



JRC Newsletter

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Editorial



Encouraging increased co-operation between prominent Serbian scientific and technical organisations and the JRC, building on progress made, is an important part of the role I have been playing as Serbia's Deputy Prime Minister for EU Integration and Minister of Science and Technological Development.

Serbia is a potential EU candidate country and we are thus committed to aligning our national legislation with the body of EU Law. In October 2008 the Serbian government issued a policy paper on Serbia's 'roadmap' towards the EU with the aim of fully approximating with EU law by the end of 2012. In the field of science and research, however, our integration is already a reality.

The results of co-operation have been very encouraging, showing that the Serbian scientific community is well prepared to join a competitive programme such as the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development (FP7). Since January 2008, Serbia has been a part of FP7 and can participate in all its calls for proposals. More than 90 applicants have already obtained EU funding to engage in research and networking with leading research entities in the EU and the Western Balkans Region. Co-operation under FP7 also allows Serbia to participate in the wider European Research Area (ERA) and contribute, together with EU Member States, to the setting of European research priorities. More participation in the governance structures of the ERA will also help Serbia to become more familiar with EU decision-making processes, which will eventually facilitate its integration into the EU.

The JRC is instrumental in accelerating Serbia's uptake of the complex scientific and technical aspects of EU legislation. We are in the process of identifying priority areas for collaboration along with the best Serbian institutes. Mutual technical visits have allowed identifying topics of common interest and added value. The Ministry of Science and Technological Development plans to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the JRC to better coordinate and follow-up on our collaboration in the future.

We strongly appreciate the support of the JRC and the Commission's Research Directorate General for our effort to promote FP7 in Serbia. On 29 June we jointly organised a high-level conference entitled "Towards Serbia's Integration into the European Research Area" in Belgrade, opened by Commissioner for Science and Research Janez Potočnik and I. More than 400 experts attended the conference, with 36 speakers from both the EU and Serbia including government Ministers, Heads of universities and the media.

During the event I presented Serbia's draft strategy for scientific and technological development for the period 2009-2014 (available at www.nauka.gov.rs/eng). In this period Serbia plans to boost its research spending from the present level of 0.3% of GDP to 1.0% in 2014. We proposed to "focus and partner": focus on the limited number of areas where Serbia can contribute to science and create intellectual property; partner with international institutions and companies to achieve maximum results in priority areas. Overall, Serbia aims to become a knowledge economy and net contributor to the Lisbon agenda. I also pointed out that the integration of our country into the ERA is an important step in the pre-accession process for EU membership. With this goal in mind, we greatly look forward to further co-operation with the JRC.

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Report on fossil fuel electricity generation in the EU

The JRC's Institute for Energy (IE) published a report on 1 July examining the technologies and fuel options necessary for the EU to achieve its energy and climate

change goals, taking into account the probability that fossil fuels will continue to play an important role in European power generation in the short and medium term.

The JRC Reference Report, entitled *Future fossil fuel electricity*

generation in Europe, foresees a need for up to 635 GW of new fossil fuel power plant capacity, assuming that fossil fuel power generation will remain the backbone of the EU power system until at least 2030. The report emphasises that the share of non-fossil fuel power generation needs to be increased and that the share of fossil fuel power generation will be compatible with the EU policy goals only if three factors converge: the commercialisation of carbon capture technology, optimal carbon credit prices in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme and higher global coal and gas prices.



JRC Reference report: *Future fossil fuel electricity generation in Europe*

<http://www.jrc.ec.europa.eu/rr>

Contaminated sunflower oil: testing labs measure up

Following the discovery of contamination in sunflower oil imported from Ukraine in April 2008, the JRC tested 55 analytical laboratories from 17 EU Member States plus Switzerland and

Ukraine to determine their capability to measure levels of the contaminant – mineral oil – in sunflower oil. The test results are now available and show that around 80% of laboratories performed satisfactorily.

The JRC was asked by the Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers to scrutinise the capabilities of official control laboratories and industrial food laboratories to measure mineral oil in sunflower oil. The JRC Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM) organised the tests and analysed the results, determining that between 78% and 85%

of the laboratories were able to measure satisfactorily, depending on the test material.

European Commission Decision 2008/433/EC prohibits the importation of sunflower oil from Ukraine unless it is accompanied by a valid certificate for the level of mineral oil present. The decision also stipulates that even once Ukrainian authorities have put in place a control and certification system, Member States should for the time being also double-check the values declared.



Samples used during the proficiency test campaign

<http://irmm.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

Liquefied Natural Gas: advantages and drawbacks

A new report from JRC-IE published on 7 July looks at the likely impact of increased reliance on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for energy production and more shipments of LNG to the European Union. The report concludes that LNG may remain an expensive energy option for the foreseeable future, with both affordability and geo-political issues expected to remain key factors in this

area of the energy sector. The JRC Reference Report is intended as just one source of information in a number of elements to be taken into consideration in the development of EU energy policy.

The sharp rise in energy prices and temporary cutbacks in pipeline gas imports from Russia in the recent past have raised concerns about the EU's gas supply. Delivering LNG by sea has been seen by many as a solution, and over the last

decade LNG has become one of the world's fastest-growing sources of energy.

Entitled "Liquefied Natural Gas for Europe – Some Important Issues for Consideration", the report examines the benefits and drawbacks of the EU's greater use of LNG shipments by 2020 in five areas, namely security and diversity of supply; affordability; energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions; quality and shipping issues.

Research was carried out in the framework of the JRC's ongoing research in the assessment of energy technologies and systems, in liaison with the European Commission's Directorate General for Energy and Transport.



JRC Reference report: Liquefied Natural Gas for Europe – Some Important Issues for Consideration

www.jrc.ec.europa.eu/rr

A European response to forest fires

Following the spread of major forest fires in Corsica earlier this July, French authorities made a request for additional fire fighting aircraft through the European Commission's Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC), based in Brussels. The MIC responded by providing European reserve fire-fighting aircraft within three hours of the request.

This is the first time that the MIC, which is the operational heart of the EU's Community Mechanism for

Civil Protection, is responsible for dispatching aerial means to support fire fighting in the Member States. Run by the European Commission's Directorate General for Environment and supported by the JRC, it serves as a communications hub at the centre of emergency relief operations, disseminates information on civil protection preparedness and supports co-ordination, facilitating the provision of European assistance through the Mechanism.

The JRC's European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) supports

forest fire-fighting services in EU countries and provides updated and reliable information on wildland fires in Europe to Commission services such as the MIC and to other organisations in the field. The JRC recently implemented a new EFFIS application that provides detailed information on the situation of serious fires across Europe to the MIC, using local information on the areas in question such as populations at risk, nearby villages or towns, road networks and hospitals. The application was created by scientists from the JRC's Institutes for Environment and Sustainability (IES) and for the Protection and Security of the Citizen (IPSC), and allows the status comparison of simultaneous fires in Europe, thus supporting MIC decision-making when dispatching aircraft such as the Canadair planes used to fight the recent fires in Corsica.



Forest fires in Corsica in 2006

<http://effis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/biocides/>

Renewable Energy Snapshots published

A series of 'snapshots' of the current state of renewable energy sources and their use in Europe were published on 29 June by the JRC, providing a timely update on the potential of wind, solar and biomass energy to contribute to the EU's binding target of 20% electricity generation from renewable energy sources by 2020.

Based on updated data from the European solar and wind industry,

the latest snapshots show that the currently installed capacity of both solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind energy already greatly exceeds the 2010 targets proposed in the EU White Paper on Renewable Sources of Energy (1997). However, the JRC concludes that the ambitious 2020 targets can be achieved only if the necessary investments are made to ensure that the system is able to absorb and distribute the additional electricity.

Produced by JRC-IE, the snapshots provide a concise summary of key

trends in renewable electricity for decision makers in industry and government who are currently formulating National Action Plans (NAPs) on renewable energy sources. EU Member States are to submit these Action Plans by 31 March 2010. The NAPs will incorporate binding targets for renewable electricity generation endorsed by the European Council in March 2007 and included in the EU Climate Change Package, which was approved by the EU and its Member States in December 2008.

<http://ie.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

New approach to the treatment of prostate cancer

TJRC scientists from the Institute for Transuranium Elements (ITU) together with researchers from the University Hospital Basel (UHB) in Switzerland have presented a joint study on a novel prostate cancer treatment based on alpha-immunotherapy using peptides labelled with alpha-emitting Bismuth-213. The study was selected as an outstanding contribution from approximately 2,600 papers presented at the 3rd International Symposium on Radionuclide Therapy and Radiopharmaceutical Dosimetry (ISRTRD) in Toronto, Canada (13-14 June). The 6th Alpha-immunotherapy Symposium was held as part of the

event, which was hosted by the Society of Nuclear Medicine as part of their annual meeting (<http://www.snm.org>).

JRC scientists from ITU and the Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (IHCP) have also been nominated for the European Association of Nuclear Medicine's 2009 Marie Curie Award for a paper on "*In-vitro* and *in-vivo* comparison of Thorium-226 and Bismuth-213 labelled radio-conjugates for targeted alpha therapy". This is the result of a collaborative project with the University of Ulm and Technical University of Munich, describing methods for the production of alpha emitters U-230/Th-226 and comparing radioconjugates labelled



Labelling of antibodies with Bismuth-213 for targeted tumour therapy

with the alpha emitters Bi-213 and Th-226 using *in-vitro* as well as *in-vivo* methods.

<http://itu.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php?id=202>

Alien species in our waters

On 17–18 June 2009 the JRC's Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES) and JRC researchers involved in the European Ecological Water Quality Assessment and Inter-calibration (EEWAI) organised an international workshop on "Invasive alien species (IAS) and the Water Framework Directive (WFD)" with the aim of determining how alien

species are incorporated in WFD ecological status assessments. "Alien" species, subspecies or lower taxon are those found outside their normal habitats and include any part (e.g. seeds or eggs) that might survive and subsequently reproduce.

The workshop was attended by 20 experts from 10 countries, a representative from the International

Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment and specialists in marine and freshwater alien species. A series of recommendations resulting from the workshop will be presented to the WFD Ecological Status Working Group at their meeting in October.

<http://ies.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php?page=81>



The fungus '*Aphanomyces astaci*', imported with farmed red swamp crayfish ('*Procambarus clarkii*', above) from North America to Europe, may be lethal to non-American species

Call for expressions of interest: ECVAM Scientific Advisory Committee

The European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM), hosted by the JRC's Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (IHCP), is renewing its Scientific Advisory Structure. An open call for the expression of interest to become member of the ECVAM Scientific Advisory Committee (ESAC) has been published on the ECVAM website. Deadline for submission is 30 September 2009.

The 19 ESAC members will be in charge of advising ECVAM on all scientific aspects of its work and in particular with regard to the scientific validity of methods that would replace, reduce or refine animal experiments. The ECVAM plenary will be supported by specialist experts who will prepare peer reviews of validation reports and provide specialist input to ESAC whenever needed.

The mission of ECVAM is to support EU policies aimed at the protection of consumers, the environment and



ECVAM -
European
Centre for the
Validation of
Alternative
Methods

animals, by validating alternatives to animal tests for the toxicity/safety and efficacy/potency testing of chemicals, cosmetics and other products.

<http://ecvam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

Preservation of nuclear knowledge

The JRC has launched a new website, entitled CAPTURE, dedicated to the preservation and dissemination of knowledge in the field of nuclear science and research.

Part of a project run by the JRC's Institute for Energy (IE), the website provides visitors with useful links to databases from International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) and the JRC along with various other training resources in the nuclear field. The initiative aims to disseminate nuclear knowledge (documents, competences and data) concerning a broad spectrum of components and technologies, in order to make it easily accessible to future generations through modern informatics tools and training and education measures.



CAPTURE: knowledge management in the field of nuclear research

JRC scientists from the CAPTURE project also organised a training course on the new generation of nuclear reactors in collaboration with the University of Pisa (Italy) at JRC-IE in Petten, the Netherlands, on 29 June 2009. Issues addressed included the

physics, design and safety features of Sodium Fast Reactors, Supercritical Water Reactors, CANDU Supercritical Water Reactors, Very High Temperature Reactors and Heavy Liquid Metal Reactors, as well as numerical tools and methods used for R&D activities in 'Generation IV' nuclear reactor projects.

<http://capture.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

Re-evaluating the half-life of Plutonium 241

Plutonium 241 (^{241}Pu) has a half-life of approximately 14.35 years, which is the shortest half-life of the plutonium isotopes in materials recovered from irradiated nuclear fuel, making it important for the measurement of plutonium levels for accountability purposes. Any correction of the decay of ^{241}Pu thus makes a considerable contribution to the overall uncertainty in the total amount of plutonium, especially after storage for several years. Using state-of-the-art mass spectrometric reference measurements, JRC-IRMM has published a new half-life value for the substance in the *Journal of Analytical Atomic Spectrometry*. The new value is 14.325 ± 0.024 years, which is slightly shorter than the established value of 14.35 years recorded in the *Karlsruher Nuklidkarte* (7th edition).

<http://irmm.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

Hydrogen suppresses UO_2 corrosion

JRC-ITU scientists Paul Carbol, Patrick Fors and Thomas Gouder have been investigating the role of molecular hydrogen in suppressing the dissolution of spent nuclear fuel.

Such hydrogen could be generated by the corrosion of canister iron by ground-water in deep bedrock repositories for nuclear waste. They have published a paper on their findings in the May 2009 edition of the scientific journal *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* in collaboration with Kastriot Spahiu of Chalmers University of Technology, Chemical and Biological Engineering in Gothenburg, Sweden.

The release of long-lived radionuclides such as plutonium and caesium from spent nuclear fuel in deep geological repositories will depend mainly on the dissolution rate of the uranium dioxide (UO_2) fuel matrix. This dissolution rate will, in turn, depend on *redox* (reduction-oxidation reaction) conditions at the fuel's surface.

The results of the research show that in presence of hydrogen this process may be disrupted and that consequently, radiotoxic fission products captured in a UO_2 matrix should remain immobilised in a repository.

<http://itu.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

17th European Biomass Conference & Exhibition Hamburg, Germany, 29 June – 2 July

The 2009 European Biomass Conference and Exhibition was held in Hamburg, Germany, from 29 June to 2 July. Speaking at the opening of the event, conference chairman and Director of the JRC Institute for Energy (IE) Giovanni De Santi explained that the future of biofuels for transport must be underpinned by “robust science”, to ensure that targets set in the EU’s renewable energies legislation are met.

The Renewable Energy Directive says that renewables must represent at least 10% of petrol and diesel consumption in the transport sector in EU Member States by 2020. It also says production of biofuels must be sustainable, and calls for the commercial development of “second-generation” biofuels.

Biomass is a renewable energy source derived from biological materials such as wood, waste or alcohol. Biomass is commonly plant matter grown to generate electricity or produce heat.

To anticipate the aims of the Directive, a Biofuels Task Force was created at JRC-IE in March 2008. It is working on a wide range of scientific programmes to provide reliable data to support the development of biofuels.

The JRC Biofuels Task Force reflects EU energy policy priorities and is currently working on a number of specific issues such as: guidance for land-owners on ways to calculate the carbon emissions

impact of converting their land to biofuels production; defining “degraded land” in order to support the objective of maximising the production of biofuels from land unsuitable for agriculture; calculating default values for common biofuels production pathways based on “well-to-wheels” research and developing a methodology to assess greenhouse gas emissions resulting from indirect changes of land use.

<http://p30322.typo3server.info/>



JRC-IE Director Giovanni De Santi at the 17th European Biomass Conference

6th World Conference of Science Journalists London, UK, 30 June – 2 July

The 6th World Conference of Science Journalists (WCSJ) gathered over 900 science journalists and communicators from around the world in London at the end of June in order to discuss the role of scientific media in reporting on critical global issues as well as the latest advances in science and technology.

One of the many highlights of the conference was a workshop organised by the JRC on the opening day of the event on the topic of “Green Energy Technologies”. The session sought to answer two questions: “Can technology save the world from climate change?” and “Have the recent economic problems

damaged the chances of bringing green tech to market (and should we be worried about it)?”

Giovanni de Santi, Director of JRC Institute for Energy (IE) and Heinz Ossenbrink, Head of IE’s Renewable Energies team, were on the panel for discussion and to take questions from journalists. The session was chaired by Alok Jha, *The Guardian* newspaper’s Science and Environment correspondent.

The workshop focused on the role of green energy technologies in the energy mix of the future, the need to stimulate EU research and promote investment and the use of energy technologies such as photovoltaic solar power, light emitting diode (LED) technologies, biofuels and carbon capture and storage (CCS).



JRC Director-General Roland Schenkel speaking at the International Dinner during WCSJ 2009

Another highlight of the JRC's participation in this event was the international dinner co-hosted together with the WSCJ to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of the JRC-Ispira research site. It brought together a select group of 45 top journalists, scientists and decision makers at the Royal Institute of Great Britain.

Participants included Professors John Beddington and Patrick Cunningham, Chief Scientific Advisers to the Government of the UK and Ireland respectively, as well as Sir David King (Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, former UK Chief Scientific Adviser).

<http://www.wcsj2009.org/>



JRC-IE Director Giovanni de Santi addresses journalists at the Green Energy Technologies workshop during WCSJ 2009

Sweden on Stage – A Green Mission
London, UK, 4 July

On Saturday 4 July, JRC staff participated alongside colleagues from the European Commission's Representation in the UK and in the presence of Commission Vice-President Margot Wallström at the "Sweden on Stage – A Green Mission" family event at



Sweden holds the current Presidency of the EU

Hampstead Heath, London, as part of the City of London Festival and to mark the launch of the Swedish

Presidency of the European Union. The European Commission stand featured information on the European Commission's climate-change action as well as on the JRC's role in research on soil biodiversity and in protecting European citizens from floods and forest fires.

<http://www.se2009.eu/>

Emissions from two-stroke scooters
Monza, Italy, 11 – 14 June

An international "Conference on Emissions from Two-Stroke Scooters", jointly organised by the JRC, the University of Biel (Switzerland) and the Swiss Federal Office for Environment and Energy, took place as part of the *Aria Nuova* event in Monza, Italy on the 10th and

11th June. The conference looked at the issue of toxic emissions from scooters with 2-stroke engines, ways to reduce them and various other technical and legislative aspects. In the framework of the same event, the JRC Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES) transport technologies and emissions specialists also assisted the Fédération Internationale de

l'Automobile (FIA) in the running of the "FIA Alternative Energies Cup" competition, using portable emission measurement systems to determine the exhaust emissions of advanced vehicles running on alternative fuels.

<http://ies.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php?page=action-13202>



Research activities at the JRC's Vehicle Emissions Laboratories (VELA)

5th Summer School on Actinide Science and Applications

Karlsruhe, Germany, 16–19 June

The 5th Summer School on Actinide Science and Applications was held at the JRC Institute for Transuranium Elements (ITU) in Karlsruhe mid June. JRC-ITU hosts the Summer School at its laboratories every two years, allowing young researchers from all over the world to benefit from lectures, scientific laboratory visits and demonstrations.

The 2009 Summer School was co-sponsored by the ACTINET European network of excellence for actinide sciences. The Summer School is aimed at students and young researchers who have an interest in basic actinide chemistry, physics and material science. Lectures featuring experts from various international organisations and JRC-ITU addressed issues including basic actinide science, the nuclear fuel cycle, reactor fuel under irradiation and aspects of actinides in the environment.

The school gave participants a glance at the intriguing science of the '5f elements' such as uranium,

neptunium and plutonium, and its application in modern society. Lectures were given during the morning session, with the afternoons devoted to visits of the laboratories of ITU and the neighbouring German research centre *Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe* (FZK).

<http://itu.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

UPCOMING

24th European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference

Hamburg, Germany,
21 – 25 September

The 24th European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference will be the most important international conference in the field of photovoltaics of 2009. The event will provide an excellent platform for dialogue and information exchange from around the World.

JRC-IE Renewable Energies specialists are co-ordinating the Technical Programme for the conference.

<http://www.photovoltaic-conference.com/>

First meeting of European Network on Soil Awareness

Osnabrück, Germany,
27-29 September

The first meeting of the European Network on Soil Awareness (ENSA) will take place in Osnabrück in September 2009.

ENSA is an initiative of the European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA) which is supported by both the JRC and the European Commission's Directorate General for Environment.

The meeting will include the European Soil Bureau Network (ESBN) Working Group on soil awareness and education. The need to raise public awareness of the importance of soil and the need for soil protection is a cornerstone of the EU's Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection and the proposed Soil Framework Directive. The ESBN is a pan-European network of soil scientists managed by JRC-IES, supporting soil-related research relevant to European policy-making.

http://eusoiils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/future_events/ENSA.pdf

OTHER NEWS

European cooperation for aviation safety

Exchanging and analysing aviation-related data is key to the improvement of transport safety. This is the overall objective of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 17 June 2009 by the JRC's Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen (IPSC) and the *Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses pour la sécurité de l'Aviation Civile* (BEA), formalising and further expanding co-operation between the two organisations in the field of aviation safety.

During the past decade JRC-IPSC and BEA have worked together to introduce the use of the European Coordination Centre for Accident and Incident Reporting Systems (ECCAIRS) by the competent



ECCAIRS: exchanging and analysing safety data to enhance transport safety

national authorities in the EU, promoting a European approach to the issue on a global scale.

Through a shared approach to improving transport safety by exchanging and analysing safety data, JRC-IPSC and BEA will co-operate in several activities, including the future development of the ECCAIRS Reporting System and its application in the various

public transport domains; the provision of training and support to the public transport community; the maintenance, improvement and translations of transport safety taxonomies; the assessment and analysis of the collected information and the worldwide promotion of the ECCAIRS approach in the public transport community.

<http://eccairsportal.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

Serbian delegation visit

A high-level delegation of representatives from Serbian research institutions visited the JRC Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM) in Geel, Belgium on 16 June, to discuss ongoing research activities and possible future co-operation.



Serbia increasingly participates in FP7

Among issues addressed were international comparability measurements, Serbian research on food quality, safety and related technologies, the roles of Serbian research institutions including the Universities of Belgrade and Novi Sad and the JRC's work in support of EU food legislation and neutron measurements for safety and nuclear waste minimisation.

<http://irmm.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

ACP secretariat visit

On 19 June, a high level delegation from the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) Group of States' Secretariat visited the JRC in Ispra to explore possibilities for collaboration on sustainable development-related issues. The ACP Secretariat is responsible for the management of the ACP Group under the Cotonou Agreement on sustainable development and poverty reduction between the ACP countries and the EU. The delegation was composed of Secretary General Sir John Kaputin from Papua New Guinea and Assistant Secretary Generals Andrew Bradley from South Africa, Veniece Pottinger-Scott from Jamaica, Ferdinand Nyabenda from Burundi and Moss Lenga from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The visit was organised in the context of the JRC's "EU/African Strategic Partnership" thematic programme, with the objective of starting to define a structural framework to allow closer co-operation between the two organisations in dealing with scientific issues relevant for development co-operation, with particular regard

to the allocation and management of European Development Funds. The JRC is building the observation, monitoring, modelling and analytical capacity of the ACP Observatory for Sustainable Development, which provides scientific information, diagnostics and scenario building in support of development policies. The ACP Secretariat expressed strong interest in further developing the partnership and invited the JRC to make an exhaustive presentation of its activities at the next meeting of all ACP country Ambassadors in Brussels in September.

<http://acpobservatory.jrc.ec.europa.eu>



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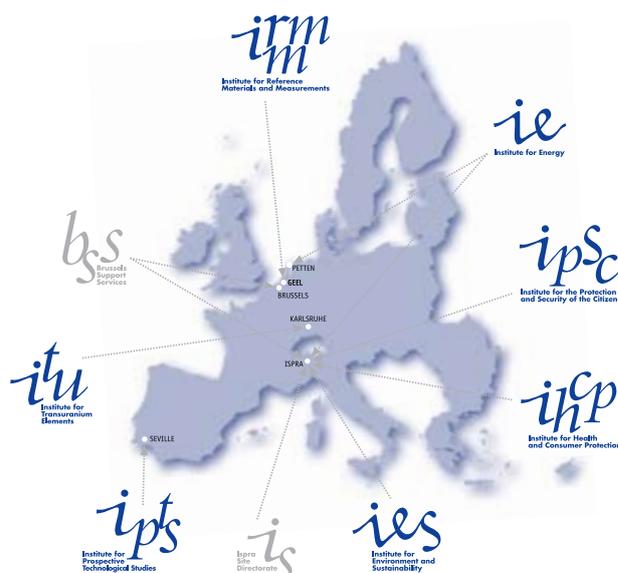
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p. 3: ildiva (Fire!)

p. 4: Duloup

(*Procambarus clarkii* top, commons.wikimedia.org)



The mission of the JRC is to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support for the conception, development, implementation and monitoring of EU policies. As a service of the European Commission, the JRC functions as a reference centre of science and technology for the Union. Close to the policy-making process, it serves the common interest of the Member States, while being independent of special interests, whether private or national.