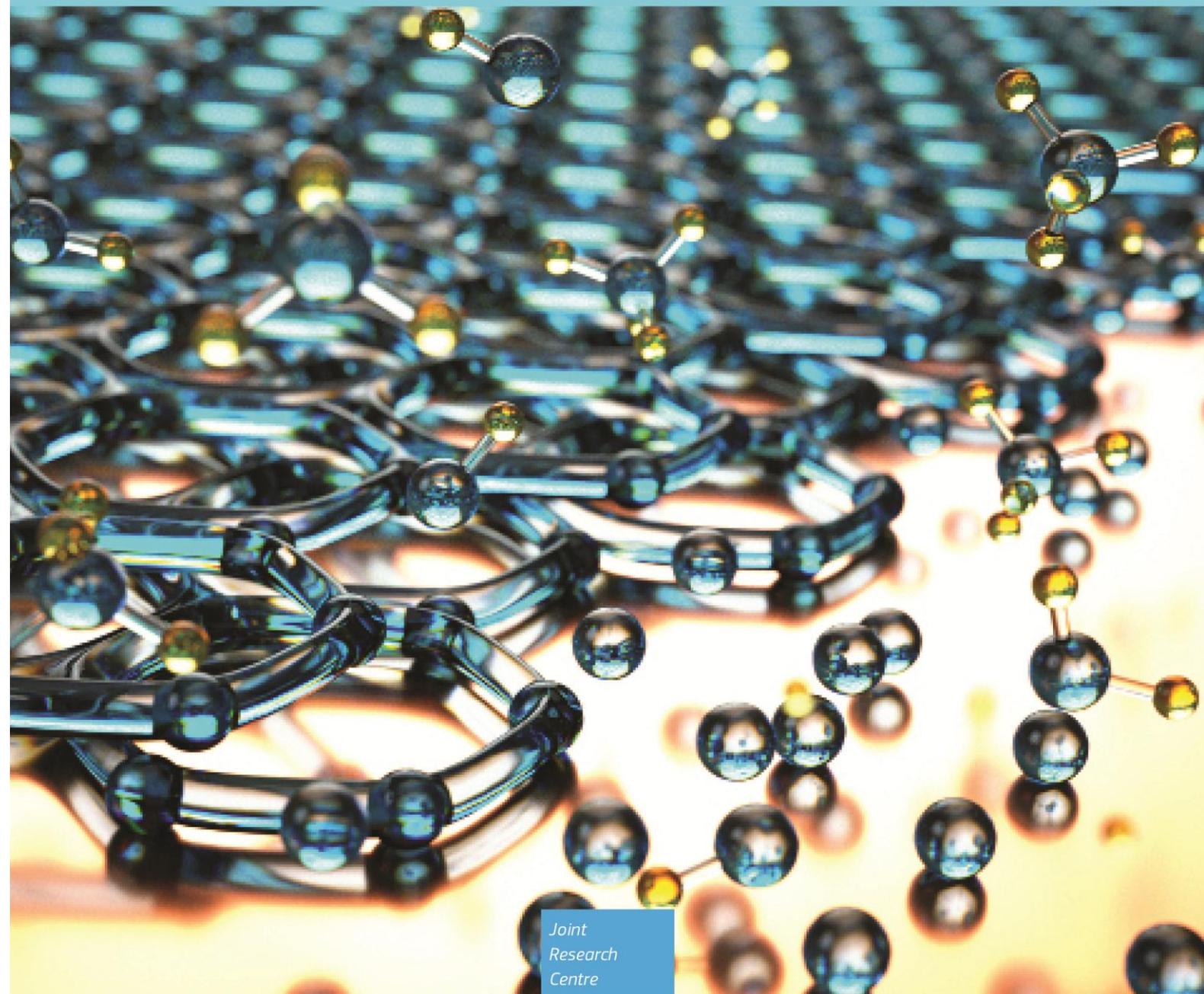


European
Commission

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

June 2014



Joint
Research
Centre



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Scientific Policy and Stakeholder Relations
International, Interinstitutional and Stakeholder Relations

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

28 May 2014

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Table of Contents

Preface	3
1. Activities of the European Institutions	4
1.1 European Commission	4
1.2 Council	4
1.3 European Parliament	4
1.4 International Relations	5
2. Conferences & Meetings	6
2.1 European Conferences Meetings	6
2.2 International Conferences	7
3. JRC News	9

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Preface

As the Commission's in-house science service, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) provides EU Institutions and Member States with high quality, impartial, and science-based advice throughout the entire policy cycle. Working in close cooperation with the policy Directorates-General of the Commission, DG JRC addresses current as well as future economic, societal and technical challenges using new methods, tools and standards, and sharing its know-how with the Member States, international partners and the scientific community.



Placed at the interface between science and policy, DG JRC is the natural mediator between the scientific community and the Commission. In order to succeed in this mission, DG JRC maintains a structured dialogue with key academic stakeholders, aiming at mutual benefits for both parties. Academia, on one hand, can provide a valuable input to DG JRC's policy support activities, especially through its collective knowledge and scientific excellence. DG JRC, on the other hand, can offer information on upcoming policy priorities and the orientation of an insider on the design, implementation and evaluation of policies on European level. This information should allow the scientific community to better synchronise activities with the actual European policy agenda.

In line with this endeavour, DG JRC's monthly Science & Policy Briefings give an overview on the activities of the European Institutions, take stock of the most important scientific conferences and meetings with significant policy implications and, against this background, also present the most recent news and highlights about DG JRC.

Vladimír ŠUCHA

Director-General

1. Activities of the European Institutions

1.1 European Commission

Date	Event	Subject
2 June	<i>College Meeting</i>	<i>Not yet publicly available</i>
11 June	<i>College Meeting</i>	<i>Not yet publicly available</i>
18 June	<i>College Meeting</i>	<i>Not yet publicly available</i>
25 June	<i>College Meeting</i>	<i>Not yet publicly available</i>

1.2 Council

Date	Event	Venue/Location
5-6 June	<i>Transport, Telecommunication and Energy Council</i>	<i>Brussels, Council</i>
12 June	<i>Environment Council</i>	<i>Brussels, Council</i>
13 June	<i>Transport, Telecommunication and Energy Council</i>	<i>Brussels, Council</i>
16-17 June	<i>Agriculture and Fisheries Council</i>	<i>Brussels, Council</i>

1.3 European Parliament

Schedule of the new Parliament

Date	Event	Subject	Venue/Location
June	<i>Constitutive meetings of Political Groups</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Political Groups elect their leaders</i> 	<i>Brussels</i>
1-3 July	<i>First plenary session of the new European Parliament:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Elections of the President and Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament</i> <i>Constitutive meetings of the parliamentary committees and elections of the Chairs of the Committees</i> 	<i>Strasbourg</i>
14 – 17 July	<i>EP Plenary session, chaired by the new EP President</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Election of the President of the European Commission</i> 	<i>Strasbourg</i>
15 – 18 September	<i>EP Plenary session</i>		<i>Strasbourg</i>
20 – 23 October	<i>EP Plenary session</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Vote of consent about the new College of Commissioners</i> 	<i>Strasbourg</i>
24 – 27 November	<i>EP Plenary session</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>First participation of the new College of Commissioners</i> 	<i>Strasbourg</i>
15 – 18 December	<i>EP Plenary session</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>First participation of the new President of the European Council</i> 	<i>Strasbourg</i>

Committee Meetings

1–11 or 22–30 September	<i>Hearings of the Commissioners-designate (by the Committees in charge of their respective portfolio)</i>		Brussels
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Events organised in the EP

Will be available from June onwards.

1.4 International Relations

Date	Event	Venue/Location
2 June	<i>The first regional meeting of the global Network of Qualified Mexicans abroad – Europe</i>	Brussels
4-5 June	<i>Meeting of G7</i>	Brussels
6 June	<i>EU-US Space Dialogue</i>	Madrid
6 June	<i>Brazil – EU Workshop on Earth Observation</i>	Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil
11 June	<i>EU-China Task Force on Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology meeting</i>	Brussels
11 June	<i>EU-China RD-PUNE meeting</i>	Brussels
12 June	<i>EU-China Space technology Dialogue</i>	Brussels
12 June	<i>EU-China Joint Steering Committee for Science & Technology</i>	Brussels
20 June	<i>EU-Russia Joint S&T Cooperation Committee</i>	Moscow
23-27 June	<i>First session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</i>	UNEP Headquarter, Nairobi, Kenya
Late September (tbc)	<i>EU-Canada 2014 Summit</i>	Brussels
5-7 October	<i>11th Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum</i>	Kyoto, Japan
13 October (tbc)	<i>17th EU-China Summit</i>	Brussels
16-17 October	<i>ASEM Summit, theme: "Responsible partnership for sustainable Growth and Security"</i>	Milan
2014 (tbc)	<i>EU-Mexico Summit</i>	Brussels

2. Conferences & Meetings

2.1 European Conferences Meetings

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
3-5 June	<i>10th European Conference on Synthetic Aperture Radar (EUSAR 2014)</i>	VDE (Verband der Elektrotechnik Elektronik Informationstechnik), DLR (German Microwaves and Radar Institute), Cassidian and Astrium (EADS/European Airbus Defence & Space) and Fraunhofer Institute.	Berlin, Germany
5 June	<i>Conference 'Bioeconomy and sustainable development: the European Union's strategy'</i>	ASTLER; SIMPLER	Bologna, Italy
11 June	<i>Conference of the Cité des Métiers International Network</i>	Réseau International des Cités des métiers	Brussels
16-20 June	<i>8th INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community) Conference</i>	EC	Aalborg, Denmark
16 – 18 June	<i>Conference on Aerosol Technology</i>	Gesellschaft für Aerosol Forschung	Karlsruhe, Germany
19 June	<i>Conference 'Land as a resource'</i>	DG ENV	Brussels
20 June	<i>Mobilising Europe's Universities for Smart Specialisation</i>	JRC	Brussels
21-26 June	<i>Euroscience Open Forum ESOF</i>	EC / Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science	Copenhagen, Denmark
23-26 June	<i>European Biomass Conference and Exhibition</i>	Co-organised by the JRC	Hamburg, Germany
24-26 June	<i>Geodisposal 2014</i>	Implementing Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste Technology Platform, the University of Manchester and the JRC	Manchester, UK
24-27 June	<i>JRC high-level event on the Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy and Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region</i>	JRC / DG REGIO	Vienna, Austria
1-2 July	<i>CENTRAL EUROPE Annual Conference</i>		City hall, Vienna
6-7 October	<i>High Level conference "Future of Europe is Science"</i>	JRC, BEPA, Office of CSA	Lisbon

13-17 October	<i>Climate Symposium 2014</i>	<i>World Climate Research Program (WCRP) - European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)</i>	<i>Darmstadt, Germany</i>
21-22 October	<i>6th JRC/AGRI annual conference "commodity Market Development in Europe – Outlook"</i>	<i>JRC, AGRI</i>	<i>Brussels</i>
12 – 14 November	<i>2014 Conference on Big Data From Space Conference (Dibs)</i>	<i>JRC, ESA, Satcen</i>	<i>Frascati, Italy</i>
18-21 November	<i>20th MARS (Monitoring Agricultural Resources) annual Conference</i>	<i>JRC</i>	<i>Dresden, Germany</i>
27-28 November	<i>Counterfactual Methods for Policy Impact Evaluation (COMPIE) Conference</i>	<i>JRC / DG EMPL / Centre for Research on Impact Evaluation (CRIE)</i>	<i>Rome, Italy</i>

2.2 International Conferences

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue/Location
2-11 June	<i>World Landslide Forum 3 and meeting of the Board of Representatives of the International Consortium on Landslides</i>	<i>The International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) and the China Geological Survey, and sponsored by the UN-supported International Programme on Landslides (IPL) and the Ministry of Land and Resources of China</i>	<i>Beijing, China</i>
10-11 June	<i>The Mediterranean City 2014</i>	<i>EC, Organised under the auspices of the Greek EU Presidency 2014</i>	<i>Athens, Greece</i>
11-12 June	<i>International IP Enforcement Summit</i>	<i>The Office for the Harmonisation of the Internal Market (OHIM) UK Intellectual Property Office, European Commission.</i>	<i>London, UK</i>
8-13 June	<i>20th World Congress of Soil Science</i>	<i>International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS)</i>	<i>Jeju, Korea</i>
15-20 June	<i>WHEC2014-20th World Hydrogen Energy Conference</i>	<i>WHEC-2014 Committee</i>	<i>Gwangju Metropolitan City, Korea</i>
22-25 June	<i>First international management conference in Danube Delta: "challenges, performances and tendencies in the organisation management"</i>	<i>The Romanian Management Scientific Society.</i>	<i>Murighiol, Romania</i>
1-14 July	<i>International Conference "Carbon-Land-Property"</i>	<i>I-REDD+ Project and the ProCit Network, The Danish Council for Independent Research - Social Sciences (FSE) and University of Copenhagen</i>	<i>Copenhagen, Denmark</i>
2-4 July	<i>World Finance conference</i>	<i>Università Ca Foscari, Venice</i>	<i>Venice, Italy</i>

7-10 July	<i>17th International Conference on Information Fusion (Fusion 2014)</i>	<i>International Society of Information Fusion (ISIF) in association with the Universidad De Salamanca and Universidad De Madrid, and supported by IEEE</i>	<i>Salamanca, Spain</i>
14-18 July	<i>22nd International Input-Output Conference and 4th Edition of the International School of Input-Output Analysis</i>	<i>International Input-Output Association / Technical University of Lisbon</i>	<i>Lisbon, Portugal</i>
10-15 August	<i>International Conference on Robust Statistics (ICORS) 2014</i>	<i>JRC / University of Halle University of Cassino / University of Naples</i>	<i>Halle (Saale), Germany</i>
24-28 August	<i>9th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences</i>	<i>Alternatives Congress Trust</i>	<i>Prague, Czech Republic</i>
31 Aug - 5 Sep	<i>World Water Week</i>	<i>Stockholm International Water Institute</i>	<i>Stockholm, Sweden</i>
8-12 September	<i>7th Annual Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP) Conference</i>	<i>Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP)</i>	<i>Costa Rica</i>
24-29 September	<i>First Joint International and European conference on Intelligence and Security Informatics (IEEE ISI & EISIC)</i>	<i>Delft University of Technology / Police academy of the Netherlands / Netherlands Forensic Institute / University of Arizona (USA)</i>	<i>The Hague, the Netherlands</i>
24-26 September	<i>International conference on food contact Compliance</i>	<i>The Italian Institute of Packaging</i>	<i>Stresa, Italy</i>
5-11 October	<i>XXIV International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress 2014</i>	<i>IUFRO</i>	<i>Salt Lake City, UT, United States</i>
13-17 October	<i>Climate Symposium 2014</i>	<i>WCRP / EUMETSAT</i>	<i>Darmstadt, Germany</i>
9-15 November	<i>20th Latin American Soil Science Congress</i>	<i>IASS (Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies) / Global Soil Forum</i>	<i>Cuzco, Peru</i>
12-19 November	<i>International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Parks Congress</i>	<i>IUCN</i>	<i>Sydney, Australia</i>
27-28 November	<i>5th International Conference Future-Oriented Technology Analysis (FTA) "Engage today to shape tomorrow"</i>	<i>JRC</i>	<i>Brussels</i>
1-12 December	<i>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (NFCCC) Convention of the Parties COP-20</i>	<i>UN</i>	<i>Lima, Peru</i>
2-5 December	<i>1st Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI) Conference</i>	<i>JRC (EcoFINDERS project) / Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI)</i>	<i>Dijon, France</i>
14 – 18 March 2015	<i>3rd world Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction</i>	<i>Coordinating body: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)</i>	<i>Sendai City, Japan</i>

3. JRC News

Date	News
2013	Annual Report 2013
March-April 2014	JRC Newsletter
22 May	World Biodiversity Day: mapping the EU's ecosystems and their services <p>The International Day for Biological Diversity, held annually on 22 May, was designed by the United Nations (UN) to promote better understanding of biodiversity issues. Biodiversity, defined as variability among the living organisms on our planet and the ecological complexes of which they are part, is also an important research field for the JRC: a recent JRC co-authored report provides working guidance to EU Member States on how to map and assess the state of ecosystems and their services.</p>
21 May	Call for contributions: "Future oriented-technology analysis" conference <p>The JRC is launching a call for abstracts for the fifth edition of the "Future oriented- technology analysis" (FTA) conference. Focused on the theme "Engage today to shape tomorrow", it will be held on 27 and 28 November 2014 in Brussels. There are three main themes that will help structure contributions and discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FTA and Innovation Systems • Creative interfaces for forward looking activities • Cutting edge FTA approaches
20 May	Balkan floods - JRC contributes to emergency preparedness and response <p>The European Flood Awareness System (EFAS) - developed by the JRC and now part of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (EMS) - provides European overviews of ongoing and upcoming floods to national hydrological services and to the European Response Coordination Centre (ERCCEFAS started providing national authorities and the ERCC with notifications of upcoming severe flooding conditions in the Balkans region already on 11 May. In addition, the JRC contributed to European emergency preparedness with actions before and during the crisis. For instance, the JRC's expert teams provided the ERCC with more in-depth information and daily situation reports and maps, integrating scientific data with impact information into products tailored for civil protection, thus contributing to coordinated actions to mitigate further potential damage in the countries and across borders.</p>
19 May	Land pressure - estimating demand for industrial and commercial land uses <p>JRC scientists recently published a paper presenting new methods to estimate demand for future industrial and commercial land use at both continental and sub-national scales. With a rising global human population and fast-paced economic development, increased demand is being put on this non-renewable resource. Land-use change dynamics, driven by technological, economic and demographic processes, impact the landscape and other environmental features by leading to a conversion of natural/semi-natural landscapes into built-up areas.</p>
16 May	Assessing the impact of the new banking regulatory framework <p>The JRC has contributed to the Economic Review of the Financial Regulation Agenda, presented yesterday by the European Commission. The document assesses the impact of the banking regulatory framework put in place by the EU in response to the financial and economic crisis. JRC analysis assesses the benefits of introducing increased capital requirements and resolution tools for banks, their effectiveness in reducing the probability of future crises and their impact on the society. JRC results were compared with costs estimated by the Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs: results suggest that the total expected benefits of the analysed tools will outweigh the expected costs.</p>

14 May [2000 students discover the work of JRC scientists](#)

The JRC organises "Student Days" every other year in Ispra to demonstrate how science can help tackle many global challenges, ranging from climate change to earthquakes, and to explain how JRC science fits into EU policy development. This first-hand experience in research laboratories also aims to show the daily work of a scientist, thus encouraging students to pursue scientific studies, an objective which the European Commission considers crucial achieving the European Union goals linked to innovation and economic development.

12 May [JRC software facilitates international reporting of maritime accidents](#)

As of May 2014 data on maritime accidents registered by the Member States in the European Marine Casualty Information Platform (EMCIP) will automatically be transmitted to the International Maritime Organization (IMO). This single step allows them to meet the legal requirements of both the EU and IMO. In addition to gains in efficiency, the connection to IMO will ensure a high level of accuracy between maritime safety analyses with the same data in both systems.

8 May [JRC's Support to the Blue Economy](#)

The JRC is providing support to marine and maritime policies. JRC research in this field includes trend analysis for climate change investigations, the assessment of the environmental status of marine waters and fish stocks, the provision of economic analysis of the fisheries sector or the development of new technologies and modelling approaches for sustainable fisheries. This web headline highlights some concrete examples of JRC work in this field..

6 May [New JRC GMO-Matrix helps increase efficiency of GMO screening](#)

JRC scientists have developed a decision support tool to optimise the detection of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) via computer simulation. The JRC GMO-Matrix will make the analysis of GMOs in the food chain more efficient and cost-effective. The new tool links the information from two JRC databases: the public GMOMETHODS database, the EU Database of Reference Methods for GMO Analysis, which supplies information on GMO detection assays validated according to international standards; and the Central Core DNA Sequences Information System (CCSIS), a database containing annotated GMO DNA-sequences downloaded from public DNA-sequences databases or submitted as part of the GMO authorisation procedures.

2 May [JRC contributes to annual analysis of European fishing fleet](#)

Based on the analysis by the JRC on behalf of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), the European Commission has recently published its annual report on the European fishing fleet. The report shows some progress towards achieving a balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities, although further work remains to be done to ensure that stocks are managed in order to achieve a Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY).