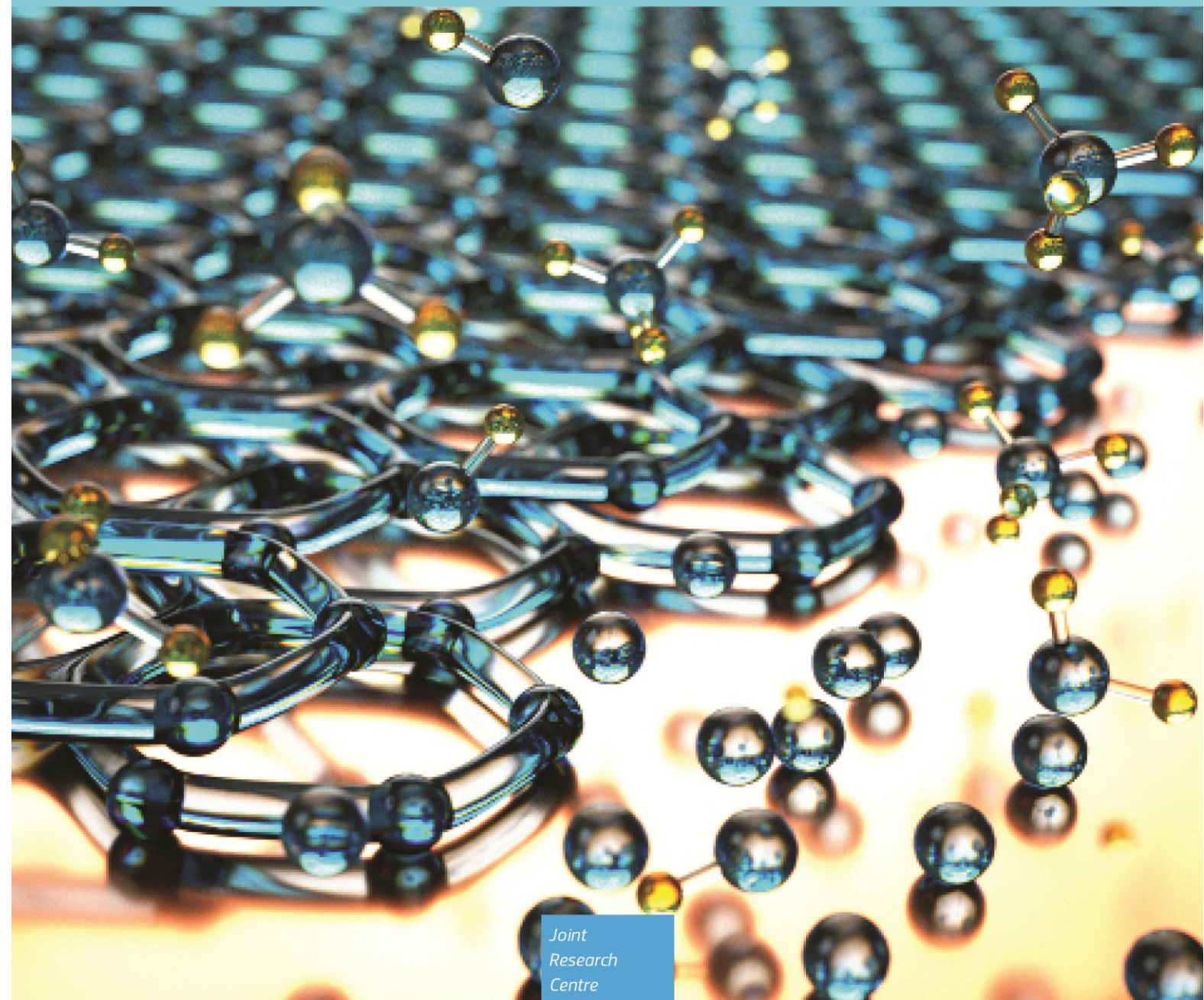




# *Science & Policy:* *What's on the EU's agenda?*

June 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?**

10 June 2015

### **The JRC's monthly briefing to the scientific community, N° 37**

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# 1. Activities of the European Institutions

## 1.1 European Commission

Date	Event	Subject
17 June	<a href="#">College Meeting</a>	Adoption of the Action Plan on corporate taxation

## 1.2 Council

Date	Event	Venue/Location
11 June	<a href="#">Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Transport)</a>	Brussels
11-12 June	<a href="#">Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Telecommunications)</a>	Brussels
15 June	<a href="#">Environment Council</a>	Brussels
15-16 June	<a href="#">Justice and Home Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
16 June	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries Council</a>	Brussels
18-19 June	<a href="#">Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
19 June	<a href="#">Economic and Financial Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
25-26 June	<a href="#">European Council</a>	Brussels
13 July	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries Council</a>	Brussels
14 July	<a href="#">Economic and Financial Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
18 September	<a href="#">Environment Council</a>	Brussels
1-2 October	<a href="#">Competitiveness Council</a>	Brussels

## 1.3 European Parliament

### Plenary Sessions

Date	Event	Subject	Venue/Location
24 June	<a href="#">EP Plenary session</a>	European Council preparation, European Fund for Strategic Investments, multimodal integrated ticketing, European Globalisation Adjustment fund, corporate tax systems	Brussels
6-9 July	<a href="#">EP Plenary session</a>	Market stability reserve for GHG ETS, S&T cooperation with India and the Faroe Islands, EURATOM-Swiss cooperation, food and feed radioactivity thresholds after radiological emergencies	Strasbourg

### Committee Meetings

15-16 June	<a href="#">Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monetary dialogue with ECB President Draghi</li> <li>• European Structural Investment Fund and sound economic governance</li> <li>• The review of the economic governance</li> </ul>	Brussels
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		<i>framework: stocktaking and challenges</i> • Capital Markets Union, balance of payments, international trade in services and foreign direct investment, Public Hearing on EU Financial Services Regulation	
15-16 June	<a href="#"><u>Committee on International Trade</u></a>	• Trade in dual use goods • European Energy Union • The possible extension of geographical indication protection beyond agriculture • Supply chain due diligence for tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold originating in conflict-affected and high-risk areas • Public Hearing on Trade agreements and data flows: Safeguarding the EU data protection standards	Brussels
16-17 June	<a href="#"><u>Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety</u></a>	Agenda not yet published	Brussels
17 June	<a href="#"><u>Special Committee on Tax Rulings and Other Measures Similar in Nature or Effect</u></a>	Agenda not yet published	Brussels
22-23 June	<a href="#"><u>Committee on Budgets</u></a>	Agenda not yet published	Brussels
<a href="#"><u>All European Parliament Committee meetings</u></a>			

## 1.4 Committee of the Regions (CoR)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue/Location</b>
15 June	<a href="#"><u>The new ESPON 2020 programme: what's in it for regions and cities</u></a>	CoR, Brussels
17 June	<a href="#"><u>Breaking Barriers-Crossing Borders. Where do we stand after five years of open market of international rail passenger transport</u></a>	CoR, Brussels
18 June	<a href="#"><u>From Nearly Zero energy Buildings to Net Zero Energy Districts</u></a>	CoR, Brussels
18-19 June	<a href="#"><u>4th NAT Commission Meeting with Conference on Innovation and Modernisation of the rural economy</u></a>	Gaia, Portugal
<a href="#"><u>Further events of the Committee of the Regions</u></a>		

## 1.5 European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue/Location</b>
15 June	<a href="#"><u>Industrial Competitiveness: How to respond to innovation challenges</u></a>	Vilnius, Lithuania
15-16 June	<a href="#"><u>Creative and Cultural Industries – a European asset to be used in global competition</u></a>	EESC, Brussels
16 June	<a href="#"><u>Digital Single Market – a new start</u></a>	Riga, Latvia
16 June	<a href="#"><u>Civil Society Day 2015</u></a>	EESC, Brussels
22 June	<a href="#"><u>Principles for effective and reliable welfare provision systems</u></a>	EESC, Brussels
23 June	<a href="#"><u>Livestock farming, a cornerstone in the availability of safe, healthy and nutritious foods</u></a>	Madrid, Spain
24 June	<a href="#"><u>Freeing Europe safely from asbestos</u></a>	EESC, Brussels
<a href="#"><u>Further events of the European Economic and Social Committee</u></a>		



## 1.6 International Relations

Date	Event	Venue/Location
10-11 June	<a href="#">EU-CELAC Summit</a>	Brussels
12 June	<a href="#">EU-Mexico Summit</a>	Brussels
29 June	<a href="#">17th EU – China Summit</a>	Brussels
9-11 October	<a href="#">2015 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund</a>	Lima, Peru
15-16 November	<a href="#">G20 Leaders Summit</a>	Antalya, Turkey

# 2. Conferences & Meetings

## 2.1 European Conferences and Meetings

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
10-12 June	<a href="#">EuroNanoForum 2015</a>		Riga, Latvia
15-16 June	<a href="#">IRMC 2015 International Risk Management Conference</a>	University of Florence, NYU Stern Salomon Center, JRC – European Commission	Luxembourg
15-17 June	<a href="#">European Congress on regional Geoscientific Cartography and Information Systems</a>	EuroGeoSurveys, JRC – European Commission	Barcelona, Spain
16-17 June	<a href="#">Do It Yourself - DIY Science: The challenges of Quality</a>	JRC – European Commission	Ispra, Italy
23-26 June	<a href="#">R&amp;D Management conference "(Fast?) Connecting R&amp;D"</a>	Istituto di Management, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna	Pisa, Italy
2-3 July	<a href="#">6th JRC European Crisis Management Laboratory Technology Workshop</a>	JRC – European Commission	Ispra, Italy
13-14 July	<a href="#">Workshop on agro-ecology and ecological intensification</a>	JRC – European Commission	Milan and Ispra, Italy
2-4 September	<a href="#">JRC - IIASA Summer School on Evidence and Policy - Call for Expression of Interest</a>	IIASA, JRC – European Commission	Laxenburg, Austria
14-18 September	<a href="#">EU PVSEC 2015 (European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition)</a>	Technical Programme coordinator: JRC	Hamburg, Germany
15 September	<a href="#">"Science Meets Parliaments" - annual science-day event in the European Parliament</a>	JRC – European Commission, European Parliament, EASAC, ALLEA, Euro-CASE, CESAER	Brussels, Belgium
30 September	JRC Annual Conference "A safer Europe: Creating Resilience in a globalised world"	JRC – European Commission	Brussels, Belgium
27-28 October	JRC event on Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy	JRC – European Commission	Ulm, Germany
29-30 October	<a href="#">4<sup>th</sup> Danube Strategy Annual Forum</a>		Ulm, Germany

*[Further upcoming JRC events](#)*

## 2.2 International Conferences

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Organiser</b>	<b>Venue/Location</b>
1 May - 31 October	<a href="#">The EU at Expo Milano 2015</a>	European Commission	Milano, Italy
8-11 June	<a href="#">20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Radionuclide Metrology and its Applications (ICRM 2015)</a>	hosted by BEV – Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying, BOKU – University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna and TU – Vienna University of Technology, in cooperation with IAEA, IRPA and ÖVS – Austrian Radiation Protection Association	Vienna, Austria
23-25 June	<a href="#">Global Space Innovation Conference (GLIC 2015)</a>	IAF, the German Aerospace Center (DLR), the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Media, Energy and Technology	Munich, Germany
5-10 July	<a href="#">International Association of Landscape Ecology</a>	US-IALE	Portland, Oregon
7-10 July	<a href="#">"Our Common Future Under Climate Change" - International Scientific Conference</a>	Organized under the umbrella of ICSU, Future Earth, UNESCO and major French research institutions, with the support of the French Government.	Paris, France
13-16 July	<a href="#">UN Conference on Financing for Development</a>	UN	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2-6 August	<a href="#">27th International Congress for Conservation Biology</a>	The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB), Agropolis International and the French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB)	Montpellier, France
12-23 October	<a href="#">Twelfth session of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Conference of the Parties</a>	UN	Ankara, Turkey
4-7 November	<a href="#">World Science Forum 2015</a> Theme: "The Enabling Power of Science"	Hosted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in partnership with UNESCO, ICSU, AAAS, TWAS and EASAC	Budapest, Hungary
30 November – 11 December	<a href="#">United Nations Climate Change Conference</a> COP 21/ CMP 11	UNFCCC	Paris, France

## 3. JRC News

**2014** | [JRC Annual Report](#)

**Open** | [The EU is recruiting researchers - Call for expressions of interest](#)

**29 May** | [JRC-IRMM releases first certified reference material for autoimmune antibodies](#)

*IRMM releases the first serum protein certified reference material which has been developed in collaboration with the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) for the standardisation of measurements of anti-myeloperoxidase immunoglobulin G antibodies.*

**28 May** | [High chlorine coal affects pollution from domestic stoves](#)

*A study looking into the dioxin concentrations in flue gases – which are emitted from coal burnt in residential stoves – show they increase 100 times if the chlorine content in the fuel rises from 0.07% to 0.38%.*

**28 May** | [Improved peak shape fitting in alpha spectra](#)

*The JRC developed a new analytical function to model peak shapes in alpha-particle spectra, leading to a more accurate derivation of activity ratios and fundamental constants.*

**26 May** | [A crop season with no major concerns so far](#)

*Winter crops continue to be in good shape and no major concerns for the spring sowing campaign have emerged. The yield outlook is predominantly positive.*

**26 May** | [New smart specialisation platform on energy supports EU regions to develop low-carbon solutions](#)

*On 26 May the European Commission launched the European smart specialisation platform on energy, which will support regions and Member States in using Cohesion Policy funding more effectively for promoting sustainable energy.*

**22 May** | [Winners of MYGEOSS first call for Innovative applications in the environmental and social domains](#)

*MYGEOSS 10 winning applications will be awarded contracts by the JRC for a maximum of €13 500 to further develop the applications, and take them to the stage of first public release within three months of signing the contracts.*

**22 May** | [JRC reviews current status of genetically modified \(GM\) animals](#)

*In their recent peer-reviewed paper entitled "Genetically modified animals: options and issues for traceability and enforcement", JRC scientists provide an overview of the 75 GM-animals already existing or in advanced state of development worldwide. About half of these are designed for the food market. The study also reviews the available methods for control and traceability in the food and feed chain.*

**21 May** | [Three EU companies complete performance verification of environmental technologies](#)

*On 20 May, one Polish and two Danish companies received recognition for having completed a verification process of their innovative environmental technologies at the Eco-Innovation forum being held in Barcelona.*

**21 May** | [Global action to cut emissions is compatible with robust economic growth](#)

*A new report co-authored by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and Directorate-General for Climate Action explores possible domestic mitigation pathways (cuts in CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas emissions) set according to specific national economic and policy conditions.*

<b>20 May</b>	<b><a href="#">Standards to better inform food security decisions</a></b>
<i>In the context of Expo Milano 2015, on 20 May 2015, the JRC and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development host participating agencies of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), a global initiative which provides common scale for classifying food insecurity situations.</i>	
<b>18 May</b>	<b><a href="#">New measure finds that specialisation could be the key to biodiversity</a></b>
<i>A recent peer-reviewed paper, led by the JRC, describes a new method for measuring the structure and configuration of ecological networks, which shows that nestedness in ecological networks is less common than previously thought. This finding challenges the assumption that ecological networks are stable due to their inherent nestedness. It finds that most ecological networks actually tend towards patterns of segregation and specialisation, which may be the key to species coexistence.</i>	
<b>13 May</b>	<b><a href="#">New thematic report: Science for food</a></b>
<i>The JRC has released a new report on its scientific support to EU's "from farm to fork" policy which ensures Europeans enjoy safe and nutritious food, while facilitating the food industry to work under the best possible conditions.</i>	
<b>13 May</b>	<b><a href="#">GuidosToolbox in South Africa</a></b>
<i>In March this year, JRC scientist Peter Vogt delivered two workshops on the JRC's GuidosToolbox spatial pattern analysis software in South Africa, one as a follow up to the International Symposium on Silviculture and Management of Dryland Forests, and the second on the request of the CEO of the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) in Pretoria within the context of the JRC-SANSA collaboration agreement and the EU-South Africa Space Dialogue.</i>	
<b>12 May</b>	<b><a href="#">New cancer fact sheet online – Malignant Melanoma of the Skin</a></b>
<i>Some 100 000 patients in Europe were diagnosed with this type of skin cancer in 2012 which also accounted for 1% of all cancer deaths in Europe. Switzerland, Norway and the Netherlands report the highest incident rate of this cancer which forms in skin cells called melanocytes, which colour the skin. With about 86% of melanomas due to exposure to UV radiation, the main preventive measure is to avoid extensive exposure to sun, especially at young age.</i>	
<b>12 May</b>	<b><a href="#">JRC research provides building blocks for the Digital Single market policy package</a></b>
<i>JRC research on digital economy and related topics contributed to the new Digital Single Market (DSM) Strategy for Europe, launched by the European Commission on 6 May. JRC input included empirical evidence on R&amp;D, innovation, cross-border e-commerce, copyright, intellectual property, venture capital, crowdfunding for research, entrepreneurship, eHealth, digital competence, data protection or employment.</i>	
<b>8 May</b>	<b><a href="#">Expo Milan: EU activities kick-off</a></b>
<i>On 8 May, the European Union officially started its programme of activities at Expo 2015 with the international conference on the role of research for the global food and nutrition security, and the inauguration of the EU pavilion.</i>	
<b>8 May</b>	<b><a href="#">Healthy European flavours at lunch in schools across Milan</a></b>
<i>To promote healthy diets for children, European Commission nutrition experts gathered recipes from school food professionals in all EU Member States plus Norway and Switzerland. The 30 meals inspired a colourful booklet to promote nutritious and tasty school meals.</i>	
<b>7 May</b>	<b><a href="#">JRC at Civil Protection Forum: science and new technologies for enhanced disaster risk management</a></b>
<i>The JRC took part at the biennial European Civil Protection Forum, which brings together the European civil protection community to build on the experience in disaster risk management.</i>	
<b>7 May</b>	<b><a href="#">Novel concepts for the preparation of surface water reference materials</a></b>
<i>In close collaboration with scientists from other research organisations, JRC scientists developed concepts for the preparation of three model surface water reference materials (RMs) that contain chemical contaminants, that is, eight polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), six polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and tributyltin in trace amounts. These RMs will provide quality to the analytical data of EU Member States and support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000/60/EC and the Environmental Quality Standards Directive 2008/105/EC.</i>	



<b>7 May</b>	<b><a href="#">PAHs in baby food: JRC studies processing techniques to prepare suitable reference materials</a></b>
JRC scientists assessed the feasibility for the production of baby food certified reference materials (CRMs) containing a number of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) at low level concentrations. The study revealed that thermal sterilisation is a suitable method of choice to ensure long-term stability (shelf life) of the product.	
<b>5 May</b>	<b><a href="#">An accurate method for analysing aflatoxin B1 for the value assignment of reference materials</a></b>
Scientists from the JRC-Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements developed a specialised technique to determine accurately the content of aflatoxin B1 in cereal-based baby food, maize and maize-based animal feed. Results showed that the technique may be used to assign reference values to test materials for proficiency testing and to develop candidate reference materials (RMs).	
<b>5 May</b>	<b><a href="#">Ocean energy: EU leads in technology development and deployment</a></b>
<i>New technologies in the last decade have shown slow but steady progress of ocean and sea energy power according to a new JRC ocean status report.</i>	
<b>4 May</b>	<b><a href="#">Nitrogen – too much of a good thing</a></b>
JRC scientist Bruna Grizzetti is co-author of a recently published World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Science Brief on how human activities have dramatically altered the nitrogen cycle, which presents one of the main global challenges to human health, ecosystem integrity and biodiversity. Human activities have altered the global nitrogen cycle even more than the global carbon cycle. The science brief reports that the planetary boundary for nitrogen has been breached by a factor of two, making nitrogen one of the most urgent pressures on the Earth system.	