European Commission

Research and Innovation

10 NOVEMBER 2026

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Hybrid Event: Brussels & Online



EUROPEAN RESEARCH & INNOVATION DAYS

Time slot		*Room*
12:30	**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**	
14:00 – 14:30	**OPENING**	
	Ekaterina ZAHARIEVA	*European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation* **Enrico LETTA** | *Dean of the IE School of Politics, Economics, and Global Affairs at IE University, President of the Jacques Delors Institute and President of AREL* *Moderator:* **Florence RANSON**	Auditorium
14:30 – 15:30	**MAIN SESSION**	
	FREEDOM OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH – A EUROPEAN ADVANTAGE **Dan NICA** | *Member of the European Parliament* **Christian DROSTEN** | *Scientific Director, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin* **Katrin KINZELBACH** | *Professor of political science, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität and founder of the Academic Freedom Index* **Maryna VIAZOVSKA** | *Full Professor, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology of Lausanne (EPFL), Winner of the 2022 Fields Medal* **Lodovico FOLIN CALABI** | *Director and Representative, UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels & Representation to the EU* *Moderator:* **Marc LEMAÎTRE** | *Director-General, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission*	Auditorium
16:00 – 17:00	**PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS**	
	REMOVING REGULATORY BARRIERS TO BUSINESS SCALEUP **Aldo PODESTÀ** | *Chief Executive Officer of Giotto AI* **Marta ORTEGA-VALLE** | *Co-founder of GreenLight Biosciences* **Ann METTLER** | *Member of the European Innovation Council (EIC) Board, Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy* *Moderator:* **Ali AL-JABERI**	Auditorium
	BETWEEN OPENNESS AND SOVEREIGNTY – IMPLEMENTING THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURES **Rianne LETSCHERT** | *Minister of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands* **Stéphanie BALME** | *Director of the Center for International Studies (CERI), Sciences Po* **Andreas KAUFER** | *Director General, European Southern Observatory (ESO)* **Thomas HARTUNG** | *Professor and Chair, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health* *Moderator:* **Thomas BRENT**	Aquarium
	TRUST IS NOT ENOUGH **Tracey BROWN OBE** | *Director of Sense about Science* **Francesca FERLAINO** | *Full Professor, University of Innsbruck and Founder of Atominnen* **Gregor ČAVLOVIĆ** | *Writer, Director, Host, Veritasium* **Alexander GRABLOWITZ** | *Head of Unit for EU Research and Innovation policy in the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)* *Moderator:* **Roland PEASE**	Studio

Time slot		*Room*
16:00 – 17:00	**POLICY INFO SESSION**	
	SECURING EUROPE'S GROWTH: THE ROLE OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION POLICY	Cinema
17.00 – 18:00	**MAIN SESSION**	
	ALIGNMENT OF PUBLIC RESEARCH POLICIES **Luc SOETE** | *Emeritus Professor of International Economics, Maastricht University* **Teresa RIESGO ALCAIDE** | *Secretary General for Innovation, Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, and President of the Center for Technological Development and Innovation (CDTI)* **Brigita SERAFINAVIČIŪTĖ** | *Research Attaché, Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the European Union* **Timo VAN'T HOFF** | *Senior Vice President of Strategy, Business and Operations, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden* *Moderator:* **Florence RANSON**	Auditorium
MEET THE SCIENCE COUNSELLORS		
14.40 – 15.20	United States of America	R6
15.20 – 16.00	Canada	R6
16.00 – 16.40	Brazil	R6
16.40 – 17.20	African Union	R6
17.20 – 18.00	Egypt and the MENA region	R6
17:00 – 18:00	**AWARD CEREMONIES**	
	PRIZE FOR GOVERNANCE INNOVATIONS IN ENERGY COMMUNITIES	Aquarium
	CONNECTING SCIENCE AND SOCIETY: INSIGHTS FROM THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL'S 2026 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AWARD WINNERS	Studio
CONFERENCE EXHIBITION		Grand Hall

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11 NOVEMBER 2026

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Hybrid Event: Brussels & Online



EUROPEAN RESEARCH & INNOVATION DAYS

Time slot		*Room*
8:00	**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**	
10:00 – 14:30	**MEET THE EU SCIENCE COUNSELLORS**	
10:00 – 10:30	Israel	R6
10:30 – 11:00	Ukraine	R6
11:00 – 11:30	United Kingdom	R6
11:30 – 12:00	India	R6
12:00 – 12:30	Singapore and ASEAN	R6
13:00 – 13:30	China	R6
13:30 – 14:00	South Korea	R6
14:00 – 14:30	Japan	R6
	MAIN SESSIONS	
9:00 – 10:00	**ATTRACTIVE RESEARCH CAREERS IN EUROPE: TALENT, MOBILITY AND THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA** **Eszter LAKOS** | *Member of the European Parliament* **Helena CANHÃO** | *Secretary of State for Science and Innovation of Portugal* **Boris JOKIĆ** | *Director of the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb (IDIZ)* **Ciara JUDGE** | *Pandemic Sciences Research Fellow, University of Oxford* *Moderator:* **Florence RANSON**	Auditorium
10:00 – 11:00	**BRINGING IDEAS TO THE MARKET: THE ROLE OF BUSINESS ANGELS IN INNOVATION FINANCING** **Christine BJÄRKBY** | *Member of the European Business Angel Network (EBAN)* **Hélder SOUSA SILVA** | *Member of the European Parliament* **Reginald VOSSEN** | *President of Business Angels Europe (BAE)* *Moderator:* **Elena MARTINES** | *Member of the Cabinet of Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commission*	Auditorium
11:30 – 12:30	**PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS**	
	FROM RESEARCH EXCELLENCE TO TECHNOLOGICAL SOVEREIGNTY: EUROPE'S AI MOMENT **Tejs VEGGE** | *Professor, Technical University of Denmark (DTU) and Director of the Pioneer Center for Accelerating P2X Materials Discovery (CAPeX)* **Anita SCHJØLL ABILDGAARD** | *Co-Founder and CSO of Iris.ai* **Brando BENIFEI** | *Member of the European Parliament* **Aphra KERR** | *Professor of Digital Media & Communication and senior adviser at the Centre for Digital Policy, University College Dublin (UCD)* *Moderator:* **Roland PEASE**	Auditorium

Time slot		*Room*
	SPOTLIGHT ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS **Biljana BORZAN** | *Member of the European Parliament* **Siobhan JORDAN** | *Head of Technology Transfer and Commercialisation, Agriculture and Food Development Authority of Ireland (Teagasc)* **Sergio PONSÁ SALAS** | *Director of the BETA Technological Centre ,University of Vic – Central University of Catalonia (UVic-UCC)* **Richard ZALTZMAN** | *CEO of EIT Food* MODERATOR: **Agnes RØNBERG**	Aquarium
	STRENGTHENING OPEN AND SECURE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND SCIENCE DIPLOMACY **Ivars IJABS** | *Member of the European Parliament* HRH PRINCESS **Sumaya BINT EL HASSAN** OF JORDAN **Alexandre FASEL** | *State Secretary of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) of Switzerland* **Macharia KAMAU** *Member of the Global Commission on Science Missions for Sustainability under the International Science Council* *Moderator:* **Maria Cristina RUSSO**	Studio
11:30 – 12:30	**POLICY INFO SESSION**	
	MONITORING HORIZON EUROPE'S IMPACT THROUGH THE KEY IMPACT PATHWAYS	Cinema
13:30 – 14:30	**PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS**	
	PRINCIPLES AND VALUES UNDER A 'NEW WORLD ORDER' AND THE ROLE OF ASSOCIATION POLICY **Daniela MORARI** | *Ambassador, Head of the Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union* **Nipun VATS** | *Assistant Deputy Minister for Innovation, Science and Economic Development, Canada* **Alison NOBLE** | *Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society, United Kingdom* **Tony HAYMET** | *Australia's Chief Scientist* *Moderator:* **Marc LEMAÎTRE** | *Director-General, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission*	Auditorium
	GENDER EQUALITY AS A CATALYST FOR COMPETITIVENESS **Marcela LINKOVÁ** | *Head of the Centre for Gender and Science, Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences* **António CAMPINOS** | *President of the European Patent Office* **Lina GÁLVEZ MUÑOZ** | *Member of the European Parliament* **Conny AERTS** | *Professor, KU Leuven and Member of the Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC)* *Moderator:* **Dave KEATING**	Studio
13:30 – 14:30	**POLICY INFO SESSION**	
	HORIZON EUROPE WORK PROGRAMME 2026-2027: BRIDGING ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE INNOVATION TO INVESTMENT JOURNEY	Cinema
14:30 – 15:00	**CLOSING**	
	Christian EHLER | *Member of the European Parliament* **Marian HARKIN** | *Minister of State, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science* **Ekaterina ZAHARIEVA** | *European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation* *Moderator:* **Florence RANSON**	Auditorium
	CONFERENCE EXHIBITION	Grand Hall

All sessions will be live streamed on YouTube and R&I Community platform

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