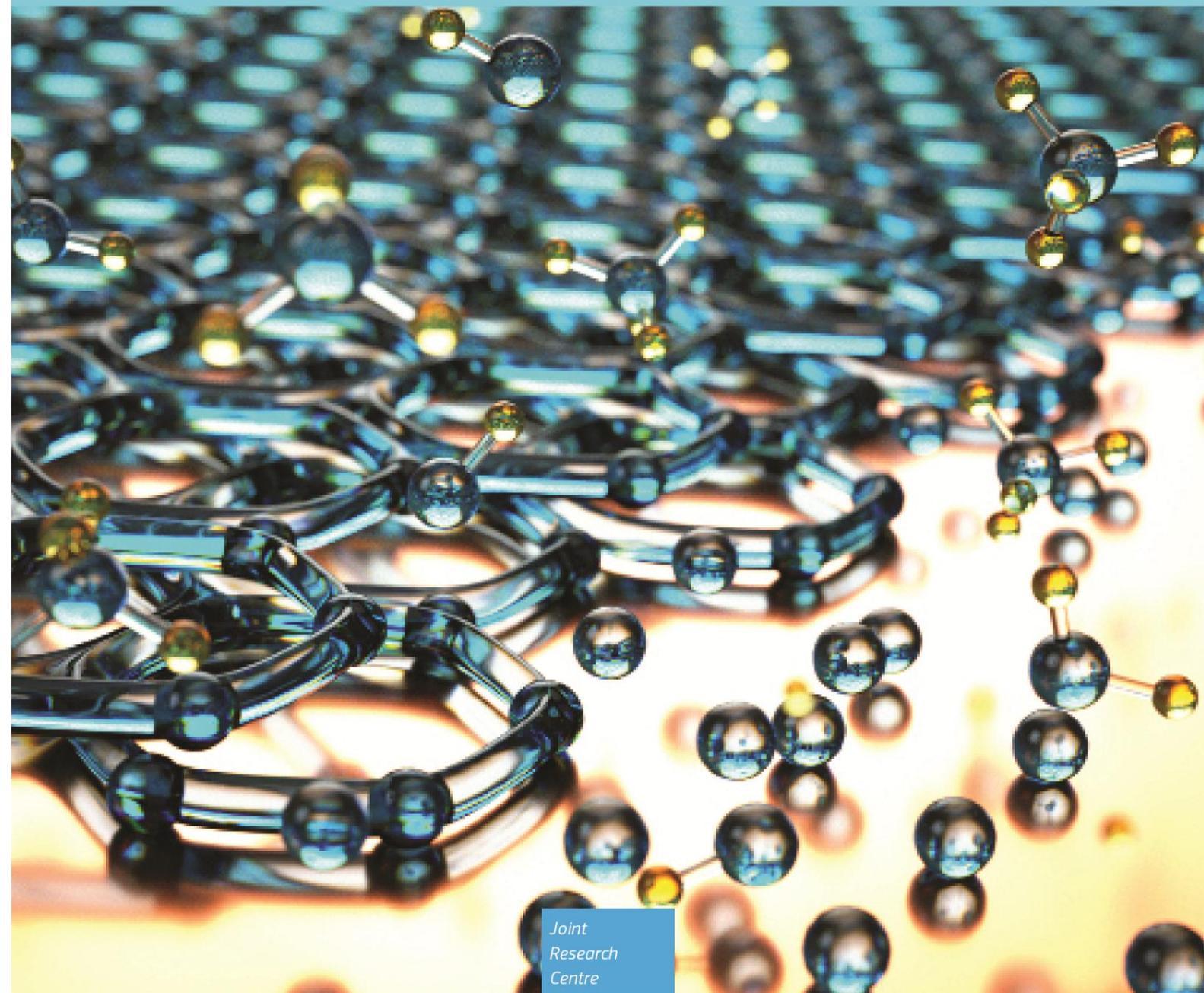




Science & Policy: *What's on the EU's agenda?*

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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?

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1. Activities of the European Institutions

1.1 European Commission

Date	Event	Subject
15 April	College Meeting	

1.2 Council

Date	Event	Venue/Location
20 April	Foreign Affairs Council	Luxembourg
20 April	Agriculture and Fisheries Council	Brussels
21 April	General Affairs Council	Brussels
7 May	Foreign Affairs Council	Brussels
11 May	Eurogroup	Brussels
11-12 May	Agriculture and Fisheries Council	Brussels
12 May	Economic and Financial Affairs Council	Brussels
18 May	Foreign Affairs Council	Brussels
18-19 May	Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council	Brussels
19 May	General Affairs Council	Brussels
26 May	Foreign Affairs Council	Brussels
28-29 May	Competitiveness Council	Brussels

1.3 European Parliament

Plenary Sessions

Date	Event	Subject	Venue/Location
15 April	EP Plenary session	Budgetary and employment and social issues	Brussels
27-30 April	EP Plenary session	Various issues, see agenda	Strasbourg

Committee Meetings

13-14 April	Committee on Fisheries	Among others: With the Council and Commission • Public hearing on 'Improving selectivity in banning discards' • Presentation by Policy Department B of study on 'Small-scale fishing and the aim of zero discards' by Sebastian Villasante	Brussels
13-14 April	Committee on International Trade	Various issues, among others: • Exchange of views with Jyrki Katainen, Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness	Brussels

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)</i> • <i>The possible extension of geographical indication protection of the European Union to non-agricultural products</i> • <i>European Energy Security Strategy</i> • <i>Exchange of views on the EU-China trade relations with Yang Yanyi, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China</i> 	
13-14 April	<u>Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety</u>	<p>Various issues, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants and amending Directive 2003/35/EC</i> • <i>Limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants</i> • <i>Resource efficiency: moving towards a circular economy</i> • <i>Follow up to the European Citizens' Initiative Right2Water</i> 	Brussels
14 April	<u>Committee on Industry, Research and Energy</u>	<p>Various issues, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>European Fund for Strategic Investments</i> • <i>Limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants</i> • <i>Untapping the potential of Research and Innovation in the Blue Economy to create Jobs and Growth</i> • <i>Structured Dialogue European Parliament - European Commission, Exchange of views with Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs</i> 	Brussels
14 April 16 April	<u>Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development</u>	<p>Various issues, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Presentation by the Commission on the implementation of the rural development policy</i> • <i>Technical presentation by the Commission on draft competition guidelines on the application of antitrust rules to the agricultural sector</i> • <i>Amendment to Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 laying down Community procedures for the authorisation and supervision of medicinal products for human and veterinary use and establishing a European Medicines Agency</i> • <i>Presentation by the Slovenian Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Dejan Židan concerning the project of saving bees</i> 	Brussels
<u>All European Parliament Committee meetings</u>			
Events organised in the EP			
28 April	<u>European Energy Forum Dinner debate</u>	<i>"Oil and Gas: Geopolitics of Europe and beyond"</i>	Strasbourg
6 May	<u>STOA Panel Workshop</u>	<i>"How could technology change the way we teach & learn?"</i>	Brussels

1.4 Committee of the Regions (CoR)

Date	Event	Venue/Location
13 April	<u>European Citizens' Initiative Day 2015</u>	CoR/EESC, Brussels
16-17 April	<u>111th Committee of the Regions Plenary Session</u>	CoR, Brussels
12-15 October	<u>Committee of the Regions Open Days 2015</u>	CoR, Brussels
<u>Further events of the Committee of the Regions</u>		

1.5 European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Date	Event	Venue/Location
13 April	<u>European Citizens' Initiative Day 2015</u>	EESC/CoR, Brussels
14 April	<u>Setting the agenda for a sustainable future – the road to the UN summit on the Post-2015 agenda</u>	EESC, Brussels
23-25 April	<u>Your Europe, Your Say 2015!</u>	EESC, Brussels
<u>Further events of the European Economic and Social Committee</u>		

1.6 All EU Institutions

Date	Event	Venue/Location
9 May	<u>Europe Day – EU Open Doors</u>	Brussels, Strasbourg, Luxembourg

1.7 International Relations

Date	Event	Venue/Location
17-19 April	<u>Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)</u>	Washington, D.C., USA
22 April	<u>College-to-College meeting between the European Commission and the African Union Commission</u>	TBC
21-22 May	<u>Eastern Partnership summit</u>	Riga, Latvia
2-3 June	<u>OECD Forum 2015</u>	Paris, France
7-8 June	<u>The 41st G7 Summit</u>	Schloss Elmau, Germany
10-11 June	<u>EU-CELAC Summit</u>	Brussels, Belgium
9-11 October	<u>2015 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund</u>	Lima, Peru

2. Conferences & Meetings

2.1 European Conferences and Meetings

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
23-24 April	European Consumer Protection Conference	Latvian Ministry of Economics and the Consumer Rights Protection Centre	Riga, Latvia
28-29 April	EARTO-EIRMA Joint Conference 2015 "Infrastructures and Resources Sharing between Industry & RTOs in Europe"	EARTO and EIRMA	Luxembourg
25-29 May	2015 Geospatial World Forum – INSPIRE conference (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe)	Geospatial Media and Communications; European Commission / INSPIRE	Lisbon, Portugal
28 May	Scientific evidence in policymaking: the role of the JRC	Science\Business	Brussels, Belgium
1-4 June	23rd European Biomass Conference and Exhibition 2015	Technical Programme coordinator: JRC; Event supported by: European Commission, UNESCO, EUBIA, WCRE	Vienna, Austria
3-4 June	European Development Days	European Commission	Brussels, Belgium
4 June	4th European Standardization Summit - "How standardization can support the transition to a cleaner and smarter economy"	Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Ministry of Economics and Latvian Standard (LVS)	Riga, Latvia
4-5 June	Week of Innovative Regions in Europe (WIRE 2015)	Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, State Education Development Agency (SEDA), Latvia, European Commission	Riga, Latvia
10-12 June	EuroNanoForum 2015		Riga, Latvia
23-26 June	R&D Management conference "(Fast?) Connecting R&D"	Istituto di Management, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna	Pisa, Italy
15 September	"Science Meets Parliaments" - annual science-day event in the European Parliament	JRC – European Commission, European Parliament, EASAC, ALLEA, Euro-CASE, CESAER	Brussels, Belgium
14-18 September	EU PVSEC 2015 (European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition)	Technical Programme coordinator: JRC	Hamburg, Germany
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	JRC – European Commission	Ulm, Germany

	Danube Strategy		
29-30 October	4th Danube Strategy Annual Forum		Ulm, Germany
<i>Further upcoming JRC events</i>			

2.2 International Conferences

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
23-30 April	Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) 2015		Toyama, Japan
1 May - 31 October	The EU at Expo Milano 2015		Milano, Italy
3-6 May	International Conference on Advances on Nuclear Power Plants (ICAPP 2015) - "Nuclear Innovations for a Low-carbon Future"		Nice, France
4-6 May	2015 Annual Conference of the Global Flood Partnership: early results and future ambitions	Hosted by the Dartmouth Flood Observatory at university of Colorado and the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research and NCAR	Boulder, Colorado, USA
8 May	EXPO Milano International Conference – "Towards a research Agenda for Global Food and Nutrition Security"	JRC - European Commission	Expo 2015 site, Milano, Italy
19-21 May	9th Symposium on Targeted Alpha Therapy	JRC - European Commission, the Medical University Warsaw and Eckert & Ziegler Eurotope	Warsaw, Poland
26-28 May	United Nations/Germany International Conference on Earth Observation "Global Solutions for the Challenges of Sustainable Development in Societies at Risk"	UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER, co-organisers: German Aerospace Center (DLR), German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) with the support of Secure World Foundation and the City of Bonn	Bonn, Germany
27-28 May	Clean Energy Ministerial 6 (CEM6)	Hosted by the government of Mexico	Mérida, Mexico
8-11 June	20th International Conference on Radionuclide Metrology and its Applications (ICRM 2015)	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	Global Space Innovation Conference (GLIC 2015)	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

7-10 July	"Our Common Future Under Climate Change" - International Scientific Conference	<i>Organized under the umbrella of ICSU, Future Earth, UNESCO and major French research institutions, with the support of the French Government.</i>	<i>Paris, France</i>
13-16 July	UN Conference on Financing for Development	UN	<i>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</i>
12-23 October	Twelfth session of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Conference of the Parties	UN	<i>Ankara, Turkey</i>
4-7 November	World Science Forum 2015 Theme: "The Enabling Power of Science"	<i>Hosted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in partnership with UNESCO, ICSU, AAAS, TWAS and EASAC</i>	<i>Budapest, Hungary</i>
30 November – 11 December	United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 21/ CMP 11	UNFCCC	<i>Paris, France</i>

3. JRC News

2014	<u>JRC Annual Report</u>
January 2015	<u>JRC Newsletter</u>
Open	<u>The EU is recruiting researchers - Call for expressions of interest</u>
30 March 2015	<p><u>JRC's comparative GMO testing reports and actions have gone public</u></p> <p><i>Comparative GMO testing data elaborated by the European Reference Laboratory for Food and Feed (EURL GMFF) can now be consulted online and downloaded by interested parties.</i></p>
27 March 2015	<p><u>New method to improve building sustainability</u></p> <p><i>A new approach proposed by JRC scientists results into a single indicator bringing together ecological costs, construction costs and the expected structural repair and downtime losses.</i></p>
25 March 2015	<p><u>Targeted alpha therapy shows promise against bladder cancer</u></p> <p><i>A new treatment for bladder carcinoma is being developed by the JRC and Munich's Technical University hospital Klinikum rechts der Isar. Recently, the first in-human tests have been conducted showing positive results.</i></p>
23 March 2015	<p><u>Promising start to the spring season</u></p> <p><i>The latest MARS bulletin, published on 23 March 2015, finds that EU winter crops are generally in good shape and well developed due to the mild winter conditions. In general, prospects for the new season are promising. Temperatures in most of the EU-28 were close to the long-term average during the period of review (1 February - 15 March). North-eastern Europe experienced significantly warmer-than-usual conditions, with temperatures over 4°C above the long-term average.</i></p>
23 March 2015	<p><u>ETRI 2014 - Energy Technology Reference Indicator projections for 2010-2050</u></p> <p><i>A look towards 2050 – new energy technology indicators. The JRC has published the first version of the report: ETRI 2014 - Energy Technology Reference Indicator projections for 2010-2050. The indicators provide a set of techno-economic data to be used for evaluating the European energy system.</i></p>
21 March 2015	<p><u>UN forest day: climate-resilient future needs sustainably managed forests</u></p> <p><i>With its research and tools, JRC supports EU policies on the preservation of forests, which sustain life, represent a home to most of the Earth's terrestrial biodiversity and act as carbon dioxide storehouse, thus reducing the CO₂ released in the atmosphere.</i></p>

18 March 2015	New video explains the validation process of alternative methods (in Italian)
<i>This video presents the European Union Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing (EURL ECVAM) and explains the validation process of alternative methods.</i>	
18 March 2015	MYGEOSS - First Call For Innovative Apps in the environmental and social domains
<i>MYGEOSS is launching an open call for development of innovative applications (mobile or web-based) using openly available or crowd-generated data in different domains that address citizens' needs. The pool of open data for use includes, but is not limited to, the Data Collection of Open Resources for Everyone (GEOSS Data-CORE) made available by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) through the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), as well as open data from EU-funded projects.</i>	
17 March 2015	Patent analysis as a policy tool for the European Digital Single Market
<i>Nearly a third of patents filed for technologies in digital communication at the European Patent Office originate in Asia (mainly China, Japan and Korea) and numbers are increasing; what are the consequences? This and other questions were addressed at the JRC's conference on "The Role of Patents – Innovation in the European digital single market".</i>	
16 March 2015	Using Science for Disaster Risk Reduction
<i>The third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction kicked off in Sendai, Japan, on 14 March. Several thousand participants attended the four-day conference where the JRC Director-General, Vladimír Šucha, presented the role and potential of science and technology in disaster risk reduction and the future JRC knowledge centre for disaster risk management.</i>	
16 March 2015	New information system on raw materials
<i>The JRC launched the Raw Materials Information System (RMIS), a comprehensive online repository of information on policies, activities and data related to the European raw materials sector.</i>	
13 March 2015	Cook-book for water ecosystem service assessment and valuation
<i>A recently published JRC report describes a methodological framework for the biophysical assessment and economic valuation of water ecosystem services in Europe. The methodology aims to help understand how multiple pressures can affect the delivery and value of such services. It is flexible, can be applied at different scales/locations and is easy to follow, presenting the basic concepts and assumptions to be established before the analysis, and a 'shopping bag' of appropriate tools to assess and value ecosystem services.</i>	
12 March 2015	Tackling the challenges of measuring nanoparticles
<i>Measuring the size of nanoparticles is an enduring challenge for producers and regulatory agencies alike. In fact, up to now, different techniques are used to measure the dimension of objects smaller than a 1/10000 of a millimetre and they sometimes give different results.</i>	
12 March 2015	Shaping the future of stock assessment methods for sustainable fisheries
<i>Under the auspices of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the JRC helps to overcome the limitations of conventional stock assessment methods by promoting innovative approaches such as the Assessment for All (a4a) model. The exchange of such approaches between scientists at global level ensures that the best methods can be applied when developing management advice for fisheries, but also highlights the need for more research in fish stock assessment.</i>	

9 March 2015	EURDEP - 20 years of radiation monitoring data exchange in Europe
<i>The JRC's European radiological data exchange platform (EURDEP) makes radiological monitoring data widely available from most European countries in nearly real-time. This year, the tool celebrates 20 years of service, and features new developments. A new feature allows interactive maps to be produced, displaying public EURDEP data in a simple, intuitive and attractive way.</i>	
9 March 2015	#EUROPE 4x4 – LET'S CHANGE GEAR!
<i>Following the Eurobarometer Report "Public perception of science, research and innovation" (149, 2014) and the European Commission, "The future of Europe is Science" (2014), the Laboratory Ladest - DISPOC, University of Siena in collaboration with the JRC launch an open and public consultation on 4 key aspects of our future: Protecting the Environment, Reducing inequalities, Protecting personal privacy, Providing more jobs.</i>	
6 March 2015	Smart specialisation: from research strategies into concrete actions
<i>At the opening of a JRC conference on smart specialisation, the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Corina Crețu said that research areas must be coupled with the economic exploitation of new ideas and permanent questioning on how to do new, better and different things.</i>	
5 March 2015	Japan and the JRC demonstrate a method to quantify U and Pu in melted fuel
<i>The JRC and the Japanese Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) have successfully demonstrated the principle of an innovative technique analysing particle-like debris of melted nuclear fuel.</i>	
4 March 2015	Soil - JRC contribution to the European Environment State and Outlook Report 2015
<i>JRC experts co-authored and contributed extensively to the European soil thematic briefing of the European Environment State and Outlook 2015 Report (SOER 2015) released on 3 March by the European Environment Agency. The soil briefing highlights the increasing pressure being put on soil and on its capacity to deliver ecosystem services, in terms of food, feed, fiber and fuel production, as a biodiversity pool and as a regulator of gasses, water and nutrients. The authors also recommend the development of robust and harmonised soil monitoring baselines in order to provide regular trend updates on soil functions and degradation processes.</i>	
3 March 2015	Assessing ecosystem services in coastal and marine waters
<i>A JRC-organised session on coastal and marine ecosystem services generated a lot of interest and positive feedback from the participants at last month's annual Association of the Sciences of Limnology & Oceanography (ASLO) 2015 meeting in Granada, Spain. This year's ASLO meeting, the theme of which was "Aquatic Sciences: Global And Regional Perspectives — North Meets South", was attended by more than 5 000 scientists from all over the world.</i>	
2 March 2015	Reducing animal testing for skin allergies
<i>The JRC has validated and recommended a new method which is not based on animal testing, to identify chemicals that can trigger skin allergies, estimated to affect already 20% of the population in Europe.</i>	