**Safer borders: towards certified detection equipment against illicit trafficking**



The JRC has just launched the second phase of the Illicit Trafficking Radiation Detection Assessment Programme (ITRAP+10), which will focus on testing mobile radiation detection equipment and investigating the integration of radiological, nuclear and explosives detection techniques. By organising a proficiency test, phase II takes a step towards the establishment of a network of accredited laboratories in the EU, able to certify radiation detection equipment against international or European Standards. 17/02/14 [View related content](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/index.cfm?id=1410&obj_id=19180&dt_code=NWS&lang=en&ori=HLN)

**New soil atlas: Latin America and Caribbean**



The first ever comprehensive overview of the soils of Latin America and the Caribbean, coordinated by the JRC, was presented today at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Chicago. This is the latest in a series of JRC soil atlases and the result of a fruitful collaboration with leading soil scientists in Europe, Central and South America and the Caribbean. It explains and highlights the importance of soil, a precious non-renewable resource which provides food, fodder and fuel for 580 million people. 14/02/14 [View related content](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/index.cfm?id=1410&obj_id=19140&dt_code=NWS&lang=en&ori=HLN)

**Science for policy: JRC showcases its multi-disciplinary work at the AAAS**



JRC-organised symposia focusing on scientific support to fields as diverse as global trade, fisheries, soil, behavioural economics and cybersecurity feature in the rich programme of the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). This year's edition kicks off on 13 February and will run for 5 days in Chicago (USA). 13/02/14 [View related content](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/index.cfm?id=1410&obj_id=19110&dt_code=NWS&lang=en&ori=HLN)

**Strengthening cooperation for countering nuclear and radioactive smuggling**



A counter nuclear smuggling workshop, co-hosted by the Institute for Transuranium Elements of the European Commission Joint Research Centre and the United States of America, took place on 11-13 February. The International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB) indicates that nuclear and radioactive materials continue to be encountered out of regulatory control. 13/02/14 [View related content](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/index.cfm?id=1410&obj_id=19100&dt_code=NWS&lang=en&ori=HLN)

**JRC support to Commission's Recommendation on shale gas**



On 22 January, the European Commission issued a Recommendation on minimum principles for the exploration and production of hydrocarbons (such as shale gas) using high volume hydraulic fracturing in order to contribute to bringing clarity and predictability to public authorities, market operators and citizens. It invites Member States to follow minimum principles when applying or adapting their legislation applicable to hydrocarbons exploration or production using high volume hydraulic fracturing. 07/02/14 [View related content](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/index.cfm?id=1410&obj_id=19040&dt_code=NWS&lang=en&ori=HLN)

**New pan-European flood hazard map**



Several parts of Europe, notably Italy, France, Ireland and Great Britain, are currently facing floods following the heavy rains that started in December. In order to improve the management of such events, mapping is needed of where floods can occur under certain circumstances. In a recent article the JRC, together with the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather forecasts and the University of Bristol, presented a new pan-European flood hazard map, the first of its kind at 100-metre resolution. Flood hazard maps at river-basin scale are needed to improve flood risk management. 06/02/14 [View related content](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/index.cfm?id=1410&obj_id=19030&dt_code=NWS&lang=en&ori=HLN)