



Science & Policy

What's on the EU's agenda?

February 2018



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

1 February 2018

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1. Activities of the European Institutions

1.1 European Commission

Date	Event	Subject
February	College Meeting	<i>Please consult the website</i>

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

1.2 Council

Date	Event	Location
1-2 February	Informal Meeting of Competitiveness Ministers	Sofia, Bulgaria
5 February	EU-Georgia Association Council	Brussels
9 February	EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Council	Brussels
15 February	Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council on Education	Brussels
15-16 February	Informal Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers	Sofia, Bulgaria
19 February	Agriculture and Fisheries Council	Brussels
20 February	Economic and Financial Affairs Council	Brussels
23 February	European Council: Informal Meeting of Heads of State or Government	Brussels
26 February	Foreign Affairs Council	Brussels
26 February	EU-Kazakhstan Cooperation Council	Brussels

26-27 February	Foreign Affairs Council: Informal Meeting of Trade Ministers	Sofia, Bulgaria
27 February	General Affairs Council (Art. 50)	Brussels
28 February	Informal Meeting of Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Ministers on Culture (EYCS)	Sofia, Bulgaria
All meetings of the Council		

1.3 European Parliament

Plenary Sessions

Date	Event	Subjects	Location
5-8 February	Plenary	<i>Among others: European Central Bank Annual Report for 2016; Geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment; Commission Statement: Decision adopted on the Fair Taxation package II and III; cost-effective emission reductions and low-carbon investments; presentation of the following report: "Accelerating clean energy innovation."; debate with the Prime Minister of Croatia, Andrej Plenković, on the Future of Europe; statements by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini: situation in Zimbabwe; new agenda for the EU-Central Asia relations in the framework of the 13th Annual Ministerial Meeting; current human rights situation in Turkey; EU's perspectives for the first EU-Cuba Joint Council meeting. Commission statement: Decision adopted on the EU Enlargement Strategy- Western Balkans; Council and Commission statements: shrinking space for civil society; work and legacy of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Composition of the European Parliament; revision of the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission; reform of the electoral law of the European Union; EU external action funds; annual report on the financial activities of the European Investment Bank; situation of</i>	Strasbourg

		women human rights defenders and their support by the EU; debates on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law;	
Committee Meetings			
1 February	Committee on Budgetary Control	Among others: Annual report on the control of the financial activities of the EIB for 2016; ECA Special Report; CONT Mission to Croatia and Serbia (17-20 July 2017); CONT Mission to Europol (19-20 September 2017); Annual CONT meeting with the Members of the European Court of Auditors;	Brussels
1 February	Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	Among others: Exchange of views with Mr Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, on the mobility package; exchange of views with Andrea Ammon, Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC); exchange of views with the Commission and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) on Lyme disease; introducing Community measures for the control of Newcastle disease; interpretation and implementation of the interinstitutional agreement on Better Law-Making;	Brussels
1 February	Committee on Transport and Tourism	Among others: Presentation by the EC on Traffic Management System- the way forward; common rules for certain types of combined transport of goods between Member States; common rules for access to the international market for coach and bus services;	Brussels
1 February	Committee on Regional Development	Among others: Debate on the future of cohesion policy after 2020;	Brussels
1 February	Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	Among others: Joint debate with the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and the Committee on Development (DEVE): The Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Annual report on the Situation of Fundamental Rights in the EU in 2016; 2016 discharge: Report on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the EU's agencies for the financial year 2016: performance, financial management and control; exchange of views with Simon Mordue, Deputy Director-General, DG HOME, European Commission: state of play of negotiations on Status agreements between	Brussels

		<i>the European Union and third countries for the purpose of actions carried out by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency on the territory of those countries;</i>	
1 February	Committee on Foreign Affairs	<i>Among others: Exchange of views on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration with Ms. Michele Klein Solomon, Director, Global Compact for Migration, Office of the Director General, International Organization for Migration; implementation of the EU external financing instruments: mid-term review 2017 and the future post-2020 architecture (see separate programme);</i>	Brussels
8 February	Special Committee on Terrorism	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
19-20 February	Committee on Development	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
19-20 February	Committee on International Trade	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
19-20 February	Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
19-20 February	Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
21-22 February	Committee on Budgets	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
21-22 February	Committee on Employment and Social Affairs	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
21-22 February	Committee on Industry, Research and Energy	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
21-22 February	Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
21-22 February	Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
21-22 February	Committee on Culture and	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels

	Education		
21-22 February	Committee on Legal Affairs	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
21-22 February	Committee on Petitions	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
26-27 February	Subcommittee on Security and Defence	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
26-27 February	Committee on Fisheries	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
26-27 February	Committee on Constitutional Affairs	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
26-27 February	Subcommittee on Human Rights	<i>Please consult the website</i>	Brussels
All European Parliament Committee Meetings			

1.4 Committee of the Regions (CoR)

Date	Event	Location
1 February	[Y]Factor conference: Between Regional & European Identity	Brussels
2 February	EU Aquaculture Farmed in the EU Regions	Brussels
2 February	Reducing Health Inequalities Experienced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI) People	Brussels
6 February	Cohesion Policy as an instrument to achieve sustainable territorial development	Brussels
7 February	PEGASUS conference - Delivering environmental and social benefits from agriculture	Brussels

8 February	17th Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE) Commission meeting	Brussels
8 February	Open Day 2018- Organisational meeting	Brussels
9 February	Stakeholder consultation on: "The rules for the internal market in natural gas"	Brussels
19 February	Ris3, Culture and Creative Industries: an opportunity to articulate the territories	Brussels
20 February	Connecting territories: the role of European Regions and Cities in the future EU policies for R&I	Brussels
20-21 February	9th plenary session of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM)	Giza, Egypt
21 February	17th Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC) Commission Meeting	Brussels

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

1.5 European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Date	Event	Location
2 February	How do Social Economy Enterprises contribute to the integration of migrants?	Brussels
7-8 February	Policy Learning Forum (PLF) on "Upskilling pathways: a vision for the future"	Brussels
8 February	Hearing on the effectiveness of EU policies for SMEs	Rome, Italy
9 February	Women with disabilities (in the EU): situation and way forward	Brussels
15 February	Civil Society in the EU: future scenarios for 2030	Brussels
20-21 February	Delivering on the Circular Economy– What's Next?	Brussels

22 February	Hearing on How effective is EU legislation for SMEs in Sweden?	Stockholm, Sweden
Further events of the European Economic and Social Committee		

2. Conferences & Meetings

2.1 DG JRC Conferences and Events

Date	Event	Organiser	Location
30 January- 2 February	Workshop on proficiency tests (PTs) & basic and advanced courses on gamma-ray spectrometry	DG JRC	Geel, Belgium
15-19 February	AAAS 2018 Annual Meeting: "Advancing Science: Discovery to Application"	American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)	Austin, USA
20 February	JRC-UNESCO Information Session on Water	DG JRC, UNESCO	New York, USA
23 February	First Annual JRC Alumni Network Event Further information available on the JRC Alumni Network website (ECAS account creation/login and registration to the JRC Alumni Network) or by contacting JRC-ALUMNI@ec.europa.eu	DG JRC	Brussels
8-9 March	Workshop: Safer Li-Ion Batteries by Preventing Thermal Propagation?	DG JRC	Petten, The Netherlands

[Further upcoming DG JRC Events](#)

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

2.2 Further European Conferences and Meetings

1 February	Doing more with less	European Investment Bank (EIB)	Brussels
1 February	Financing energy efficiency in Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria	EC, UNEP Finance Initiative ANRE, Ministry of Energy of Romania	Bucharest, Romania
2 February	EU Aquaculture Farmed in the EU Regions	EC, DG REGIO	Brussels
5-6 February	European forum on eco-innovation for air quality	DG ENV, Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria	Sofia, Bulgaria
6 February	European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Awareness Day in Serbia	European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development	Belgrade, Serbia
7 February	Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) applicant seminar	European Regional Development Fund, Région-Hauts de France, UIA	Malmö, Sweden
8 February	Smart grids studies– lighthouse projects and deployment workshop	EC	Brussels
8 February	Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Panel meeting: Presentation of the in-depth STOA workshop report 'New technologies and regional policy- Towards the next Cohesion Policy framework'. For other STOA events please consult the website .	STOA, EP	Strasbourg
9 February	Stakeholder workshop on cooperative intelligent transport systems	EC	Brussels

13 February	EIT Information Day for the 2018 Call for Proposals for two new Innovation Communities: EIT Manufacturing and EIT Urban Mobility	EIT	Brussels
15-16 February	European conference: Investing in people, the way forward	EC, Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU	Sofia, Bulgaria
20-21 February	Circular economy stakeholder conference– Delivering on the circular economy, what’s next?	EC, Economic and Social Committee (ECSC)	Brussels
20-22 February	Workshop on Alternative Testing Methods	DG JRC, University of California	Los Angeles, USA
22 February	Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) applicant seminar	EC, DG REGIO	Brussels
22 February	Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform (SNETP) 10th Anniversary	SNEPT	Brussels
22-23 February	Second European Industry Day	EC	Brussels
1-2 March	International financial integration in a changing policy context– the end of an era?	DG ECFIN, EC	Brussels
5-6 March	Civil Protection Forum	EC	Brussels
EIT 2018 Call for Proposals for new EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) in Urban Mobility and Added Value Manufacturing		EIT	Brussels

2.3 International Conferences and events

Date	Event	Organiser	Location
7-13 February	World Urban Forum UN Habitat	UN Habitat	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
15-19 February	American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting	AAAS	Austin, USA
20-22 February	56th session of the Bureau of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP)	UNESCO	Paris, France
20-22	Workshop on Alternative Testing Methods	University of	Los Angeles,

February		California	USA
9-14 July	EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF)	ESOF	Toulouse, France
15-31 August	European Forum Alpbach	European Forum Alpbach	Alpbach, Austria
21-22 September	INGSA International Conference	Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)	Tokyo, Japan
5-9 November	2018 Symposium on International Safeguards	IAEA	Vienna, Austria

3. DG JRC News

2016	DG JRC Annual Report
January	DG JRC Newsletter January 2018
Open	Open access to JRC Research Infrastructures- Call: Nuclear infrastructure (closing date 7 March 2018) Non-nuclear infrastructure (closing date 13 April 2018)
Open	The EU is recruiting researchers- Call for expressions of interest
Open	JRC Alumni Network: Membership registration for JRC Alumni

January Highlights

17 January

[Peer eXchange and Learning workshop on innovation strategies for smart specialisation](#)

The S3 Platform organised a Peer eXchange and Learning workshop on Policy Instruments for innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3). Emilia-Romagna (Italy), Northern Netherlands (Holland) and Wielkopolska (Poland) regions provided a short account of their experience in designing and implementing policy instruments for the implementation of their respective RIS3. The event gathered representatives from more than 50 regional and national authorities.

23 January

[New JRC MOOC on monitoring Smart Specialisation strategies: Presentation at the Committee of Regions](#)

Which are the principles underpinning RIS3 and RIS3 monitoring? What are the core-indicators to monitor the sound implementation of research and innovation Smart Specialisation strategies (RIS3)? Where to find the key data-sources needed to monitor them? These are the insights which were gained from the MOOC, produced by the JRC on monitoring Smart Specialisation strategies. Dr Elisabetta Marinelli, from the JRC (Targeted Support for RIS3), presented its contents and explained how and when to register for the online course that will open in March, at a lunch-time briefing hosted by the Committee of Regions. The MOOC is open to anyone interested in monitoring knowledge-based regional development, and in particular Smart Specialisation Strategies. Specific audiences are: Civil servants working on regional development at the regional, national and European level, students or researchers interested in regional development, or research and innovation policies, consultants in regional development or research and innovation policy.

24-26 January

[Macro-Regional Innovation Week-Knowledge and Technology Transfer in Macro-Regions](#)

The 2018 edition of the Macro-Regional Innovation Week took place in Ispra (IT) from 24 to 26 January 2018, with the focus on Science and Technology knowledge for policy support and on collaboration with the JRC. The Macro-Regional Innovation Week promoted the opening of the JRC's research infrastructures and laboratories and showcased JRC's technical and scientific competences, in particular in the field of environment, energy, transport and biotechnologies. The event was an occasion to present key results of JRC's Scientific Support activities to the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) that may be relevant to other macro-regions. During the three-day event, participants also received the opportunity to visit the main site of the JRC in Ispra.

25 January

[First European Education Summit: learn about SELFIE and visit JRC stand](#)

The first European Education Summit gathered EU Education Ministers, global speakers, education practitioners & business leaders together to discuss, explore and pledge for a better future for education in Europe. The event was web-streamed through the Education Summit website. The Joint Research Centre presented its digital learning project for schools, [SELFIE](#), during a panel session in the afternoon. As the European Commission's science and knowledge service, the Joint Research Centre has been providing evidence-based policy support in the area of education, learning and skills since 2005 on many aspects including innovative, inclusive and relevant education and the rise of new (digital) skills and competences needed for employment, personal development and social inclusion.

25 January

[S3PEnergy- High Level Event](#)

The Smart Specialisation Platform on Energy have organised a High Level Event to showcase the results achieved so far and to discuss on the most effective ways to keep assisting regions specialised in the energy domain. Particular focus was given to the interregional cooperation dynamics in the domains of bioenergy, smart grids, sustainable buildings, marine renewables and solar.

25 January

[Workshop: Fiscal Policy and Microsimulation](#)

The JRC co-organised the workshop Fiscal Policy and Microsimulation that took place in Valencia (Spain). The workshop combined relevant keynote speakers with contributed papers and ran in parallel to the 25th Meeting on Public Economics, a 2-day general-purpose conference focused on Public Economics. The aim of the workshop was to provide an opportunity to bring together relevant research work in the field of fiscal policy evaluation, both from the micro and macro traditions.

29 January

[JRC Science Lecture: Meeting the new challenges for the EU: until 2030 and beyond](#)

This lunchtime science lecture was held at the CDMA Atrium by Ian Goldin the Oxford University Professor of Globalisation and Development and Director of the Oxford Martin Programme on Technological and Economic Change. It was an opportunity to share about his latest books including, 'Age of Discovery: Navigating the Storms of Our Second Renaissance', published by Bloomsbury and 'The Butterfly Defect: Globalisation and Systemic Risk', published by Princeton University Press. Ian Goldin identified the drivers of global growth, showing why emerging markets are likely to continue to grow at high levels for the coming decades. Rising life expectancy and declining fertility in Europe and elsewhere has dramatic consequences for pensions, retirement, dependency and employment patterns. Meanwhile, advances in artificial intelligence and robotics are transforming the nature of work. Technological change in other areas is leading to dramatic changes in business and consumption.

