



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Strategy and Work Programme Coordination  
**Interinstitutional, International Relations & Outreach**  
Head of Unit

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## *CONCEPT PAPER*

### "Science meets Parliaments"



### **Introduction**

In order to **promote a culture of evidence-informed policy-making** the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in cooperation with the European Parliament's Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Panel launched "**Science meets Parliaments**". The event built on the STOA-MEP Pairing Scheme and similar concepts being organised on a regular basis in a few Member States. The launch event was organised for the first time at the EU level on 15 September 2015 and it brought together more than **120 participants**, and **13 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs)** participated in the bilateral meetings with scientific experts from both JRC and European umbrella scientific organisations on different topics of MEPs'

interest (such as patents, industry 4.0, circular economy, Digital Single Market, employment opportunities for young people etc). In addition, a special **best-practice panel for representatives of national parliaments** was organised in order to raise awareness about the initiative at national level.

Importance of **closer relations between policy-makers and scientists in the process of adopting evidence-informed European decisions** was defined as one of the most important outcomes of the Science meets Parliaments event. In this respect, both parliamentarians and scientists expressed their wish for continuing regular, deeper and direct inter-actions.

### **Science meets Parliaments 2016, 8 November 2016**

In order to respond to the MEPs and scientists expectation and to build upon outcomes of the successful launch event, the JRC and STOA are setting up **a tradition of regular annual Science meets Parliaments events in the European Parliament in Brussels, with the second edition to take place on 8 November 2016**. Alongside the European level, the 2016 edition will spread the concept to the national and regional level.

In the framework of "Science meets Parliament" there will be also bilateral meetings between MEPs and Scientists, in line with the traditional STOA MEP-Scientist Pairing Scheme.

The concept could also contribute to overall objectives of the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) aiming at providing high quality and independent scientific advice and bringing together evidence and insight from different disciplines.

### **Science meets Regions, 7 November 2016**

The 2016 edition of the Science meets Parliaments event will bring a new element, namely the active involvement of EU regions. The pilot event "**Science meets Regions**", which will take place on **7 November 2016**, will bring together **representative of EU regional authorities and scientists to exchange views on evidence-informed decision-making process at regional level**. Representatives of respective regional authorities and scientific experts from EU umbrella scientific organisations are proposed to participate in the pilot.

The outcomes of discussion will feed into high level panel debate during the Science meets Parliaments 2016: "Science for better European evidence-informed policy-making: Importance on national, regional and international dimension".

### **Programme**

The programme of the 2016 edition of the Science meets Parliaments will include an opening session with high-level representatives from the European Commission which will be followed by a panel on "Science for better European evidence-informed policy-making: Importance on national, regional and international dimension".

## DRAFT PROGRAMME

### SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENTS, 8 November, European Parliament (room ASP 1E2)

14h00 – 14h05 Promotional Science meets Parliaments video

14h05 – 15h30 Opening Session  
Welcome address by **Paul Rübige**, Chairman of STOA  
Session moderated by **Vladimír Šucha**, Director-General of the JRC

*Statements by:*

- **Tibor Navracsics**, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
- **Carlos Moedas**, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation (tbc)
- **Jerzy Buzek**, Chairman of the EP Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
- **Henrik Wegener**, Chairman of SAM High Level Group
- **Markku Markkula**, President of the Committee of the Regions (CoR)

15h30 – 17h00 **High-level panel:** Science for better European evidence-informed policy-making: importance of international, national and regional dimension

Moderated by **Eva Kaili**, Member of the European Parliament and STOA Vice-Chair

- **Pavol Šajgalík**, Slovak Academy of Sciences President (SK PRES 2016)
- **Francesco Russo**, Member of the Italian Senate (tbc)
- **Lidia Borrell-Damian**, Director for Research and Innovation, European Universities Association
- Global Young Academy Representative (tbd)
- **Sabine Ehrhart**, University of Luxembourg, MEP-Scientist Pairing Scheme
- **Kostadin Kostadinov**, Coordinator of the Expert Council Science, Technology and Innovation to the Mayor of Sofia

17h00 – 17h15 **Conclusions** by **Paul Rübige**, Chairman of STOA and **Vladimír Šucha**, Director-General of DG JRC

17h15 - **MEP-Scientist Pairing Scheme** (bilateral meetings between MEPs and scientists)

## DRAFT PROGRAMME

### SCIENCE MEETS REGIONS, 7 November, Committee of the Regions

14h30-15h00 Welcome coffee

15h00-15h15 Introductory remarks **Markku Markkula**, President of the Committee of the Regions and **Vladimír Šucha**, Director-General of DG JRC

15h15-17h15 "Challenges of evidence-informed policy-making at regional level"

Panel moderated by M. Markkula, President of the Committee of the Regions.

Panellists:

- **Guido Wolf**, Minister of Justice and European Affairs in Baden-Württemberg + **Cornelia Petzold-Schick**, Mayor of Bruchsal (tbc)
- **Mark Weinmeister**, State Secretary for EU Affairs in Hessen + **Jan Pieter Krahen**, Goethe University's House of Finance (tbc)
- **Franco Iacop**, President of the Regional Council of Friuli Venezia Giulia + **Ketty Segatti**, Director of Education and Research, Friuli Venezia Giulia (tbc)
- **Lubomír Petrák**, Chair of the Slovak National Council's Committee for education, science, youth and sport + **Robert Redhammer**, Rector of the Slovak University of Technology + **Michaela Musilova**, Slovak Researcher (SOSA Chair) (tbc)
- **Malina Edreva**, Councillor, Sofia Municipality + **Kostadin Kostadinov**, Scientific Advisor to the Mayor of Sofia (tbc)
- **Markku Markkula**, President of the Committee of the Regions + **Hannele Luukkainen**, Committee of the Regions' Member for Finland (tbc)
- **Maria Angeles Elorza Zubiria**, Secretary-General for External Action of the Basque Government + **Ana Oregi Bastarrika**, Minister of Environment and Territorial Planning, Basque Government (tbc)
- **Martin Kern**, European Institute for Innovation and Technology Director (tbc)

17h15-17h30 Conclusions by **Markku Markkula**, President of the European Committee of the Regions and **Vladimír Šucha**, Director-General of DG JRC

17h30-18h45 Networking cocktail

\* Translation to all relevant languages will be provided during the conference.