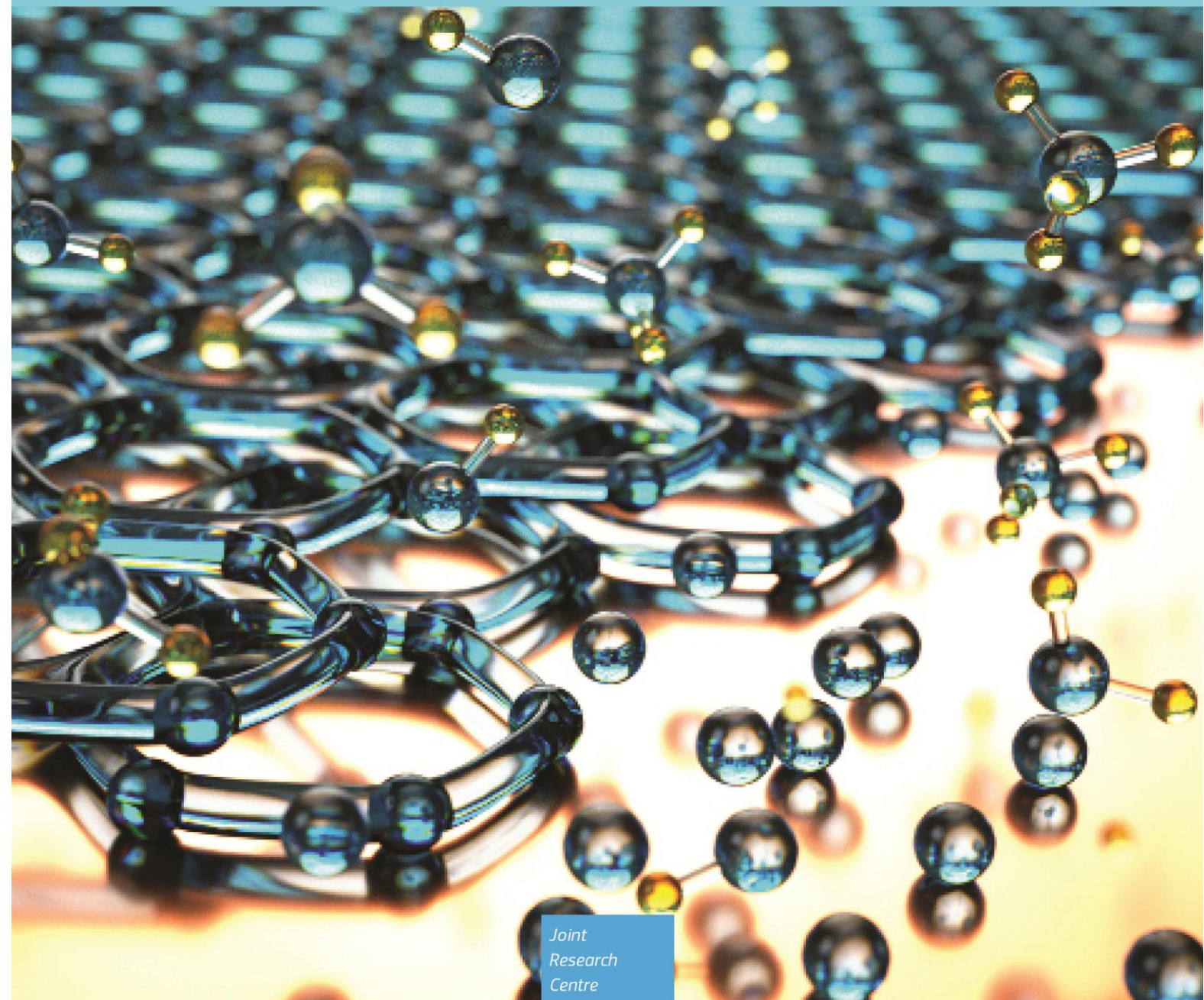




European  
Commission

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

**February 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?**

**5 February 2015**

### **The JRC's monthly briefing to the scientific community, N° 33**

#### **Table of Contents**

<b>1. Activities of the European Institutions</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 European Commission	3
1.2 Council	3
1.3 European Parliament	3
1.4 International Relations	4
<b>2. Conferences &amp; Meetings</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 European Conferences Meetings	5
2.2 International Conferences	6
<b>3. JRC News</b>	<b>7</b>

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# 1. Activities of the European Institutions

## 1.1 European Commission

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Subject</b>
4 February	<a href="#">College Meeting</a>	

## 1.2 Council

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue/Location</b>
9 February	<a href="#">Foreign Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
10 February	<a href="#">General Affairs Council</a>	Brussels
12 February	<a href="#">European Council (informal meeting)</a>	Brussels
16 February	<a href="#">Eurogroup</a>	Brussels
17 February	<a href="#">Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Ecofin)</a>	Brussels

## 1.3 European Parliament

### Plenary Sessions

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Venue/Location</b>
9-12 February	<a href="#">EP Plenary session</a>	Key debate: Preparation of the European Council meeting	Strasbourg
12 February	<a href="#">STOA Panel meeting</a>	Presentation of the study: "Technological options for deep sea physical resource exploitation"	Strasbourg

### Committee Meetings

3 February	<a href="#">Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs</a>		Brussels
5 February	<a href="#">Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection</a>		Brussels
	<a href="#">Further European Parliament Committee meetings</a>		

### Events organised in the EP

3-4 February	<a href="#">European Parliamentary Week</a>	Europe between austerity and growth	
3 March	<a href="#">EASAC and Royal Society breakfast discussion</a>	"Be Prepared: Reducing the impact of extreme weather on people's lives"	EP, Brussels
4 March	<a href="#">STOA workshop</a>	"The Ebola outbreak: Challenges and perspectives"	EP, Brussels

## 1.4 International Relations

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue/Location</b>
17-19 April	<a href="#"><u>Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)</u></a>	Washington
2-3 June	<a href="#"><u>OECD Forum 2015</u></a>	Paris
7-8 June	<a href="#"><u>The 41<sup>st</sup> G7 Summit</u></a>	Germany
10-11 June	<i>EU-CELAC Summit</i>	Brussels
9-11 October	<a href="#"><u>2015 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund</u></a>	Lima, Peru

## 2. Conferences & Meetings

### 2.1 European Conferences Meetings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Organiser</b>	<b>Venue/Location</b>
4-5 February	<a href="#">Wind risk management and mitigation conference</a>	Windpower Monthly	London, UK
12-13 February	<a href="#">Conference "Smart Specialization Strategies: New Approaches for Partnerships among Education, Research and Industry in Regions"</a>	Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU	Riga, Latvia
25 February	<a href="#">Workshop: Technology transfer: paving the way for advanced manufacturing</a>	JRC	Brussels
26-27 February	<a href="#">Workshop: New Narratives for Innovation</a>	JRC	Brussels
2-6 March	<a href="#">Conference: "EU Science: Global Challenges, Global Collaboration" (ES:GC2)</a>	ISC - Intelligence in Science	Brussels
6 March	<a href="#">High level meeting on Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation: Challenges and Monitoring Implementation</a>	JRC	Seville, Spain
17 March	<a href="#">Conference: Innovation in a European Digital Single Market - The Role of Patents</a>	JRC	Brussels, Belgium
28-29 April	<a href="#">EARTO-EIRMA Joint Conference 2015 "Infrastructures and Resources Sharing between Industry &amp; RTOs in Europe"</a>	EARTO and EIRMA	Luxembourg
25-29 May	<a href="#">2015 Geospatial World Forum – INSPIRE conference (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe)</a>	Geospatial Media and Communications; European Commission / INSPIRE	Lisbon, Portugal
1-4 June	<a href="#">23<sup>rd</sup> European Biomass Conference and Exhibition 2015</a>	Technical Programme coordinator: JRC; Event supported by: European Commission, UNESCO, EUBIA, WCRE	Vienna, Austria
3-4 June	<a href="#">European Development Days</a>	European Commission	Brussels
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
14-18 September	<a href="#">EU PVSEC 2015 (European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition)</a>	Technical Programme coordinator: JRC	Hamburg, Germany

## 2.2 International Conferences

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Organiser</b>	<b>Venue/Location</b>
9-12 March	<a href="#">UNCCD 3<sup>rd</sup> International Scientific Conference</a>	UNCCD	Cancún, Mexico
14 – 18 March 2015	<a href="#">3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction</a>	Coordinating body: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)	Sendai City, Japan
23-30 April	<a href="#">Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) 2015</a>		Toyama, Japan
1 May - 31 October	<a href="#">The EU at Expo Milano 2015</a>		Milano, Italy
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
13-16 July	<a href="#">UN Conference on Financing for Development</a>	UN	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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>	United Nations Office for disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)	Sendai City, Japan

## 3. JRC News

<b>January 2015</b>	<a href="#">JRC Newsletter</a>
<b>5 February 2015</b>	JRC contributes to Addendum to OECD Guidance on chemical accident prevention <i>The JRC has made a significant contribution to an addendum to the OECD “Guiding Principles on Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response”, which explicitly addresses the risks of technological accidents caused by natural hazards (Natech risk). It was produced by an OECD Working Group that included a JRC scientist and was just released. This document is a supplement to the Guiding Principles whose application is the subject of an OECD Council Recommendation with world-wide application. The Guiding Principles have been translated into many languages and are also widely used in non-OECD countries.</i>  <i>See also: <a href="http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/chemical-accidents/guiding-principles-chemical-accident-prevention-preparedness-and-response.htm">http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/chemical-accidents/guiding-principles-chemical-accident-prevention-preparedness-and-response.htm</a></i>
<b>28 January 2015</b>	<a href="#">Scientific support to digital privacy</a> <i>The JRC organised a round table debate focusing on digital privacy in relation to citizens' rights in the light of new technologies and commercial needs, in cooperation with the European Council of Academies of Applied Sciences, Technologies and Engineering (Euro-CASE).</i>
<b>27 January 2015</b>	<a href="#">Scientific support to Europe's photovoltaic manufacturing industry</a> <i>The JRC organised a roundtable debate to discuss the possible ways to support the recovery of the European photovoltaic (PV) industry and to retain Europe's prominent place in research in PV technology.</i>
<b>27 January 2015</b>	<a href="#">Improving indoor air quality in EU schools</a> <i>SINPHONIE, an EU-funded research project on indoor air quality in EU schools, and its impact on children's health, has recently published its conclusions. Based on the evidence gathered, the Joint Research Centre and the partners developed guidelines for maintaining good air quality. They are expected to contribute to healthier school environments in Europe.</i>
<b>27 January 2015</b>	<a href="#">Launch of joint FAO/JRC e-learning course for crop monitoring and food security</a> <i>The JRC produced the contents of the joint FAO-JRC e-learning course entitled: “Remotely Sensed Information for Crop Monitoring and Food Security - Techniques and methods for arid and semi-arid areas”, which is part of the EU-FAO Programme on “Improved Global Governance for Hunger Reduction”.</i>
<b>26 January 2015</b>	<a href="#">China takes over lead from Europe in 2013 photovoltaic installations</a> <i>A booming photovoltaic market in Asia has propelled China to a global leader in photovoltaic energy installations in 2013, according to the latest edition of the JRC's PV Status Report.</i>

<b>26 January 2015</b>	<a href="#">Weakly hardened winter cereals in Europe</a>
<i>The first MARS Bulletin of 2015, published on 26 January, reports that winter cereals have shown little or no hardening in much of Europe, which may leave them susceptible to frost-kill damage in the event of a heavy frost.</i>	
<b>23 January 2015</b>	<a href="#">In error by 20% for half a century: Half-life of critical polonium tracer revised</a>
<i>The radionuclide <sup>209</sup>Po is the principal radiochemical tracer used worldwide to monitor polonium, an element known for its high chemical and radiological toxicity. Measurements performed in the radionuclide metrology laboratory of the JRC show that the reference value of the <sup>209</sup>Po half-life used over the last 50 years is in error by 20%.</i>	
<b>22 January 2015</b>	<a href="#">Using less fish to test chemicals safety</a>
<i>The JRC has released a new strategy on how to replace, reduce and refine the use of fish in testing of chemicals' effect on flora and fauna in water (aquatic toxicity) and chemicals' uptake and concentration in living organisms (bioaccumulation). Out of the 11.5 million animals used for experimental purposes in the EU (2011 data), cold blooded animals, namely reptiles, amphibians and fish represent 12.4%. In the case of specific testing for toxicological safety assessment, fish represent 18% of the one million animals used.</i>	
<b>22 January 2015</b>	<a href="#">Survey: "Approaches, experiences and future directions in assessing human and environmental health risks from chemical mixtures"</a>
<i>This survey is intended to collect up to date information and experience on the current use of different approaches for assessing human and environmental health risks from exposure to chemical mixtures, with a view to informing the development of a consistent assessment approach. The results will feed into the JRC work towards developing a more consistent EU wide methodological framework for characterising effects and risks from exposure to mixtures. The survey is addressed to experts in the field of human and environmental risk assessment from authorities, academia, NGOs, consultancies and industry. Deadline to fill in the survey: 28 February 2015.</i>	
<b>20 January 2015</b>	<a href="#">Children are little aware of what internet is</a>
<i>When asked, children under the age of eight cannot show comprehension of what the internet is and what being online means even if their favourite activities are gaming and video watching on various Wi-Fi connected devices. This observation is reported by a JRC study that investigated how children between zero and eight engage with digital technologies, how far parents mediate this engagement and their awareness on the risks-opportunities balance.</i>	
<b>19 January 2015</b>	<a href="#">Slight increase in ICT sector employment</a>
<i>JRC research analyses the ICT sector and its R&amp;D investments – both private and public – in the European Union and beyond. The 2014 Predict report, based on the latest official data (2006-2011), found that the EU ICT sector has declined in terms of value added (value of output minus the value of intermediate consumption) but increased in terms of employment.</i>	
<b>19 January 2015</b>	<a href="#">JRC-IRMM released a training manual on GMO quantification</a>
<i>This manual covers proper calibration of PCR methods, estimation of measurement uncertainty, traceability of a measurement result and the way to prove the trueness of an analytical result. The manual supports the work of the JRC-IHCP-hosted European Union Reference Laboratory for Genetically Modified Food and Feed (EURL-GMFF) with the ultimate aim of further improving the reporting of National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) and official GMO control laboratories within the EU.</i>	
<b>16 January 2015</b>	<a href="#">New habitat model can help avoid Mediterranean hake overfishing</a>
<i>A habitat model, developed by the JRC and partner scientists, reveals that the main hake nurseries are mostly located</i>	



from February to June in the northern Mediterranean, on the seabed in depths from 50 to 250 m. Such knowledge can guide decisions for sustainable fisheries management, such as the closure of fishing areas allowing hake stocks to recover from overfishing.

**14 January  
2015**

[Nutrition Research Highlights](#)

The bi-monthly newsletter of the JRC Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (JRC-IHCP) keeps consumers and stakeholders up to date on latest developments in nutrition.

**13 January  
2015**

[Ebola to worsen food security conditions in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea](#)

The negative impact of the Ebola outbreak on household incomes and markets has led to food insecurity due to lack of access to food. Economic activities have been seriously disrupted as a result of restrictions that were imposed on movement and trade in order to limit the transmission of the disease. This economic slowdown has hit all areas of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, irrespective of the magnitude of the Ebola epidemic.

Although overall food availability is not expected to be significantly reduced compared to a normal year, areas severely hit by the Ebola outbreak may face serious food shortages at the start of 2015 when food stocks from the current harvest will be exhausted. This is particularly the case for N'zérékore in Guinea, Lofa and Margibi in Liberia, and Kailahun and Kanema in Sierra Leone, where rice harvests are well below average and the movement of goods and people is still restricted, according to a recently published JRC report.

**13 January  
2015**

[9<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Targeted Alpha Therapy - Registration Now Open](#)

The JRC Institute for Transuranium Elements (JRC-ITU), the Medical University Warsaw and Eckert & Ziegler Eurotope invite you to the 9th Symposium on Targeted Alpha Therapy (19-21 May).

**12 January  
2015**

[Soil Atlas 2015](#)

The JRC authored a chapter of the recently published Soil Atlas 2015, which was produced by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Potsdam, the Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND), and Le Monde Diplomatique.

**8 January  
2015**

[How could space weather impact financial services?](#)

Financial services could be disrupted in case of a severe space weather event, due to their dependency on accurate timing often provided by Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS). A report published by the JRC addresses the potential impact, in particular the effect of a GNSS services loss on timing systems and the sector's vulnerability. Awareness among operators and regulators worldwide is currently limited and resilience across the financial services sector needs to be built, authors say.

**5 January  
2015**

[New method to verify reported vessel positions](#)

The JRC, in collaboration with the Italian coast guard service, has developed a new method to verify whether ship positions reported with the Automatic Identification System (AIS) are correct. This effective method does not need any additional sensors or technologies and it makes it possible to validate reported data and detect unintentionally incorrect, jammed or deliberately falsified information reported by ships.

**1 January  
2015**

[2015 – The International Year of Soils](#)

On 20 December 2013, the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a resolution which declared 2015 the first ever International Year of Soils (IYS).

JRC soil activities in 2015