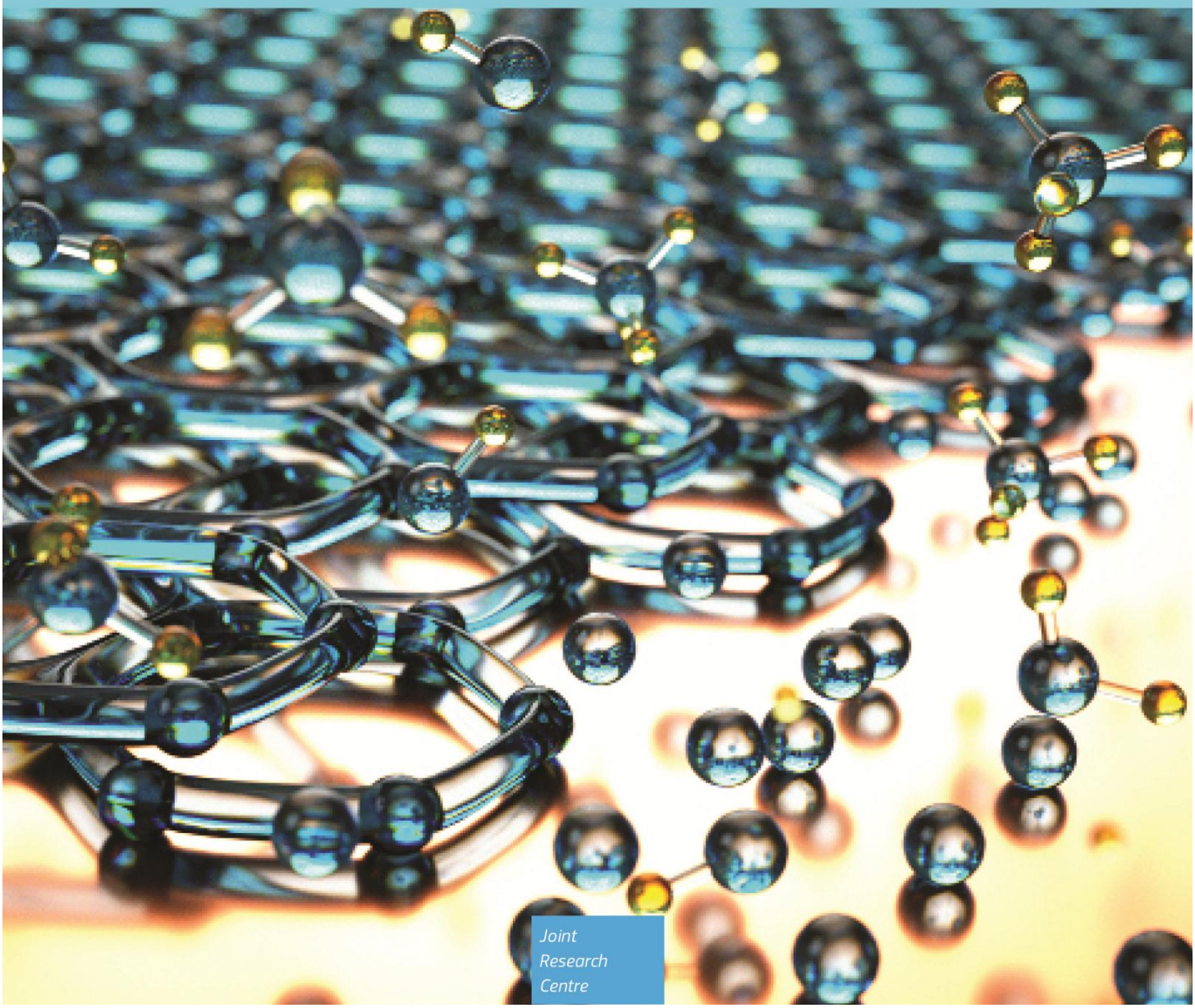
European Commission

# Science & Policy:

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

**January 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?*

**12 January 2015**

**The JRC's monthly briefing to the scientific community, N° 32**

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# 1. Activities of the European Institutions

## 1.1 European Commission

| Date | Event | Subject |
|---|---|---|
| 13 January | *College Meeting* | |

## 1.2 Council

| Date | Event | Venue/Location |
|---|---|---|
| 19 January | Foreign Affairs Council | *Brussels* |
| 26 January | Agriculture and Fisheries Council | *Brussels* |
| 27 January | Economic and Financial Affairs Council | *Brussels* |

## 1.3 European Parliament

Plenary Sessions

| Date | Event | Subject | Venue/Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 – 15 January | *EP Plenary session* | • *Programme of activities of the Latvian Presidency*<br>• *Conclusions of the European Council (18-19 December) – debate with President of the European Council Donald TUSK*<br>• *Adoption of the resolution on Commission's Work Programme 2015*<br>• *GMOs cultivation*<br>• *Launch of the European Year for Development* | *Strasbourg* |
| 28 January | *EP Plenary session* | | *Brussels* |

Committee Meetings

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|---|---|---|---|
| 12-15 January | *European Parliament Committee Meetings* | | *Strasbourg* |
| 19-20 January | *Committee on Culture and Education* | | *Brussels* |
| 20 January | *Committee on Development* | *Working group Disaster Risk Reduction* | *Brussels* |
| 21-22 January | *Committee on Industry, Research and Energy* | | *Brussels* |
| 21-22 January | *Committee on the* | | *Brussels* |

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|---|---|---|---|
| | *Environment, Public Health and Food Safety* | | |
| 21-22 January | *Committee on Development* | | *Brussels* |
| 21-22 January | *Committee on Fisheries* | | *Brussels* |
| 21-22 January | *Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development* | | *Brussels* |
| 26 January | *Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (Extraordinary meeting)* | | *Brussels* |
| 27 January | *Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (Extraordinary meeting)* | *Exchange of views with VP Šefčovič* | *Brussels* |
| 29 January | *Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety* | | *Brussels* |
| Events organised in the EP | | | |
| 20 January | *EP Workshop* | *'Towards a post-Hyogo Framework for Action: Strengthening disaster resilience for sustainable development'* | *EP, Brussels* |
| 20 January | *European Energy Forum Dinner debate hosted by the Austrian Energy Regulatory Authority E-Control* | *The Regulators' Contribution to European Energy Policy and the Achievement of the Energy Union* | *EP, Brussels* |
| 27 January | *STOA Workshop* | *'Impact and potential of collaborative Internet and Additive Manufacturing technologies'* | *EP, Brussels* |
| January (tbc) | *EP debate with EASAC and Royal Society* | *"Be Prepared: Reducing the impact of extreme weather on people's lives"* | *EP, Brussels* |

## 1.4 International Relations

| **Date** | ***Event*** | ***Venue/Location*** |
|---|---|---|
| 17-19 April | *Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)* | *Washington* |
| 2-3 June | *OECD Forum 2015* | *Paris* |
| 4-5 June | *The 41st G7 Summit* | *Germany* |
| 10-11 June | *EU-CELAC Summit* | *Brussels* |
| 9-11 October | *2015 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund* | *Lima, Peru* |

# 2. Conferences & Meetings

## 2.1 European Conferences Meetings

| Date | Event | Organiser | Venue/Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| 14 January | "Protecting the marine environment" - Stakeholder consultation by Rapporteur Mr Hermann KUHN (DE/PES - ENVE) | *Committee of the Regions* | *Brussels* |
| 19-20 January | Financial instruments 2014-2020 under European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) | *EC, EIB* | *Brussels* |
| 20 January | ECFIN Workshop: "Expenditure-based consolidation: experiences and outcomes" | *DG ECFIN* | *Brussels* |
| 20 January | Atlantic Stakeholder Conference | *DG MARE* | *Porto, Portugal* |
| 21-22 January | The SEURAT-1 Annual Meeting | | *Barcelona, Spain* |
| 27 January | Scientific Support to Europe's Photovoltaic Manufacturing Industry | *JRC, European Forum for Science and Industry* | *Brussels* |
| 27-28 January | 7th Annual Conference on European Space Policy | *Space Conference* | *Brussels* |
| 28 January | Digital Privacy: Citizen Rights in the Light of New Technologies, Commercial needs | *JRC + Euro-Case* | *Brussels* |
| 4-5 February | Wind risk management and mitigation conference | *Windpower Monthly* | *London, UK* |
| 12-13 February 2015 | Evaluating Smart Specialization Strategy: Dynamics, Challenges, Responsibility and Practice | *Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU* | *Riga, Latvia* |
| 5 March | A territorial perspective on growth, jobs and investment in Europe. Regions, cities, the mid-term review of the Europe 2020 strategy and the European Semester | *Committee of the Regions* | *Brussels* |
| 17 March 2015 | Innovation in a European Digital Single Market - The Role of Patents | *JRC – Institute for Prospective Technological Studies* | *Brussels, Belgium* |
| 28-29 April 2015 | EARTO-EIRMA Joint Conference 2015 (Infrastructures and Resources Sharing between Industry & RTOs in Europe) | *EARTO and EIRMA* | *Luxembourg* |
| 1-5 June 2015 | 23rd European Biomass Conference and Exhibition 2015 | | *Vienna, Austria* |
| 23-26 June | R&D Management conference "(Fast?) Connecting R&D" | *Istituto di Management, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna* | *Pisa, Italy* |
| 14-18 September 2015 | EU PVSEC 2015 (European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition) | | *Hambourg, Germany* |

## 2.2 International Conferences

| Date | *Event* | *Organiser* | *Venue/Location* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12-17 January | IPBES-3: Third Plenary of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services | *IPBES* | *Bonn, Germany* |
| 18-23 January | 9th Arctic Frontiers Conference – Climate and Energy | *The Research Council of Norway + other partners* | *Tromso, Norway* |
| 14 – 18 March 2015 | 3rd world Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction | *Coordinating body: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)* | *Sendai City, Japan* |
| 23-30 April 2015 | Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) 2015 | | *Toyama, Japan* |
| 2-3 June 2015 | OECD Forum 2015 | *OECD* | *Paris, France* |
| 23-25 June 2015 | Global Space Innovation Conference | *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 | UN Conference on Financing for Development | *UN* | *Addis Abeba, Ethiopia* |
| October 2015 | Twelfth session of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Conference of the Parties | *UN* | *Ankara, Turkey* |
| 4-7 November | World Science Forum 2015<br>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 2015 | United Nations Climate Change Conference | *United Nations Office for disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)* | *Sendai City, Japan* |
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# 3. JRC News

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| **September-October 2014** | *JRC Newsletter* |

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| **29 December 2014** | Looking at regional poverty from a multidimensional perspective |
| *JRC scientists in collaboration with the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy have built a composite index (MPI-reg) that measures non-income related poverty by studying three dimensions: education, health and living standards. In order to measure poverty at regional level, this information is combined with both data on income and living conditions, while the "degree of urbanisation" is also taken into account.* | |

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| **24 December 2014** | New thematic report: Science for disaster risk reduction |
| *The JRC has released a new report providing a comprehensive overview of its work in relation to disaster risk reduction and response including their policy background and context. As a leader in natural disaster research and automated warning systems, the JRC contributes to minimising the impact of disasters in Europe and around the globe. This report showcases the tools and methodologies developed by the JRC to help in all phases of disaster management, from prevention and preparedness to recovery and reconstruction, through to forecasting and early warning.* | |

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| **22 December 2014** | EU fishing fleet - annual economic report |
| *Higher market prices and the recovery of some fish stocks helped the EU fishing fleet to again improve its profitability in 2012. Despite the economic crisis and less fish being landed, economic performance has more than doubled over the last 5 years, from 3.2% net profit in 2008 to 6.6% in 2012. These are some of the main findings of the 2014 annual economic report on the EU fishing fleet, produced by the JRC and independent experts.*<br>*The annual reports on the economic performance of the European fishing fleet are prepared by the JRC and independent experts convened under the auspices of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF). This year's edition is accompanied by a summary report, prepared in cooperation with the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.* | |

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| **18 December 2014** | Guidelines for better water reuse in Europe |
| *The JRC has recently published a report which provides guidelines to implement water reuse in Europe, and analyses the associated technical, environmental, health and socioeconomic challenges to such reuse.*<br>*Given the lack of formal guidelines at European level to address the reuse of treated wastewater, the report compares relevant national and international measures. It also provides a risk-based management approach, and identifies needs for and barriers to technological innovation and regulation.* | |

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| **16 December 2014** | Global CO2 emissions increase to new all-time record, but growth is slowing down |

*2013 saw global CO2 emissions from fossil fuel use and cement production reach a new all-time high. This was mainly due to the continuing steady increase in energy use in emerging economies over the past ten years. However, emissions increased at a notably slower rate (2%) than on average in the last ten years (3.8% per year since 2003, excluding the credit crunch years). This slowdown, which began in 2012, signals a further decoupling of global emissions and economic growth, which reflects mainly the lower emissions growth rate of China. China, the USA and the EU remain the top-3 emitters of CO2, accounting for respectively 29%, 15% and 11% of the world's total. After years of a steady decline, the CO2 emissions of the United States grew by 2.5% in 2013, whereas in the EU emissions continued to decrease, by 1.4% in 2013.*
*These are the main findings in the annual report 'Trends in global CO2 emissions', released on 16 December 2014 by PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency and the JRC. The report is based on recent results from the joint JRC/PBL Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR), the latest statistics on energy use and various other activities.*

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| **10-11 December 2014** | Strengthening the SET-Plan |

*Over 650 energy stakeholders from Europe and beyond gathered in Rome for the 7th Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) Conference. The conference offered a unique opportunity for all stakeholders and representatives of national and EU institutions to have in-depth discussions on the new developments of the SET Plan towards an integrated roadmap and action plan addressing research & innovation challenges and needs of the EU energy system. The "Towards an Integrated Roadmap" document which will ultimately lead to the Action Plan was presented at the event, and is the result of in depth consultation and inputs from more than 150 stakeholders and the SET-Plan steering committee from the Member States. The document has been compiled based on these inputs by the European Commission's Directorates-General for Energy, Research and Innovation and the Joint Research Centre. The JRC coordinated the technical and scientific input to the consultation process.*

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| **10 December 2014** | Crop, dairy and meat markets projections for the next 10 years |

*JRC expertise in modelling with a focus on baseline projections and particularly on uncertainty scenarios has fed into the latest issue of the European Commission's agricultural outlook for the next decade. The outlook "Prospects for EU Agricultural Markets and Income" was compiled by the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development and presented during a dedicated conference. The publication describes the trends for major EU agricultural commodity markets such as crop, milk and meat markets until 2024.*

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| **5 December 2014** | World Soil Day – where food begins |

*5 December is World Soil Day, which celebrates the importance of soil as a vital contributor to ecosystems' functioning, food, water and energy security, and as a mitigator of biodiversity loss and climate change. World Soil Day aims to connect people with soils and raise awareness of their importance in our lives. To mark the World Soil Day 2014, the JRC participated in several initiatives to promote the sustainable use of soil, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Global Soil Partnership. As one of the founding members of the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI), the JRC actively participated in the first international GSBI conference "Assessing soil biodiversity and its role for ecosystem services."*

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| **4 December 2014** | EU companies must boost R&D investment to stay globally competitive |

*Investment in research and development by companies based in the EU grew by 2.6% in 2013, despite the unfavourable economic environment. However, this growth has slowed in comparison to the previous year's 6.8%. It is also below the 2013 world average (4.9%), and lags behind companies based in the US (5%) and Japan (5.5%). These results were published on 4 December in the European Commission's 2014 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard, which analyses the top 2500 companies worldwide, representing about 90% of the total business R&D expenditure. The EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard is published annually by the European Commission (DG Research and Innovation and DG Joint Research Centre).*

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| **2 December 2014** | JRC and Latin American representatives explore deeper cooperation |

*The JRC hosted on 2 December 2014 at its Ispra site a first visit on scientific cooperation with Latin American countries. EU-accredited ambassadors and diplomats from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay and Venezuela attended the event. The visit followed upon the meeting between the JRC and ambassadors from the Community of the Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in July 2014 in Brussels. The participants had the opportunity to learn about the JRC research in priority areas for CELAC, to discuss ongoing bilateral cooperation and possible new joint activities. Besides visits to JRC labs and meetings with scientists, the visit included a round table which focused on sustainable development.*