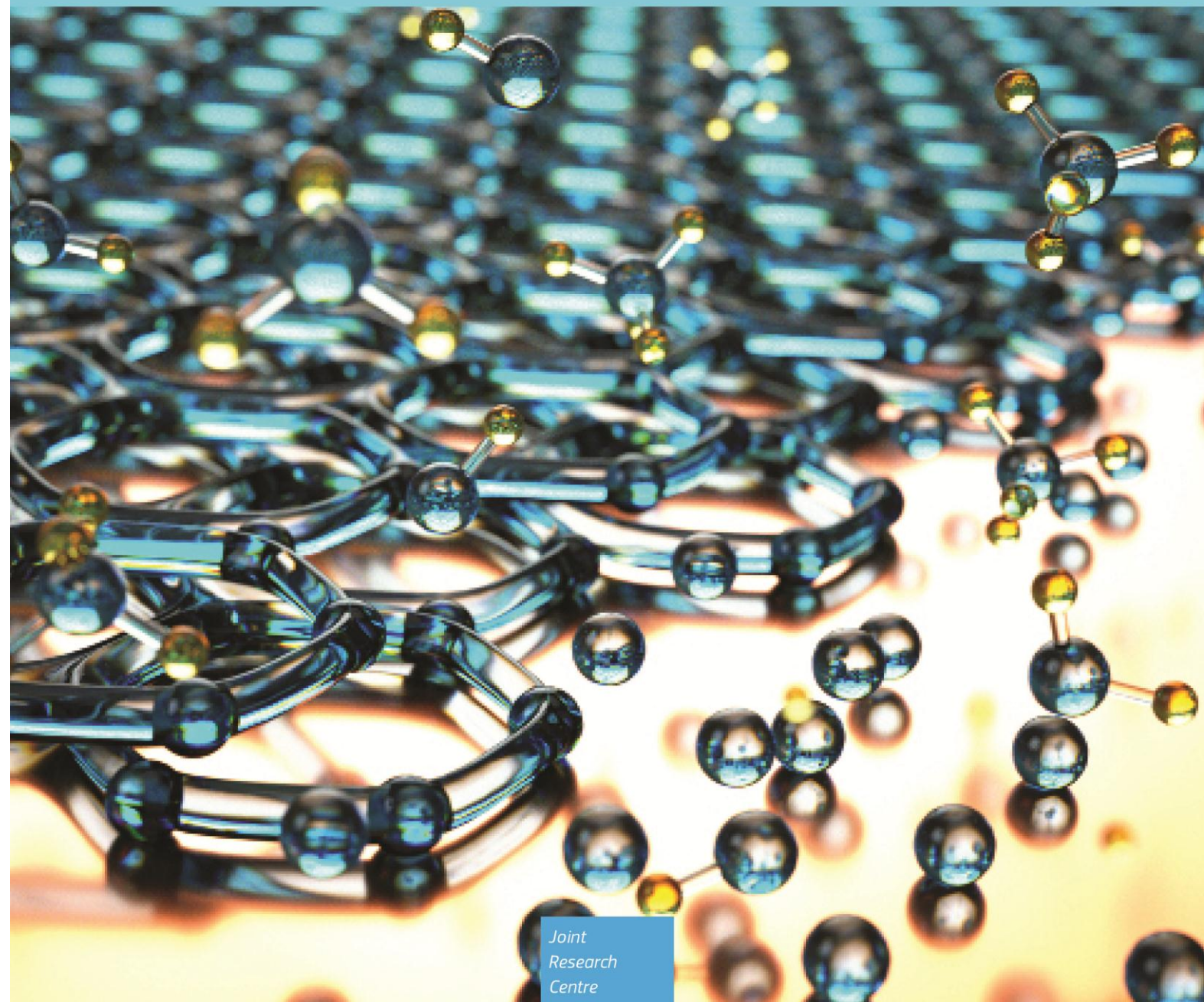




European  
Commission

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

July 2014



Joint  
Research  
Centre



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Scientific Policy and Stakeholder Relations  
International, Interinstitutional and Stakeholder Relations

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

**3 July 2014**

### **The JRC's monthly briefing to the scientific community, N° 27**

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# 1. Activities of the European Institutions

## 1.1 European Commission

| Date    | Event                           | Subject  |
|---------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 July  | <a href="#">College Meeting</a> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Green Employment: The Need for an Integrated Approach publicly available (EMPL/ENV/CLIMA)</i></li> <li>• <i>Towards a circular economy: a zero waste programme for Europe (ENV)</i></li> <li>• <i>Proposition de règlement du Conseil modifiant le règlement (CE) n° 2866/98 en ce qui concerne le taux de conversion de l'euro pour la Lituanie (ECFIN)</i></li> <li>• <i>Communication from the Commission to the EP, the Council and the ESC: Towards a renewed consensus on exercising Intellectual Property Rights: An EU Action Plan (MARKT)</i></li> <li>• <i>Green Action Plan for SMEs: promoting resource efficiency through entrepreneurship for and by SMEs (ENTR/ENV)</i></li> <li>• <i>Communication from the Commission on the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights in third countries (TRADE)</i></li> </ul> |
| 9 July  | <a href="#">College Meeting</a> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Commission Recommendation on common principles for the protection of consumers and players of online gambling services and the prevention of minors from gambling.(MARKT)</i></li> </ul>   |
| 15 July | <a href="#">College Meeting</a> | Not yet publicly available   |
| 23 July | <a href="#">College Meeting</a> | Not yet publicly available   |

## 1.2 Council

| Date    | Event  | Venue/Location           |
|---------|--|--------------------------|
| 1 July  | <a href="#">Start of Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union</a> |                          |
| 14 July | <a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries Council</a>                                | Brussels, Justus Lipsius |

## 1.3 European Parliament

### Schedule of the new Parliament

| Date     | Event  | Subject  | Venue/Location |
|----------|--|--|----------------|
| 1-3 July | <i>First plenary session of the new European Parliament:</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elections of the President and Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament</li> <li>• Discussion about the outcome of the European Council meeting (26-27 June 2014) in the presence of Herman Van Rompuy</li> </ul> | Strasbourg     |

|                   |  |   |            |
|-------------------|--|---|------------|
|                   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of the Greek Presidency</li> <li>Programme of activities of the Italian Presidency</li> </ul> |            |
| 14 – 17 July      | <i>EP Plenary session, chaired by the new EP President</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Election of the President of the European Commission</li> </ul>                                      | Strasbourg |
| 15 – 18 September | <i>EP Plenary session</i>                                  |   | Strasbourg |
| 20 – 23 October   | <i>EP Plenary session</i>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vote of consent about the new College of Commissioners</li> </ul>                                    | Strasbourg |
| 24 – 27 November  | <i>EP Plenary session</i>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First participation of the new College of Commissioners</li> </ul>                                   | Strasbourg |
| 15 – 18 December  | <i>EP Plenary session</i>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First participation of the new President of the European Council</li> </ul>                          | Strasbourg |

#### Committee Meetings

|                         |  |  |            |
|-------------------------|--|--|------------|
| 7 July                  | <i>Constitutive meetings of the parliamentary committees</i>   | Elections of the Chairs of the Committees  | Strasbourg |
| 14 – 17 July            | <i>European Parliament Committee Meetings</i>  | constitutive meetings of the EP Committees | Strasbourg |
| 22-24 July              | <i>European Parliament Committee Meetings</i>  | constitutive meetings of the EP Committees | Brussels   |
| 1-11 or 22-30 September | <i>Hearings of the Commissioners-designate (by the Committees in charge of their respective portfolio)</i> |  | Brussels   |

#### Events organised in the EP

Will be available from June onwards.

## 1.4 International Relations

| <b>Date</b>              | <b>Event</b>   | <b>Venue/Location</b> |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 30 June – 4 July         | <a href="#"><u>2014 Understanding Risk Forum</u></a>   | London                |
| 14-18 July               | <a href="#"><u>United Nations 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Open Working group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals</u></a> | Brussels              |
| 16 or 17 July            | <a href="#"><u>Transatlantic Economic Council - Meeting of Bio-based products working group</u></a>                            | Brussels              |
| 8 – 12 September         | <a href="#"><u>4<sup>th</sup> EU-US-Japan Trilateral Conference on Critical Materials</u></a>                                  | Iowa (US)             |
| 23 September             | <a href="#"><u>United Nations - Climate Summit 2014: "Catalyzing Action"</u></a>   | New York              |
| 30 September – 2 October | <a href="#"><u>Arctic Council - 4<sup>th</sup> Scientific cooperation Task Force Meeting</u></a>                               | Tromsø, Norway        |
| Late September (tbc)     | <a href="#"><u>EU-Canada 2014 Summit</u></a>   | Brussels              |
| 5-7 October              | <a href="#"><u>Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum – 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting</u></a>                          | Kyoto, Japan          |
| 13 October (tbc)         | <a href="#"><u>17<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit</u></a>   | Brussels              |

|               |  |              |
|---------------|--|--------------|
| 14-15 October | <a href="#"><u>Arctic Futures Symposium 2014</u></a>   | Brussels     |
| 16-17 October | <a href="#"><u>Asia-Europe Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit, theme: "Responsible partnership for sustainable Growth and Security"</u></a> | Milan        |
| 3–4 December  | <a href="#"><u>EU-South Africa Joint Science&amp;Technology Cooperation Committee</u></a>  | South Africa |
| 2014 (tbc)    | <a href="#"><u>EU-Mexico Summit</u></a>  | Brussels     |

## 2. Conferences & Meetings

### 2.1 European Conferences Meetings

| <b>Date</b>      | <b>Event</b>   | <b>Organiser</b>   | <b>Venue/Location</b>  |
|------------------|--|--|------------------------|
| 30 June – 2 July | <a href="#">6<sup>th</sup> Conference on Modelling and Design Molecular Materials</a>    | Wroclaw University of Technology   | Kudowa – Zdròj, Poland |
| 1-2 July         | <a href="#">CENTRAL EUROPE Annual Conference</a>   |  | City hall, Vienna      |
| 6-7 October      | <a href="#">High Level conference "Future of Europe is Science"</a>                      | JRC, BEPA, Office of CSA   | Lisbon                 |
| 13-17 October    | <a href="#">Climate Symposium 2014</a>   | World Climate Research Program (WCRP) - European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) | Darmstadt, Germany     |
| 21-22 October    | 6th JRC/ DG AGRI annual conference on "Commodity Market Development in Europe – Outlook" | JRC, AGRI  | Brussels               |
| 12 – 14 November | <a href="#">2014 Conference on Big Data From Space (BiDS '14)</a>                        | JRC, ESA, Satcen   | Frascati, Italy        |
| 19 - 20 November | <a href="#">20th MARS (Monitoring Agricultural Resources) annual Conference</a>          | JRC  | Dresden, Germany       |
| 27-28 November   | <a href="#">Counterfactual Methods for Policy Impact Evaluation (COMPIE) Conference</a>  | JRC / DG EMPL / Centre for Research on Impact Evaluation (CRIE)  | Rome, Italy            |

### 2.2 International Conferences

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Event</b>   | <b>Organiser</b>   | <b>Venue/Location</b> |
|-------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| 1-14 July   | <a href="#">International Conference on "Carbon-Land-Property"</a> | I-REDD+ Project and the ProCit Network, The Danish Council for Independent Research - Social Sciences (FSE) and University of Copenhagen | Copenhagen, Denmark   |
| 2-4 July    | <a href="#">World Finance conference</a>                           | Università Ca Foscari, Venice  | Venice, Italy         |

|                         |   |  |   |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| 6-12 July               | <a href="#"><u>International Youth Nuclear Congress 2014</u></a>  | Youth Nuclear Congress   | Burgos, Spain   |
| 7-10 July               | <a href="#"><u>17th International Conference on Information Fusion (Fusion 2014)</u></a>  | International Society of Information Fusion (ISIF) in association with the Universidad De Salamanca and Universidad De Madrid, and supported by IEEE | Salamanca, Spain  |
| 7-10 July               | <a href="#"><u>IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) International Conference on Advances in Nuclear Forensics</u></a>                    | IAEA   | Vienna  |
| 7-11 July               | <a href="#"><u>International Conference on Strongly Correlated Electron Systems (SCES 2014)</u></a>   | CEA (Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives) – ILL (Institut Laue-Langevin)  | Grenoble, France  |
| 14-18 July              | <a href="#"><u>22nd International Input-Output Conference and 4th Edition of the International School of Input-Output Analysis</u></a>        | International Input-Output Association / Technical University of Lisbon  | Lisbon, Portugal  |
| 21 – 31 July            | <a href="#"><u>ESA (European Space Agency) – JRC International Summer School on GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) 2014</u></a>        | ESA – JRC  | Campus of the technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic |
| 2-7 August              | <a href="#"><u>Microscopy &amp; Microanalysis Conference and International Union of Microbeam Analysis Societies – IUMAS-6 Conference</u></a> | MAS (Microbeam Analysis Society) and IUMAS   | Hartford (USA)  |
| 10-15 August            | <a href="#"><u>International Conference on Robust Statistics (ICORS) 2014</u></a>   | JRC / University of Halle University of Cassino / University of Naples   | Halle (Saale), Germany  |
| 24-28 August            | <a href="#"><u>9th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences</u></a>   | Alternatives Congress Trust  | Prague, Czech Republic  |
| 31 August – 4 September | <a href="#"><u>5th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress</u></a>   | European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences, Turkish Chemical Society   | Istanbul, Turkey  |
| 31 Aug - 5 Sep          | <a href="#"><u>World Water Week</u></a>   | Stockholm International Water Institute  | Stockholm, Sweden   |
| 8-12 September          | <a href="#"><u>7th Annual Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP) Conference</u></a>   | Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP)   | Costa Rica  |
| 24-29 September         | <a href="#"><u>First Joint International and European conference on Intelligence and Security Informatics (IEEE ISI &amp; EISIC)</u></a>      | Delft University of Technology / Police academy of the Netherlands / Netherlands Forensic Institute / University of Arizona (USA)                    | The Hague, the Netherlands                                    |
| 24-26 September         | <a href="#"><u>International conference on food contact Compliance</u></a>  | The Italian Institute of Packaging   | Stresa, Italy   |
| 5-11 October            | <a href="#"><u>XXIV International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress 2014</u></a>                                  | IUFRO  | Salt Lake City, UT, United States                             |
| 13-17 October           | <a href="#"><u>Climate Symposium 2014</u></a>   | WCRP / EUMETSAT  | Darmstadt, Germany  |
| 9-15 November           | <a href="#"><u>20th Latin American Soil Science Congress</u></a>  | IASS (Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies) / Global Soil Forum   | Cuzco, Peru   |

|                    |  |  |                    |
|--------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| 12-19 November     | <a href="#"><u>International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Parks Congress</u></a>                              | IUCN   | Sydney, Australia  |
| 17-21 November     | <a href="#"><u>2<sup>nd</sup> International Ocean Research Conference</u></a>  | Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and the Oceanography Society                                | Barcelona, Spain   |
| 19-21 November     | <a href="#"><u>Global Energy Storage Conference</u></a>  | EASE (European Association of Storage of Energy ESA (US Energy Storage Association) – JRC (day one sessions tbc) | Paris              |
| 27-28 November     | <a href="#"><u>5th International Conference Future-Oriented Technology Analysis (FTA) "Engage today to shape tomorrow"</u></a> | JRC  | Brussels           |
| 1-12 December      | <a href="#"><u>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (NFCCC) Convention of the Parties COP-20</u></a>          | UN   | Lima, Peru         |
| 2-5 December       | <a href="#"><u>1st Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI) Conference</u></a>   | JRC (EcoFINDERS project) / Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI)  | Dijon, France      |
| 14 – 18 March 2015 | <a href="#"><u>3rd world Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction</u></a>   | Coordinating body: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)                                    | Sendai City, Japan |



## 3. JRC News

| Date  | News   |
|---|--|
| 2013  | <a href="#">Annual Report 2013</a>   |
| June - July 2014  | <a href="#">JRC Newsletter</a>   |
| <b>25 June</b>  | <a href="#">New study quantifies the effects of climate change in Europe</a>             |
| <p><i>If no further action is taken and global temperature increases by 3.5°C, climate damages in the EU could amount to at least €190 billion, a net welfare loss of 1.8% of its current GDP. Several weather-related extremes could roughly double their average frequency. As a consequence, heat-related deaths could reach about 200 000. These are just some of the findings of a new report by the JRC, which has analysed the impacts of climate change in 9 different sectors: agriculture, river floods, coasts, tourism, energy, droughts, forest fires, transport infrastructure and human health. The report also includes a pilot study on habitat suitability of forest tree species.</i></p>  |  |
| <b>25 June</b>  | <a href="#">Scientific support to the Danube Strategy</a>                                |
| <p><i>The JRC, together with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, organised a high-level event dedicated to scientific support to the Danube Strategy. The event, opened, among others, by Vladimír Šucha, Director-General of the JRC and Barbara Weitgruber, Director-General of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, has attracted 230 participants.</i></p>   |  |
| <b>23 June</b>  | <a href="#">JRC at the 2014 Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF)</a>                            |
| <p><i>Active player at ESOF since its first edition in 2004, this year the JRC organises six scientific sessions which illustrate the importance of science for policy and participates in other two. It also presents an exhibit entitled "Soil - the hidden treasure" within the "Science in the City" festival. The JRC's workshops and panels cover a variety of topics, including urbanisation in the 21st century, fiscal policy and economic growth, detection of food fraud, socio-economic issues and raw materials supply as well as the use of social incentives to encourage children to do more physical activity. With their focus on finding sustainable solutions that are useful to society and help to enhance economic growth, these JRC symposia attracted high level speakers from various organisations and academia worldwide.</i></p> |  |
| <b>18 June</b>  | <a href="#">Microalgae for food and feed markets, an opportunity for EU's bioeconomy</a> |
| <p><i>The European Union has recently adopted an ambitious strategy for developing the Bioeconomy. In this context, microalgae represent an emerging biological resource of great importance for its potential applications in different fields, in particular as a new source of valuable nutrients for human and animal consumption. A new JRC report provides an in-depth review of microalgae production systems, markets, R&amp;D developments and product pipeline, and unveils the experts' opinion on Europe's present and future challenges in the sector.</i></p>   |  |
| <b>12 June</b>  | <a href="#">Chemical lists information system launched</a>                               |
| <p><i>The JRC has launched an online tool to identify chemicals useful for the development and validation of alternative methods to animal testing. Individual chemicals are usually examined across many different research projects and are also regulated in various national or international programmes. Knowing which chemicals were looked at in a research project (e.g. a study on carcinogenic properties), and how they are treated from a legal point of view e.g. in Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), gives a valuable insight into their possible role to calibrate, fine tune and assess an alternative method's potential to predict certain properties. The new JRC's Chemical Lists Information System (CheLIST) aims at providing this information.</i></p>                     |  |

**11 June**     [Making diet count in cancer prevention](#)

*Cancer risk factors can be reduced by correct nutrition and physical activity, which are key elements in all recommendations for cancer prevention, such as the European code against cancer. In a recently published report, JRC scientists screened the national cancer plans of all EU Members States plus Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey and checked how much attention was given to the dietary prevention of cancer. The analysis revealed that over 90% of the plans acknowledge a general link between nutrition and/or physical activity, and the potential positive impact that these can have in the prevention of various types of cancer.*

**10 June**     [Slovakia – tightening research cooperation](#)

*The JRC and the Slovak Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport are hosting a high level conference discussing research cooperation between the JRC and Slovakia today in Bratislava, with the participation of Dušan Čaplovič, Slovak Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport and Vladimír Šucha, JRC Director-General. The objective of the meeting is to strengthen cooperation in strategic areas which could bring added value to Slovak science as well as help integrate it even better within the European Research Area. The partners are additionally looking into areas where cooperation between the JRC and the Slovak Republic will be complementary to the objectives of the national strategy "Through knowledge towards prosperity - Research Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic (RIS3 SK)".*

**5 June**     [World Environment Day - JRC expertise on circular economy](#)

*Following the slogan of today's World Environment Day – Raise your voice not the sea level – the JRC has presented its activities on circular economy at the Green Week, the biggest annual conference on European environment policy which ends today. This year's Green Week theme is Circular Economy, Resource Efficiency & Waste. It reflects the need to re-use, re-manufacture and recycle goods in a world which is ever more resource-constrained. The JRC is active in several fronts in these areas: energy efficiency, renewable energy, natural resources protection and sustainable economy.*

**3 June**     [Interim storage of spent nuclear fuel: looking into the alterations](#)

*A JRC co-authored study has examined the evolution of components of spent nuclear fuel by comparing actual spent fuel with lab results obtained on fuel analogues in simulated, accelerated timescale. Most of the trends observed were found to be comparable with characteristics of actual spent fuel. Ongoing programmes are also addressing the retrievability of spent fuel after extended storage and its behaviour under accident conditions. Such comparisons help make safety assessments of the alterations that occur in conditions of prolonged storage of spent fuel while waiting for its final disposal in a geological repository. The two most common types of spent nuclear fuel were examined: irradiated uranium dioxide (UO<sub>2</sub>) and uranium (U) – plutonium (Pu) mixed oxide fuel (MOX).*