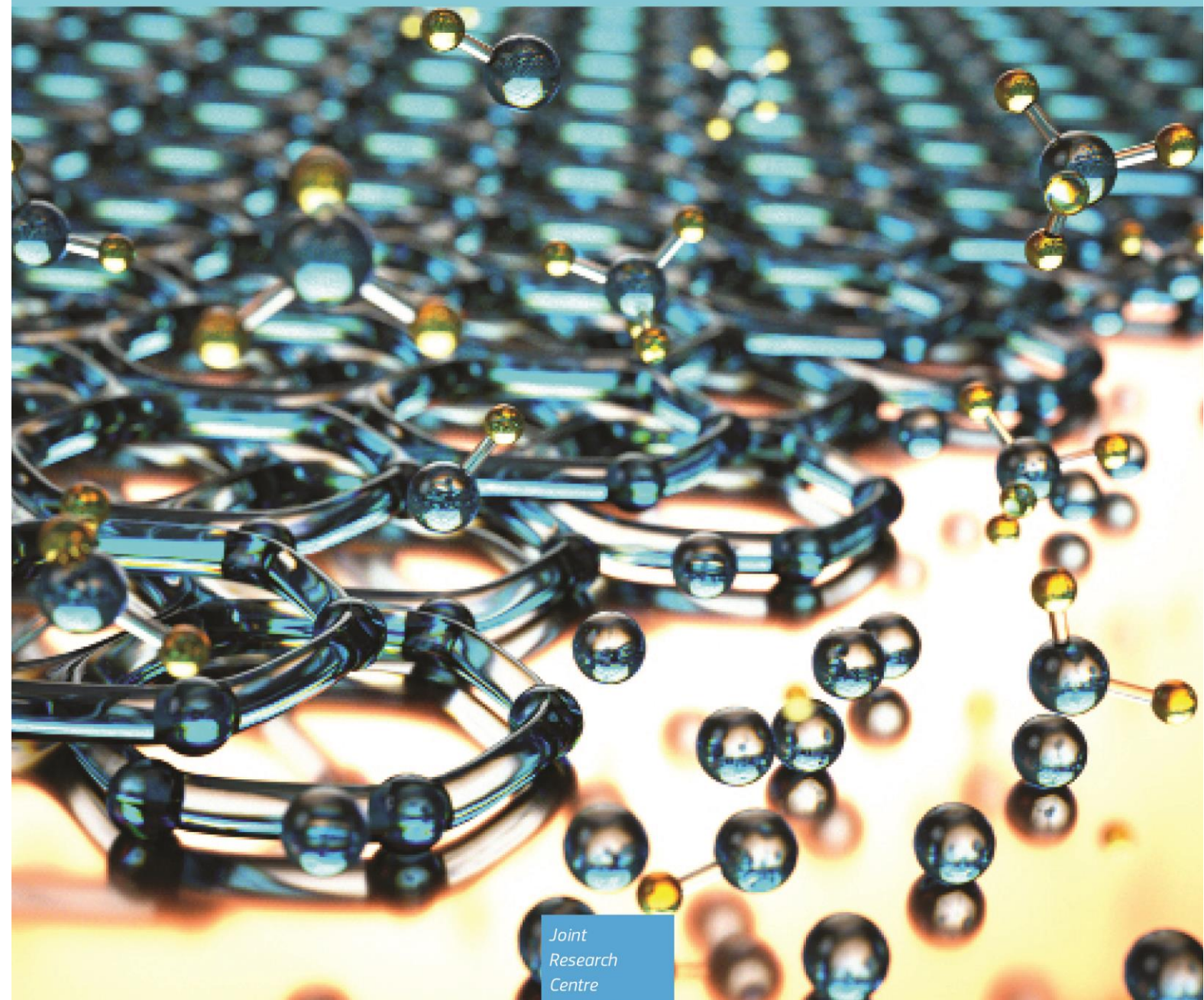




Science & Policy: *What's on the EU's agenda?*

March 2017



Joint
Research
Centre



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

1 March 2017

The DG JRC's monthly briefing to the scientific community, N° 56

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1. Activities of the European Institutions

1.1 European Commission

Date	Event	Subject
1 March	President Jean-Claude Juncker's presentation of the White Paper on the Future of Europe	<i>Among others: As announced in President Juncker's 2016 State of the Union speech, the European Commission presented the White Paper on the Future of Europe, which forms the European Commission's contribution to the Rome Summit of 25 March 2017. The President also presented the White Paper at the plenary session of the European Parliament.</i>

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

1.2 Council

Date	Event	Venue/Location
2-3 March	Informal Meeting of Trade Ministers	Valletta, Malta
6 March	Foreign Affairs Council	Brussels
6 March	Agriculture and Fisheries Council	Brussels
6 March	EU- Kyrgyz Republic Cooperation Council	Brussels
7 March	General Affairs Council	Brussels
8 March	Tripartite Social Summit	Brussels
9-10 March	European Council	Brussels
13 March	EU-Algeria Association Council	Brussels

20 March	Informal Meeting of Health Ministers	Valletta, Malta
21 March	Economic and Financial Affairs Council	Brussels
27-28 March	Justice and Home Affairs Council	Brussels
6 April	Informal meeting of competitiveness ministers	Valletta, Malta
All meetings of the Council		

1.3 European Parliament

Plenary Sessions

Date	Event	Subjects	Venue/Location
1-2 March	EP Plenary	<i>Among others: President Juncker presents the White Paper on the Future of Europe. Council and Commission statements: preparation of the European Council meeting of 9 and 10 March 2017; gender pay gap; Commission statement: tackling the disappearance of migrant children in Europe; recent partial decriminalisation of domestic violence in Russia-statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; breaches of current freedom of movement rights of EU citizens residing in the UK and the use of six-month expulsions; information exchange mechanism with regard to intergovernmental agreements and non-binding instruments in the field of energy; options for improving access to medicines; e-Democracy in the EU: potential and challenges; implementation of the Creative Europe programme;</i>	Brussels

13-16 March	EP Plenary	<p><i>Among others: Long-term shareholder engagement and corporate governance statement; joint debate on gender equality; fundamental rights implications of big data; an integrated EU policy for the Arctic; control of the acquisition and possession of weapons; joint debate- circular economy; 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); Constitutional, legal and institutional implications of a Common Security and Defence Policy; possibilities offered by the Lisbon Treaty; addressing refugee and migrant movements: the role of EU external action; 2016 Report on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products; European Council and Commission statements: Conclusions of the European Council meeting of 9 and 10 March 2017; use of the 470-790 MHz frequency band in the Union; supply chain due diligence by importers of minerals and metals originating in conflict-affected and high-risk areas; money market funds; Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector; debates on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law; review of the regulation on the statute and funding of European political parties and foundations;</i></p>	Strasbourg
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Committee Meetings

6 March	Committee of Inquiry to investigate alleged contraventions and maladministration in the application of Union law in relation to money laundering, tax avoidance and tax evasion	<p><i>Among others: Public hearing on "The role of lawyers, accountants and bankers in Panama Papers"</i></p>	Brussels
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6 March	Committee on Budgets	<i>Among others: Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in budget 2017 and 2018; promotion of Internet connectivity in local communities; establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (recast); establishment of 'Eurodac' for the comparison of fingerprints; the right funding mix for Europe's regions: balancing financial instruments and grants in EU cohesion policy;</i>	Brussels
6 March	Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection	<i>Among others: Posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services; European Agenda for the collaborative economy; the functioning of franchising in the retail sector; addressing geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment within the internal market; FinTech: the influence of technology on the future of the financial sector; internet connectivity for growth, competitiveness and cohesion: European gigabit society and 5G;</i>	Brussels
9 March	Subcommittee on Human Rights	<i>Agenda to be consulted on website</i>	Brussels
9 March	Subcommittee on Security and Defence	<i>Among others: With the Council and Commission and EEAS: Private Security Companies; UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peacekeeping and Crisis Management; exchange of views with: Clara Ganslandt, Head of Division for Common Security and Defence Policy-partnerships and agreements, EEAS; Rory Keane, Head of Office, United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security;</i>	Brussels
9 March	Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	<i>Among others: Conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures; participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States; palm oil and deforestation of rainforests; exchange of views with Mr Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries as part of the structured dialogue</i>	Brussels

9 March	Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	<i>Agenda to be consulted on website</i>	Brussels
9 March	Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality	<i>Agenda to be consulted on website</i>	Brussels
20-21 March	Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	<i>Agenda to be consulted on website</i>	Brussels
20-21 March	Committee on Constitutional Affairs	<i>Agenda to be consulted on website</i>	Brussels
22 March	Subcommittee on Security and Defence	<i>Agenda to be consulted on website</i>	Brussels
22 March	Subcommittee on Human Rights	<i>Agenda to be consulted on website</i>	Brussels
22-23 March	Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	<i>Agenda to be consulted on website</i>	Brussels
27 March	Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality	<i>Agenda to be consulted on website</i>	Brussels

[All European Parliament Committee Meetings](#)

1.4 Committee of the Regions (CoR)

Date	Event	Venue/Location
1 March	12th Commission for Economic Policy (ECON) Meeting	Brussels
1 March	Women on Board: Gender equality in politics, management and boards in Europe	Brussels
2 March	12th Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER) Commission Meeting	Brussels

7 March	EUROCITIES - Mayors' Summit on the Future of Europe	Brussels
7 March	Investing in regional innovation: How to start-up in Regions and to scale-up in Europe	Brussels
8 March	Commission for Natural Resources (NAT) Conference: How the future CAP can cope with goals set out in the Juncker investment plan to relaunch growth and jobs in Europe	Brussels
15 March	Joint EC/CoR Workshop on the state of implementation of Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) & Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI)	Brussels
24 March	Innovative Energy Solutions for European Regions and Cities	Brussels
30 March	13th Commission for Natural Resources (NAT) Commission Meeting	Brussels
31 March	13th SEDEC Commission Meeting	Brussels
9-12 October	15th European Week of Regions and Cities	Brussels

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

1.5 European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Date	Event	Venue/Location
1 March	Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations	Brussels
1 March	Towards a more sustainable Europe	Brussels
2-3 March	European Migration Forum – 3rd Meeting	Brussels
9-10 March	Circular Economy: one year after adoption, working together for the future	Brussels
17 March	60 years of European Community - Let's shape the future !	Brussels
21 March	European Consumer Day 2017	St. Julian's, Malta

23 March	Extraordinary Meeting Group III	La Valletta, Malta
30-31 March	Your Europe, Your Say! 2017	Brussels

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

1.6 International Relations

Date	Event	Venue/Location
1-2 March	EU - US Justice and Home Affairs Senior Officials Meeting	Balzan, Malta
14-15 March	EU-CELAC JIRI Senior Officials Meeting	Brussels
29-30 November	Africa-EU Summit	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (tbc)

2. Conferences & Meetings

2.1 DG JRC Conferences and Meetings

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
1-2 March	Workshop on investment vehicles and financial instruments supporting technology transfer and innovation	DG JRC	Belgrade, Serbia
8 March	Synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) & Research and Innovation Funding: The Stairway to Excellence	DG JRC, DG REGIO	Brussels
9 March	Workshop IPR, Technology Transfer & Open Science– Challenges and opportunities	DG JRC, DG RTD	Brussels

9 March	Aligning implementation of RIS3 and H2020 Funding across research priorities	DG JRC, DG REGIO, NCP	Brussels
9-10 March	2nd scientific seminar of the Knowledge Centre for Disaster Risk Management : science for policy and operations	DG JRC, Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic, Department for Civil Protection	Rome, Italy
13-14 March	First international workshop on the European union raw materials information system conference COST Action IS1408 (6-7/02/2017)	DG JRC	Ispra, Italy
15 March	Launching event study: Smart specialisation in Latin America	DG JRC	Brussels
15 March	Presentation of the JRC-EASEAC report on the Management of Spent Nuclear Fuel and its Waste	DG JRC, Bulatom	Sofia, Bulgaria
16-17 March	Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre Workshop: Protection of critical infrastructures	DG JRC	Brussels
20-22 March	Soil Erosion Modelling workshop	DG JRC	Ispra, Italy
21-22 March	Marine/ maritime blue growth under Bluemed in the Northern Adriatic. Bluemed meeting of stakeholders on a micro-regional level (Northern Adriatic). Synergies: Integration of knowledge and efforts that lead to a sustainable industrial growth in the marine and maritime sectors.	DG JRC, Marine Biology Station of the National Institute of Biology (NIB MBP), European Academies' Science Advisory Council (EASAC), Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SAZU), Ministry of Education Science and Sport (MIZŠ) of the Republic of Slovenia	Piran, Slovenia
23-24 March	Sino-EU Motor Vehicle Emission Standard Workshop	DG JRC, Vehicle Emission Control Centre (VECC) of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China	Beijing, China

27-28 March	Visit of Commissioner Carmenu Vella to DG Joint Research Centre Ispra	DG JRC	Ispra, Italy
28-30 March	Technical Reachback Workshop to Combat Nuclear Terrorism	DG JRC, Nuclear Detection Working Group of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT)	Ispra, Italy
16-19 May	1st International JRC Summer School on Alternative Approaches for Risk assessment	DG JRC	Ispra, Italy
4-9 June	14th International Workshop on Separation Phenomena in Liquids and Gases (SPLG 2017)	DG JRC, EC	Stresa, Italy
4-15 September	International Summerschool on GNSS 2017	DG JRC, ESA	Svalbard-Spitsbergen, Norway
27-29 September	CONCORDi 2017: Innovation and Industrial Dynamics: Challenges for the next decade	DG JRC, OECD	Seville, Spain
Further upcoming DG JRC Events			
Further upcoming events in the EU Newsroom Calendar			

2.2 Further European Conferences and Meetings

1 March	Workshop on Structured Cooperation between Health Systems	Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU	Sliema, Malta
2 March	Conference on competitiveness of the European rail supply industry	EC	Brussels
2 March	Research and innovation staff exchange (RISE) 2016 – Coordinators' day	EC	Brussels
2 March	Network of Territorial Cohesion Contact Points (NTCCP) Meeting	Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU	Valletta, Malta

3 March	Urban Development Experts Group Meeting	Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU	St. Julian's, Malta
6-7 March	European information day and brokerage event – Horizon 2020 Secure Societies	EC, Network of secure societies national contact points (SEREN3)	Brussels
7 March	European Food Safety Agency Advisory Forum Meeting	Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU	Floriana, Malta
8 March	Synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) & Horizon 2020 research and innovation funding: The Stairway to Excellence (S2E)	EC, EP	Brussels
8 March	The future of European steel industry	EC	Brussels
8 March	Workshop: Towards principles and guidance on eID interoperability for online platforms	EC	Brussels
8-9 March	European Sport Forum	Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU	St. Julian's, Malta
9 March	Cultural Diplomacy: Fostering International Cultural Dialogue, Diversity and Sustainability	Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU	Golden Sands, Malta
15-17 March	Maritime spatial planning	EC, UNESCO	Paris, France

16 March	European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC) Plenary Meeting	Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU	St. Julian's, Malta
17 March	European Public Prosecutor's Office Conference	Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU	Sliema, Malta
20-22 March	From advanced materials research to innovation and growth	EC	Brussels
21 March	Consumer Day	Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU	St. Julian's, Malta
23 March	Conference #FinTechEU - Is EU regulation fit for new financial technologies?	EC	Brussels
23 March	Meeting of the ATHENA Special Committee	Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU	Sliema, Malta
23-24 March	European Social Fund: Past, Present and Future Conference	Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU	Gozo, Malta
24 March	Conference on the role of interbranch organisations in the food supply chain	EC	Brussels
25 March	Commission White Paper on the future of Europe and Rome Summit to mark the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome	EC	Rome, Italy
27 March	11th meeting of the Network of public finance economists in public administration	EC	Brussels
28 March	The Future of Science through Citizens Engagement	EP	Brussels

28-29 March	Stakeholders Meeting on Maritime and Road Safety	EC, Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU	Balzan, Malta
29 March	Workshop on implementing measures for the prospectus regulation	EC	Brussels
29 March	Sharing & Reuse Conference 2017	EC	Lisbon, Portugal
29 March	Transport Ministerial Conference	Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU	Valetta, Malta
29-30 March	Ministerial Conference on Mediterranean Fisheries	Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU	Valetta, Malta
30-31 March	4th forum of the outermost regions - The outermost regions, European lands in the world: toward a renewed strategy	EC	Brussels
19-21 April	Europa Forum Lech. Europe in challenging times: How can the data economy stimulate growth and jobs in Europe?	EC	Lech am Arlberg, Austria
4 May	Ministerial Conference on Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation Through Research and Innovation	EC, Maltese Presidency of the Council	Valetta, Malta

2.3 International Conferences

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
1-2 March	24th Global Nursing & Healthcare Conference	iMedPub LLC and Conference Series Ltd	Amsterdam, the Netherlands
1-5 March	European Congress of Radiology ECR 2017	European Society of Radiology	Vienna, Austria
2-4	37th European Workshop	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and	Athens, Greece

March	for Rheumatology Research	Biomedical Research Foundation, Academy of Athens (BRFAA)	
7-9 March	Third Meeting of the Global Platform on Air Quality and Health	WHO, WMO, Government of Norway	Geneva, Switzerland
12-16 March	56th Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology (SOT)	SOT	Baltimore, USA
14-16 March	11th International Renewable Energy Storage Conference IRES 2017	Eurosolar	Düsseldorf, Germany
14-17 March	Analytical Technologies Europe 2017	CASSS	Brussels
15-16 March	Floating Offshore Wind Turbines (FOWT 2017)	France Energie Éolienne; Le Pôle Mer Méditerranée; CCI Marseille Provence	Marseille, France
20-24 March	Land and Poverty Conference 2017: Responsible Land Governance—Towards an Evidence Based Approach	The World Bank	Washington D.C., USA
22 March	S20 Dialogue Forum with the Science and Research Community	G20	Halle, Germany
27-29 March	Meeting of OECD Expert Group on Extended Supply and Use Tables	OECD	Paris, France
29-31 March	International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Symposium on Food Safety	ILSI Europe and IAFP	Brussels
30 March	Think BDPST	Antall József Knowledge Centre, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary	Budapest, Hungary
30-31 March	Input-Output Special Workshop on Regional/Multi-regional Input-Output Analysis	Institute of Economic Structures Research (GWS), University of Bremen, Bochum University of Applied Sciences	Osnabrück, Germany
30-31 March	7th Energy Rating and Performance modelling Workshop	Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana (SUPSI)	Lugano, Switzerland

31 March-7 April	The Arctic Science Summit Week	ASSW	Prague, Czech Republic
24-27 April	International Conference on Arctic Science: Bringing Knowledge to Action	Artic Council	Reston, Virginia, USA
26 April	W20 Dialogue Forum with Women in Business, Science and Society	W20	Berlin, Germany
19-20 May	Meeting of G20 Health Ministers	G20	Berlin, Germany
22-26 May	The 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction	UNISDR	Cancun, Mexico
26-27 May	G7 Summit	G7	Taormina, Italy
5-9 June	The Ocean Conference: United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 Conference	UN	New York, USA
6-8 June	United Nations Statistical Commission's Expert Group Meeting on international trade and economic globalization statistics	Eurostat, United Nations Statistical Commission	Luxembourg
18-23 June	STARMUS IV Festival	Norwegian University of Science and Technology, The Research Council of Norway	Trondheim Norway
27-29 June	Summer Davos: Annual Meeting of the New Champions-Technological Innovation and Sustainable Development	World Economic Forum	Dalian, China
7-8 July	G20 Summit of Heads of State and Government	G20	Hamburg, Germany

3. DG JRC News

2015	DG JRC Annual Report
2015	Overview of the scientific process of the EU Agencies network for scientific advice (EU-ANSA)
February	DG JRC Newsletter February 2017
Open	The EU is recruiting researchers - Call for expressions of interest
Open (deadline 15 March 2017)	Call for Expression of Interest for Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) scheme to higher education institutions
Open	Call for Expression of Interest to participate to JRC's Institutional History Project (iHiP): Arts-booklet, Story-telling and Exhibition initiatives.

February Highlights

6-7 February

[Industrially Contaminated Sites and Health Network - 3rd Plenary Conference COST Action IS1408](#)

This European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Action aimed to promote coordination and collaboration between researchers and risk managers to identify common strategies at European level to deal with health issues around industrial contaminated sites more systematically. The final aim was to elaborate guidance documents on how to assess the health risks and health impacts around industrial contaminated sites, methods and tools for exposure assessment and risk management and communication.

The JRC's Soil Team (Unit D.3) was monitoring the progress on the management of contaminated sites in Europe and developing the Information Platform for Chemical Monitoring (IPChem) which aimed to ensure a more coordinated approach to collecting, storing, accessing and assessing data related to the occurrence of chemicals and chemical mixtures in human populations, in the terrestrial, aquatic and atmospheric environment, in consumer products, and in food and feed.

8 February

[Citizen Science and Open Data: a model for Invasive Alien Species in Europe](#)

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are a growing threat to Europe's biodiversity. This JRC-COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) joint workshop will focus on strategies for collecting and sharing data gathered by citizens, with the aim to support a European early warning and rapid information system. This JRC-COST joint workshop, with a clear focus on IAS, aimed at:

- Identifying methods to recognise citizens as stakeholders in policy making, especially how to use currently available data from citizens in environmental policy.
- Identifying best practice for engaging citizens in collecting and sharing data.

•Identifying the technical constraints and solutions for data sharing, management and communication to the relevant authorities.

16-17 February

[Policy Recommendations for Opening up Education](#)

The workshop was part of the OpenEdu Policies Project which the Joint Research Centre (JRC) carries out on behalf of Directorate General Education and Culture (DG EAC).

It brought together representatives of Ministries of Education, Science and Culture of most EU Member States, European Commission policy makers as well as representatives of intergovernmental organisations such as OECD, UNESCO and the World Bank. The aim was to discuss policies on open education at both national and regional levels within the perspective of the 10 dimensions of open education, presented at the OpenEdu Framework. Both representatives of Member States which have policies on open education, or do not explicitly do so, had the opportunity to share and discuss their strategies, future plans, challenges and motivations to open up education at school, higher education and lifelong learning levels. OpenEdu Policies is a research project consisting of the analysis of different types of policies for open education from most European Member States. During the workshop, the OpenEdu Policies team also shared policy recommendations, which were designed from research and analysis, to be discussed and validated.

16-20 February

[JRC at AAAS 2017](#)

This year's annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) took place in Boston from 16 - 20 February. This year's theme was "Serving society through science policy" and brought together thousands of researchers, policymakers, science journalists and other curious individuals from all over the world. The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) organized the following three sessions during the event: Nuclear Forensics to Combat Terrorism, International Research Activities for Bolstering Signature and Method Development, The International Atomic Energy Agency's Coordinated Research Project in Nuclear Forensics.

21-24 February

[Final plenary meeting of the CASCADE project](#)

The last plenary project meeting of the CASCADE (CAstrophobic Shifts in drylands: how CAN we prevent ecosystem DEgradation?) project (the project period runs until end June 2017) was held in Matera (Italy) from 21-23 February, with a day centered around policy on 24 February 2017. Key policymakers from EU and other European organizations participated in the policy forum. Further information is available on the [CASCADE project website](#)

[All DG JRC news](#)