SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENTS

Brussels, European Parliament
8 November 2016

#EUsci4PARL

Programme
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.
DRAFT PROGRAMME

8 November, European Parliament (room ASP 1E2)

14h00 – 14h05 Promotional Science meets Parliaments video

14h05 – 15h15 Opening Session
Welcome address by Paul Rübig, Chairman of STOA
Session moderated by Vladimír Šucha, Director-General of the JRC

Statements by:
- Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
- 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)

15h15 – 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
- Lidia Borrell-Damian, Director for Research and Innovation, European Universities Association
- 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 Rübig, Chairman of STOA and Vladimír Šucha, Director-General of DG JRC

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

*Translation will be provided in EN-DE-FR-IT