precipitation method, applied for the conversion of triuranium octoxide (U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> ) into uranium tetrafluoride (UF <sub>4</sub> ).	
<b>18 November</b>	<b><a href="#">E-TRACK officially launched</a></b>
The 'Energy - Transparency Centre of Knowledge' (E-TRACK) is a joint initiative agreed between the Directorate General for Energy and the JRC for the promotion of public participation in the implementation of energy policies.	
<b>17 November</b>	<b><a href="#">A global approach towards alternatives to animal testing</a></b>
Members of the International Cooperation on Alternative Test Methods attended a two-day meeting hosted by the European Union Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing (EURL ECVAM).	
<b>17 November</b>	<b><a href="#">Launch of the EMEG website</a></b>
Today marks the launch of the European Microbiology Expert Group (EMEG) website, which provides information on the implementation of alternative methods for testing the microbiological drinking water quality under the EU Drinking Water Directive (Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption). According to the Drinking Water Directive, EU Member States can use alternative methods for testing the microbial quality of drinking water.	
<b>17 November</b>	<b><a href="#">Measurement of the half-life of the nuclear waste product samarium-151</a></b>

In close collaboration with scientists from various European laboratories, JRC scientists produced better decay data of the long-lived radionuclide samarium(Sm)-151. This work contributes to an improved radiological characterisation of nuclear waste.

**16 November**      [Monitoring CO2 emissions from space](#)

A recent DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs - JRC expert report proposes a strategy for the establishment of a European observation system dedicated to monitoring CO2 emissions from space.

**16 November**      [The effects of global warming on regional marine productivity](#)

A recently published JRC article describes the effects of atmospheric forcing changes on the Mediterranean Sea's primary productivity rate over the coming century. It finds that, although the average overall primary production rate will be almost unchanged, climate change will lead to a reduction in primary production in the western basin, and an increase in the eastern basin.

**16 November**      [Effects of 25 years of regional weather variability on crop yields in France](#)

France is the EU's largest producer of wheat and maize, and has collected a unique high-quality statistical dataset on crop yields at département level for over 25 years. The presence of different climatic regions makes France an ideal test-case to investigate the role of climate variability on crop yields and to better understand the impacts of future climate change.

**16 November**      [JRC researchers improve the methodology for the analysis of cross section measurements at a cold neutron beam](#)

In close collaboration with international nuclear research organisations, scientists from the JRC described a method to improve the analysis of cross section measurements at a cold neutron beam. This work is part of the JRC contribution to improve the accuracy of nuclear data, which are important for the development of innovative reactor systems.

**13 November**      [Detecting silver nanoparticles in consumer products](#)

Detecting the presence of nanoparticles in consumer products is an enduring challenge for analytical laboratories. Although many different techniques can potentially be used to measure the dimension of objects smaller than a 1/10000 of a millimetre, in practice, the results obtained using different methods may not always prove to be consistent.

**13 November**      [Invasive freshwater species in Europe's lakes and rivers: how do they come in?](#)

A JRC-led article has identified escape from aquaculture facilities, releases in the wild due to pet/aquarium trade and stocking activities as the main pathways of alien species introduction in European lakes and rivers.

**13 November**      [Monitoring radionuclides in food in the European Union](#)

JRC scientists have compiled and published an overview of the legislation and practical modalities for the implementation of radionuclide monitoring in foodstuff in the European Union. The overview also provides an outline of the monitoring programmes instituted by the Member States and stresses the importance of the quality of data.

**12 November**      [Impact of low-energy photons on prompt fission gamma ray characteristics](#)

Scientists from JRC standardised, in collaboration with Swedish researchers, developed a method to measure and analyse prompt  $\gamma$ -ray data emitted in nuclear fission. This is an important step to improve evaluated nuclear data files needed worldwide for precise nuclear heat calculations relevant for future sustainable and essentially CO2-free energy production.

**11 November**      [Dialogues on Food: Walking in Expo imagining the future of food in 2040](#)

Awareness, self-sustainability, wellbeing, quality, coexistence, convergence, responsibility, resilience, these are some of the key words that emerged from the 10 scenarios elaborated by 90 citizens who participated at a joint JRC and CNR project called Food Futuring Tours.

**11 November**      [Forests absorb 9% of greenhouse gas emissions in Europe](#)

Over the past decade, European forests have absorbed about 9% of the net greenhouse gas emissions in the pan-European region (46 countries). Having expanded over the past 25 years, forests now cover 33% (215 million ha) of Europe's area. In economic terms, the forest sector is on a steady path of recovery, according to a new report co-authored by the JRC.

**11 November**      **[First consistent determination of the hydrogen content for the neutron fluence reference](#)**

Scientists from the JRC-Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements prepared tristearin (C<sub>57</sub>H<sub>110</sub>O<sub>6</sub>) layers with an areal density up to 10 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> on tantalum backings by physical vapour deposition (PVD) and determined for the first time the hydrogen content of the initial powder, the evaporated material and the residue in the crucible by combustion analysis. It was demonstrated convincingly that the hydrogen content remains unchanged under thermal treatment.

**10 November**      **[Better accuracy of nucleic acids measurements to improve digital PCR instruments](#)**

In close collaboration with a research group from the Australian National Measurement Institute in Pymble, JRC scientists have improved the measurement of nucleic acids by using a JRC certified reference material. This is important for digital polymerase chain reaction (dPCR) instrument developers.

**9 November**      **[JRC at the World Science Forum – focus on science in policy making, resilience and science for river basins](#)**

The 7th edition of the biennial World Science Forum (WSF) took place on 4–7 November 2015 in Budapest. Its main theme, The Enabling Power of Science, invited to reflect on the way how science opens new paths for the improvement of human life, business innovation and policy making.

**9 November**      **[Boar Taint – Measuring the thresholds for consumer acceptance](#)**

In close collaboration with a research group from the German University of Göttingen, the JRC investigated the consumer liking of boar meat. Therefore, the JRC developed and validated an analytical method that can serve as a reference for future rapid tests to define the sensory thresholds for boar taint acceptance.

**6 November**      **[Tsunami early warning: JRC tests new low-cost device to measure sea level](#)**

A new, low-cost experimental device for sea level measurement has been developed by JRC scientists. The first four devices have been installed in Spain and Portugal.

**4 November**      **[Analytical method for precise measurements of biodiesel components](#)**

Scientists from the JRC-Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM) developed and validated a new method for the determination of selected fatty acid methyl esters (FAMES) or transesterification products in diesel. This method can serve as a reference, for example to solve disputes between control laboratories and to develop future certified reference materials.

**3 November**      **[Reliability of cardiac troponin assays for diagnosis of myocardial infarction](#)**

In close collaboration with the Troponin I Working Group of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) a JRC scientist evaluated the standardisation capability of cardiac troponin I assays currently on the market in an IFCC pilot project. The study confirmed that there is a lack of standardisation in troponin I measurements. As simulated by mathematical re-calibration the use of a suitable reference material for the calibration of currently applied cardiac troponin I assays is essential to achieve equivalent results and is expected to lead to clinically much more acceptable assay performances.

**2 November**      **[Improved decay data of thorium-227 – Providing confidence for application in nuclear medicine and radiation protection](#)**

In close collaboration with researchers from the UK National Physical Laboratory (NPL), scientists from the JRC-IRMM investigated the half-life of thorium-227, for the first time by direct observation of the change in activity with time using a high-purity germanium (HPGe) gamma-ray spectrometer.