



# Science & Policy

## What's on the EU's agenda?

December 2017



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

1 December 2017

### The DG JRC's monthly briefing to the scientific community, N° 64

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# 1. Activities of the European Institutions

## 1.1 European Commission

Date	Event	Subject
December	<a href="#">College Meeting</a>	<i>Please consult the website</i>

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

## 1.2 Council

Date	Event	Location
30 November – 1 December	<a href="#">Competitiveness Council</a>	Brussels
4-5 December	<a href="#">Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council</a>	Brussels
5 December	<a href="#">Economic and Financial Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
7-8 December	<a href="#">Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
7-8 December	<a href="#">Justice and Home Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
10-11 December	<a href="#">Foreign Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
11-12 December	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries Council</a>	Brussels
12 December	<a href="#">General Affairs Council (Art. 50)</a>	Brussels
14-15 December	<a href="#">European Council (Art.50)</a>	Brussels

15 December	<a href="#">Euro Summit</a>	Brussels
18 December	<a href="#">Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council</a>	Brussels
<a href="#">All meetings of the Council</a>		

## 1.3 European Parliament

### Plenary Sessions

Date	Event	Subjects	Location
11-14 December	<a href="#">EP Plenary</a>	<i>Among others: Sustainable management of external fishing fleets; EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS): continuing current limitations of scope for aviation activities and preparing to implement a global market-based measure from 2021; EU Citizenship Report 2017: Strengthening Citizens' Rights in a Union of Democratic Change; Report on the inquiry into money laundering, tax avoidance and tax evasion; Extension of the duration of the European Fund for Strategic Investments; draft recommendation following the inquiry on money laundering, tax avoidance and tax evasion; customs duties on imports of certain products originating in the USA; EU-USA Air Transport Agreement; Iran Nuclear deal; situation in Afghanistan; situation of the Rohingya people; preparation of the European Council meeting of 14 and 15 December 2017; state of play of negotiations with the United Kingdom; Hong Kong, 20 years after handover; composition of the European Parliament; implementation of the Social Pillar; implementation of the directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography; JD-EU-Kazakhstan Partnership Agreement; implementation of EU macro-regional strategies; deliberations of the Committee on</i>	Strasbourg

		<i>Petitions 2016; debates on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law; motions for resolutions concerning debates on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law;</i>	
<b>Committee Meetings</b>			
4 December	<a href="#"><u>Committee on Foreign Affairs</u></a>	<i>Among others: Prospects for Libya in the current regional context; further macro-financial assistance to Georgia; 2016 discharge: EU general budget- European External Action Service; 2016 discharge: EU general budget- Commission; debriefing on the Delegation for relations with Mashreq countries (D-MAS) visit to Lebanon (30 October-1 November 2017); exchange of views with Ditmir Bushati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania</i>	Brussels
4 December	<a href="#"><u>Committee on Development</u></a>	<i>Among others: 2016 discharge: EU general budget- Commission; mid-term review of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) and the European Development Fund (EDF); implementation of the Development Cooperation Instrument, the Humanitarian Aid Instrument and the European Development Fund; humanitarian conditions in Libya;</i>	Brussels
4 December	<a href="#"><u>Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection</u></a>	<i>Among others: Approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles and their trailers, and of systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles; cross-border parcel delivery services; addressing geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment within the internal market; establishing the European Defence Industrial Development Programme aiming at supporting the competitiveness and innovative capacity of the EU defence industry; enforcement of the Directive 2006/123/EC on services in the internal market, laying down a notification procedure for authorisation schemes and requirements related to services, and amending Directive 2006/123/EC and Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System; proportionality test before adoption of new regulation of professions; implementation of Directive 2005/36/EC as regards regulation and the need for reform in professional services; a European strategy on</i>	Brussels



		<i>Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems;</i>	
4 December	<a href="#">Committee on Transport and Tourism</a>	<i>Among others: Monitoring and reporting of CO2 emissions from and fuel consumption of new heavy-duty vehicles; 'Infrastructure funding challenges in the sharing economy' - Presentation by Prof Matthias Finger, representing the European University Institute. Study requested by the TRAN Committee, commissioned and managed by the Policy Department; Scrutiny: Presentation by the Commission of the draft delegated act related to technical requirements for inland waterways vessel;</i>	
4 December	<a href="#">Committee on International Trade</a>	<i>Among others: Rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers; Trade and Sustainable Development chapters in EU trade agreements; Monitoring Groups Activities; EP-PAP Parliamentary Summit, 27-28 November 2017, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; interpretation and implementation of the interinstitutional agreement on Better Law-Making; annual report on the implementation of the Common Commercial Policy; first exchange of views on EU-Singapore FTA; Preparations for the WTO Summit in Buenos Aires- exchange of views;</i>	
4 December	<a href="#">Committee on Budgets</a>	<i>Among others: European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2018; EU guarantee to the European Investment Bank against losses under financing operations supporting investment projects outside the Union; Guarantee Fund for external actions; Annual Report on the Financial Activities of the European Investment Bank; establishing a centralised system for the identification of Member States holding conviction information on third country nationals and stateless persons (TCN) to supplement and support the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS-TCN system); European Solidarity Corps; building policy: new House of Europe in Paris (joint project European Commission-Parliament);</i>	Brussels

4 December	<a href="#">Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs</a>	<p>Among others: Controls on cash entering or leaving the Union; Commission proposal for a Council Decision on the appointment of the Chair of the Board of the Single Resolution Board; exchange of views with Niels Thygesen, Chair of the European Fiscal Board; safeguarding competition in air transport; Directive of the European parliament and of the Council on the legal and operational framework of the European services e-card; Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council introducing a European services e-card and related administrative facilities; preventive restructuring frameworks, second chance and measures to increase the efficiency of restructuring, insolvency and discharge procedures Commission Delegated Regulation supplementing Regulation (EU) No 600/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on markets in financial instruments with regard to regulatory technical standards on the trading obligation for certain derivatives;</p>
4 December	<a href="#">Committee on Transport and Tourism</a>	<p>Among others: Monitoring and reporting of CO2 emissions from and fuel consumption of new heavy-duty vehicles; infrastructure funding challenges in the sharing economy; safeguarding competition in air transport; presentation by the Commission of the draft delegated act related to technical requirements for inland waterways vessel;</p>
4 December	<a href="#">Committee on Employment and Social Affairs</a>	<p>Among others: Gender Equality in the Media Sector in the EU; European Semester for economic policy coordination: employment and social aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2018; European Solidarity Corps; the implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative in the Member States; coordination of social security systems in Europe- A Study for the EMPL Committee;</p>
4 December	<a href="#">Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development</a>	<p>Among others: With the Council and Commission: integrated farm statistics; presentation (DG AGRI) of a draft implementing act laying down the rules for the application of the management system of tariff rate quotas with licences; annual report on Competition Policy; joint AGRI, ENVI and ITRE Public Hearing on "The EU Forest Strategy";</p>

4 December	<a href="#">Committee on Culture and Education</a>	<i>Among others: The next MFF: Preparing the Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020; presentation of the Education and Training Monitor by the Commission; 2016 discharge: EU general budget– Commission; 2016 discharge: Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT); the structural and financial Barriers in the access to culture; reporting back from the Brexit Monitoring Group meeting; feedback on the trilogue on the AVMS Directive;</i>	Brussels
4 December	<a href="#">Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality</a>	<i>Among others: Women, gender equality and climate justice; the next MFF: preparing the Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020; European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2018; Mission to Portugal 2017;</i>	Brussels
7 December	<a href="#">Committee on Legal Affairs</a>	<i>Among others: Conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled; presentation of the study on the European Added Value Assessment of a Statute for Social and Solidarity-based Enterprises; statute for social and solidarity-based enterprises; preventive restructuring frameworks, second chance and measures to increase the efficiency of restructuring, insolvency and discharge procedures; three-dimensional printing, a challenge in the fields of intellectual property rights and civil liability; contracts for the online and other distance sales of goods; media pluralism and media freedom in the European Union; the copyright directive: strengthening the position of press publishers and authors and performers;</i>	Brussels
	<a href="#">Committee on Legal Affairs jointly with Committee on Constitutional Affairs</a>	<i>Among others: Interpretation and implementation of the interinstitutional agreement on Better Law-Making;</i>	
7 December	<a href="#">Subcommittee on Security and Defence</a>	<i>Among others: Debriefing of the Foreign Affairs Council of 13 November 2017–exchange of views with Pedro Serrano, Deputy Secretary-General EEAS; in association with the Delegation for relations with Japan, the Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China, the Delegation for relations with the countries of Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Delegation for relations with</i>	Brussels



		<i>the Korean Peninsula: public hearing on North Korea; addressing new types of challenges: climate change in the Arctic region and the geopolitical implications of advanced energy;</i>	
7 December	<a href="#">Subcommittee on Human Rights</a>	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
7 December	<a href="#">Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs</a>	<i>Among others: Economic Dialogue and exchange of views with Jeroen Dijsselbloem, President of the Eurogroup; Banking Union-Annual Report 2017; mandatory automatic exchange of information in the field of taxation in relation to reportable cross-border arrangements; Proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the EU, of the Bilateral Agreement between the European Union and the United States of America on prudential measures regarding insurance and reinsurance; Proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the EU, of the Bilateral Agreement between the European Union and the United States of America on prudential measures regarding insurance and reinsurance;</i>	Brussels
7 December	<a href="#">Committee on Regional Development</a>	<i>Among others: Accelerating Clean Energy Innovation; the role of EU regions and cities in implementing the COP 21 Paris Agreement on climate change; lagging regions in the EU; exchange of views with Corina Crețu, Commissioner for Regional Policy; study commissioned by Policy Department B on "Public Private Partnerships and Cohesion Policy"; Cohesion Policy and thematic objective 'promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures';</i>	
7 December	<a href="#">Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety</a>  <a href="#">Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety jointly with Committee on Industry, Research and</a>	<i>Among others: Reform of the European Union's system of own resources; a European Strategy for the promotion of Protein Crops; European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2018; annual exchange of views with Guido Rasi, Executive Director of European Medicines Agency (EMA);</i>  <i>Among others: Governance of the Energy Union;</i>	Brussels

	<a href="#">Energy</a>		
7 December	<a href="#">Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs</a>	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
7 December	<a href="#">Committee on Budgetary Control</a>	<i>Among others: 2016 discharge: EU general budget-Commission; Annual Report 2016 on the Protection of the EU's Financial Interests-fight against fraud; ECA Special Report 18/2017 (2016 Discharge): Single European Sky: a changed culture but not a single sky; Evaluation of the funding programs for the outermost regions, in particular Guyana, and the new European strategy in favour of the outermost regions;</i>	
7 December	<a href="#">Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development</a>	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
13 December	<a href="#">Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development</a>	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Strasbourg
14 December	<a href="#">Special Committee on Terrorism</a>	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Strasbourg
14 December	<a href="#">Committee on Constitutional Affairs</a>	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Strasbourg
<a href="#">All European Parliament Committee Meetings</a>			

## 1.4 Committee of the Regions (CoR)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
1 December	<a href="#">China and Europe Taking Care of healthcare solutions: CHETCH Final Conference</a>	Brussels
1-18 December	<a href="#">Reflecting on Europe</a>	All over Europe
4 December	<a href="#">8th Subsidiarity Conference</a>	Vienna, Austria

13 December	<a href="#">16th Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER) Commission Meeting</a>	Brussels
14 December	<a href="#">Challenges and incentives in the implementation of structural reforms. The role of local and regional authorities</a>	Brussels

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

## 1.5 European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
8 November-8 December	<a href="#">Estonian wilderness</a>	Brussels
1 December	<a href="#">The liberal professions, a lever for the development of Europe: towards a European manifesto of professionals</a>	Rome, Italy
4 December	<a href="#">Boosting non-state climate action</a>	Brussels
6-7 December	<a href="#">530th Plenary Session</a>	Brussels
13 December	<a href="#">Lessons learned for avoiding the severity of austerity policies in the EU</a>	Brussels
13 December	<a href="#">Reviewing the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Regulations in favour of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations</a>	Brussels
13-14 December	<a href="#">Euromed Summit 2017 of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions</a>	Madrid, Spain

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

## 1.6 International Relations

Date	Event	Location
29-30 November	<a href="#">African Union (AU)–EU Summit: Investing in Youth for a Sustainable Future</a> <a href="#">JRC publication: Science for the AU-EU Partnership- Building knowledge for sustainable development</a>	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

# 2. Conferences & Meetings

## 2.1 DG JRC Conferences and Events

Date	Event	Organiser	Location
1 December	Workshop on Forest Bioeconomy	DG JRC	Ispra, Italy
2 December	Science meets Parliament in Bratislava	DG JRC, CoR	Bratislava, Slovakia
14-16 December	<a href="#">The 2nd International workshop on Modelling of Physical, Economic and Social Systems for Resilience Assessment</a>	DG JRC, National Institute of Standards and Technology, US Department of Commerce (NIST), Colorado State University	Ispra, Italy

[Further upcoming DG JRC Events](#)

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

## 2.2 Further European Conferences and Meetings

27 November-1 December	<a href="#">9<sup>th</sup> European Innovation Summit and Innovation Week</a>	EP	Brussels
29 November-1 December	<a href="#">10th Conference of the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan</a>	Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (CVTI SR), Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA) under the auspices of the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU	Bratislava, Slovakia
1 December	<a href="#">EU Refining Forum</a>	EC	Brussels
4-5 December	<a href="#">European Day of Persons with Disabilities</a>	EC, European Disability Forum, European Day of Persons with Disabilities	Brussels
4-5 December	<a href="#">Horizon 2020 info day: Find out how to fund your research with partners from the EU</a>	EC	Tirana, Albania
4-7 December	<a href="#">European nuclear safeguards training seminar</a>	EC, DG Energy	Luxembourg
5 December	<a href="#">Access City Award 2018</a>	EC	Brussels
5 December	<a href="#">European Trade Policy Day- Trade policy in a turbulent world</a>	EC, DG Trade	Brussels
5-6 December	<a href="#">Connecting the dots: European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) Conference</a>	Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union	Brussels



5-6 December	<a href="#">2nd Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) conference on sanitary and phytosanitary measures</a>	ASEM, EC, Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	Brussels
5-7 December	<a href="#">Conference on migration and technology</a>	Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)	Lisbon, Portugal
7 December	<a href="#">Joining forces in public procurement to power investment. High-level conference on transparency and integrity, professionalisation and large infrastructures</a>	EC	Brussels
7 December	<a href="#">Connecting Europe with building blocks: Making the Digital Single Market a reality</a>	EC	Brussels
7-8 December	<a href="#">Info day, Horizon 2020 – Health, demographic change and wellbeing</a>	EC	Brussels
8 December	<a href="#">4<sup>th</sup> European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) Seminar: Is the vocational education and training system prepared for the future of work?</a>	Cedefop, Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union	Brussels
8 December	<a href="#">Citizens' Dialogue with Commissioner Neven Mimica</a>	EC	Osijek, Croatia
11 December	<a href="#">Energy efficiency in buildings: how to accelerate investments?</a>	EC, French Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition	Paris, France
11 December	<a href="#">Central European Day of Energy (CEDE)</a>	EC, Central Europe Energy Partners (CEEP)	Brussels

11 December	<a href="#">Conference: Coal Regions in Transition Platform</a>	EC	Strasbourg, France
12-13 December	<a href="#">Workshop of the Micro-Nano-Bio Systems cluster of EU funded activities - International MicroNanoConference 2017</a>	EC, International MicroNanoConference 2017	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
13 December	<a href="#">Smart, Green &amp; Integrated Horizon 2020 Transport Information Day</a>	EC	Brussels
13 December	<a href="#">Citizen's dialogue with Commissioner Tibor Navracsics</a>	EC	Dublin, Ireland
18-19 December	<a href="#">2017 EU Agricultural Outlook conference</a>	EC	Brussels
19 December	<a href="#">2017 Export Control Forum</a>	EC, Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union	Brussels
19 December	<a href="#">Citizen's dialogue with Commissioner Corina Crețu</a>	EC	Bucharest, Romania
21 December	<a href="#">Clean Energy Future- the legacy of the Estonian Presidency</a>	Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications.	Tallinn, Estonia

## 2.3 International Conferences and events

Date	Event	Organiser	Location
5-6 December	<a href="#">International Conference on Energy Systems Integration</a>	International Institute for Energy Systems Integration	Golden, Colorado, United States

		(iiESI)	
7-8 December	<a href="#">Science Forum South Africa 2017</a>	Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of South Africa	Pretoria, South Africa
12 December	<a href="#">One Planet Summit</a>	Presidency of the French Republic, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Paris, France
12-14 December	<a href="#">8th Annual International Applied Market Information (AMI) Conference on Wind Turbine Blade Manufacture</a>	Applied Market Information (AMI) Ltd	Düsseldorf, Germany
12-15 December	<a href="#">European Fuel Cell Technology &amp; Applications</a>	Italian National Agency for New Technologies (ENEA), University of Naples, University of Perugia, Atena Future Technology,	Naples, Italy
14-15 December	<a href="#">2017 World Family Summit</a>	World Family Organisation, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)	Geneva, Switzerland
21-26 January 2018	<a href="#">Arctic Frontiers 2018-Connecting the Arctic</a>	Arcticfrontiers	Tromsø, Norway
14-19 February 2018	<a href="#">American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting</a>	AAAS	Austin, USA

## 3. DG JRC News

<b>2016</b>	<a href="#"><u>DG JRC Annual Report</u></a>
<b>December</b>	<a href="#"><u>DG JRC Newsletter December 2017</u></a>
<b>Open</b>	<a href="#"><u>Open access to JRC Research Infrastructures - Call</u></a>
<b>Open</b>	<a href="#"><u>The EU is recruiting researchers - Call for expressions of interest</u></a>

### November Highlights

6-9 November

[The 2nd International Workshop on the European Atlas of Natural Radiation](#)

The 2nd International Workshop on the European Atlas of Natural Radiation (IWEANR 2017) was held in the town of Verbania, Italy. The main aim of the workshop was to present the status and discuss progress of the European Atlas of Natural Radiation. Workshop Topics were as follows: radon policies- European Basic Safety Standards, international organizations' positions, other international projects; indoor radon- new participants to the European map, new datasets; sources of natural radiation and their mapping- geochemical, terrestrial gamma, soil, water, building materials etc.; relationships between radon-related quantities- methodology, multivariate analysis, dimensionality reduction, radon hazard index; radon-priority areas- concepts, predictors, classification, risk, mapping issues (geological, gridded, administrative units).

6-10 November

**[2017 Neutron Resonance Analysis School](#)**

The fourth Neutron Resonance Analysis School was hosted at the JRC in Geel. This school provided an overview to the measurement and analysis techniques associated with neutron induced reactions alongside the nuclear theory governing these reactions. Lectures and hands-on computer exercises were alternated. Topics included neutron-induced reactions (including elastic and in-elastic cross section measurements), the optical model and its link to the resonance region, neutron time-of-flight measurements, integral measurements, nuclear astrophysics, nuclear data libraries and more. The school was aimed at PhD students, post-docs and researchers working in the field related to neutron time-of-flight measurements and neutron resonance analysis.

6-10 November

**[15th JRC Annual Training on Composite Indicators and Scoreboards & 2017 Annual meeting of Community of Practice.](#)**

The training offered the lessons learnt from the JRC assessments on more than 100 well-known composite indicators and scoreboards. It was open to all (researchers, policy analysts) with an interest in scoreboards, composite indicators and multi-criteria analysis. During the days of 9 and 10 November, the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Community of Practice on Composite Indicators and Scoreboards took place.

6-17 November

**[23rd Conference of the Parties \(COP23\) on climate change](#)**

As the European Commission's science and knowledge service, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) regularly provides scientific and technical advice for the development and implementation of EU policy on climate action. In this capacity, two JRC experts advised the EU's delegation to COP23, the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). JRC also organised side events on different thematic areas, which was held at the EU Pavilion. JRC's staff engaged in expert panels of other organizations' events to contribute to the scientific and technical discussions on climate action.

15-17 November

**[Quantitative methods for integrated food and nutrition security measurement– lessons to be learned!](#)**

To define the state of the art for quantitative measurement of food and nutrition security (F&NS) the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) organised an international conference. Researchers, academics, professionals and decision makers were invited to this interdisciplinary forum to discuss and present quantitative methods for integrated F&NS measurement. Participants found the opportunity to forge partnerships for the development and promotion of improved methodologies to support evidence-based F&NS policies and decision makers.

16 November

**[Arendt, metaphors and the EU: Why words matter!](#)**

Metaphors matter- their usage bears consequences. This conversation among linguists and scholars discussed the extent to which 'embracing Arendt' inspired concepts and metaphors opens a path for a subtle but potentially radical and far-reaching shift in EU policy orientations.

"Metaphors the daily bread of all conceptual thought" (Hannah Arendt)

Background: We are living unstable times politically-wise and the European Union is in the eye of the storm. To strengthen its ability to make the proper choices, there is a need for an increased critical consciousness of the



implicit conceptual frameworks underlying EU policy-making. All men and women, including policy-makers, think and act according to conceptualisations. Conceptualisations are revealed in language through metaphorical expressions. This is why metaphors matter- their usage bears consequences. This is why metaphors, linguistics and philosophy connect deeply with policy-making.

22-23 November

**[Third MENA Regional Workshop on Harmonisation of GMO Detection and Analysis](#)**

The workshop was organized in the context of phase IV of the project “Towards Global Harmonisation of GMO Analysis by Creating and Supporting Regional Networks of Excellence” carried out by the JRC in the frame of the DG SANTE 'Better Training for Safer Food Programme' (BTSF). In line with the aim of the project and as follow up to previous activities conducted in the MENA region, the workshop was an opportunity for regional participants to review the status of GMO analysis in the region as a basis for tackling technical and organisational aspects for further enhancing GMO-analysis capacities in the MENA region.

23 November

**[JRC Science Lecture on Energy Sustainability in the Time of Renewables](#)**

This lunchtime science lecture was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November Thursday, at the CDMA Atrium, by JRC physicist Nicola Labanca. The lecture built on the insights provided in a book recently published by [Springer](#), where the lecturer and a series of acknowledged scientists addressed the above mentioned concern, and provided indications of how complex systems and social practice theories can inform policy and research activities focused on increasing energy sustainability in the current transition to renewable energies.

28 November

**[Science Meets Parliaments 2017](#)**

Under the main topic "the role of science in a post fact society" the European Parliament opened its doors to the Science Meets Parliaments-flagship initiative of the Joint Research Centre (JRC). This annual initiative highlighted the importance of building closer links between scientists and EU policy-makers. Regular dialogue is vital to establish and improve a culture of evidence informed policy-making. The European Commission Joint Research Centre's flagship initiative organised in collaboration with the European Parliament's Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) panel has become a key annual event at the European Parliament in Brussels. Science Meets Parliaments brought together high level European and national policy-makers and scientists in a series of dynamic round table debates and bilateral meetings.

**[All DG JRC news](#)**