



About the Event

Taking place as a **satellite event of the European Research and Innovation (R&I) Days 2025**, the conference "**R&I for a Competitive Green Transition**" will showcase tangible solutions for Europe's green transition that are enhancing citizens' quality of life, boosting EU economic competitiveness, and implementing the EU Green Deal. Keeping an eye on the horizon, the event will also stimulate dialogue on new ways R&I can drive Europe's competitiveness and security while accelerating the green transition. Topics on the agenda include exploring the role of green and blue diplomacy in addressing global challenges, fostering the growth of green startups across Europe, combating green disinformation, and much more.

The event targets **high-level speakers and participants** including MEPs; EU, national, regional and local policymakers; investors and business representatives; researchers and R&I project representatives; NGOs and trade associations.

Overview of programme schedule

MONDAY 23 June – Charlemagne building - 16.00-18.30: opening of the exhibition and networking event (invitation-only)

TUESDAY 24 June - Charlemagne			
Time slot	Room de Gasperi (434 seats) & webstream	Room Mansholt (120 seats)	Room Jenkins (120 seats)
9:00 – 09:25	Welcome coffee		
9:30 – 09:45	Opening (Commissioner Zaharieva)	Listening room	Listening room
9:50 – 10:35	PLENARY SESSION "Building Alliances Through Science: Green and Blue Diplomacy for Global Challenges"	Listening room	n/a
COFFEE BREAK			
11:00-11:45	Policy Panel "Synergies for Sustainability: Strengthening Public- Private Collaboration in Green Innovation"	"Going green, going local: R&I Solutions for Regions, Citizens and Community Engagement"	(listening room for the "R&I solutions session")
11:55-12:40	PLENARY SESSION "Supporting the future: Promoting Green Startups and Scaleups"	Listening room	Listening room

LUNCH BREAK			
13:45– 14:30	PLENARY SESSION on Green DISINFORMATION "Science in an era of disinformation"	Listening room	n/a
14:40 – 15:25	Policy panel: "The whole is more than the sum of its parts: Building systemic approaches for the green transition" (will cover circularity, bioeconomy, nature-positive, food systems)	"R&I Solutions Session": Environmental Observation, Data, and AI tools for implementing the European Green Deal (incl DTO)	(listening room for the "R&I solutions session")
COFFEE BREAK			
15:50 – 16:35	Policy Panel: "Preparing together: Towards a Fair and Resilient green Transition"	"R&I Solutions Session on Fresh water and clean oceans: success stories and lessons learned"	(listening room for the "R&I solutions session")
16:45 – 17:30	PLENARY SESSION: "Unlocking Green Capital: Exploring Private and Public Funding Opportunities"	Listening room	n/a
17:35 – 17:50	Closing remarks (DG Marc Lemaître)	Listening room	n/a

Description of the sessions

Plenary sessions

"Building Alliances Through Science: Green and Blue Diplomacy for Global Challenges" - 09:50-10:35

A high-level discussion on the need for science diplomacy in the current geopolitical context.

Global challenges need global efforts to work in harmony with the natural environment which is under pressure. The power of diplomacy in science can be used for peace and for making the green and blue transition a reality at local level in cooperation with international partners. The EU benefits from a wider global outreach and invests strongly in specific networks such as the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA) spanning from the Arctic to Antarctica or in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

Confirmed speakers:

Angelo Riccaboni (Chair, PRIMA Partnership)

Pierre Bahurel (Director General, Mercator Ocean International)

Marion Jansen (Director, OECD)

Peter Heffernan (International Director, Alfred Wegener Institute)

"Supporting the future: Promoting Green Startups and Scaleups" - 11:55-12:40

A high-level discussion on how we can support green startups and scaleups. In many greentech sectors the EU has a good competitive position and scaling up potential (e.g. in energy storage, circular economy and agritech). But greentech companies face even more financing constraints than other innovative companies (capital intensive, higher technological and regulatory risks and longer time to market). Solidifying the EU's competitive advantage in this area means investing in R&I for greentech and increasing support for greentech through e.g. the Startup and Scaleup Strategy.

Confirmed speakers:

Kalle Fahlvik (Young Startup Policy Officer, Allied for Startups)

Kat Borlongan (Board Member, European Innovation Council)

Craig Johnston (co-founder, technology director Enough)

Gaëtane Suzenet (Managing Partner, European WaterTech accelerator)

"Science in an era of disinformation" – 13:45-14:30

A high-level discussion on how to tackle disinformation in relation to science and the green transition. How to implement meaningful solutions when public trust in science and policy is continuously threatened by a flood of misinformation. How to combat climate mis- and disinformation. Speakers will include e.g. academia but also journalists and policy-makers, relevant initiatives.

Confirmed speakers:

Emilie Domenech (journalist)

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Leena Ylä-Mononen (Executive Director, European Environment Agency)

Sandrine Dixon Declève (Founder, System Transformation Hub)

"Unlocking Green Capital: Exploring Private and Public Funding Opportunities" -16:45-17:30

A high-level discussion on financing for the green transition and how we can amplify investments in (R&I for) the green transition. As noted in the MFF Communication, financing the green, digital and social transition will require maximising public investment and leveraging private capital. How can we more efficiently align public funds at EU level with Member State funding and private financing?

Confirmed speakers:

Anita De Horde (Executive Director of Finance for Biodiversity Foundation),

Christel Dumas (Sustainable finance Professor and Associate Dean for Research, ICHEC Brussels Management School)

Teresa Cunha (Founder, MTConsulting)

Policy Panels

"Synergies for Sustainability: Strengthening Public-Private Collaboration in Green Innovation" - 11:00 – 11:45

Policy discussion focused on how we can use collaborations between public and private partners for R&I effectively and efficiently, to accelerate the green transition and foster green innovation. This may include established and new forms of public-private partnerships, with joint funding, aligned research and innovation agendas and other ways of collaborating. The discussion should focus on lessons learned of existing partnerships and other activities.

Confirmed speakers:

Ivelina Vasileva (Mission Ocean board member)

Nicolo Giacomuzzi-Moore (Executive Director Circular Biobased Europe JU)

Rafael Castillo (EU Project Manager, CTA Technological Corporation of Andalusia)

"The whole is more than the sum of its parts: Building systemic approaches for the green transition" -14:40 -15:25

Policy discussion focused on systemic visions for a competitive green transition. Such an approach not only recognises that surpassing planetary boundaries is a threat to wellbeing, but also that resource scarcity and supply disruptions will increasingly affect the economy. A systemic R&I policy starts from those areas where the EU has a comparative advantage and that align with well-being and sustainability goals. Examples of such systemic approaches include the circular economy, bioeconomy, nature-positive economy and food systems. The discussion should focus on lessons learned and how to amplify impact going forward.

Confirmed speakers:

Nanna Koefoed (Bioeconomy Youth Ambassador)

Måns Nilsson (Executive Director, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI))

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Marco Lambertini (Convener, Nature Positive Initiative)

Jessica Duncan (Associate Professor, Wageningen University)

"Preparing together: Towards a Fair and Resilient green Transition" - 15:50 –16:35

Policy discussion focused on how R&I can help us to achieve climate resilience, developing pathways for preparation while also addressing the social dimensions of the green transition. R&I has an important role to make sure that the green transition is a just and fair transition, making our societies resilient. It is important that policies to achieve sustainability do not create new inequalities or exacerbate existing ones. The impact of the green transition also tends to be unevenly distributed across territories, giving rise to "pockets of discontent".

Confirmed speakers:

Marije Klever (Chair of the Executive Board of BoerenNatuur Nederland)

Paola Lepori (Senior Expert, ICLEI European Secretariat)

Sebastian Villasante (Director, EqualSea Lab/CRETUS/Earth Commission)

Haris Doukas (Mayor of Athens)

R&I solutions sessions

"Going green, going local: R&I Solutions for Regions, Citizens and Community Engagement" – 11:00-11:45

A show-and-tell moment and discussion about lessons learnt and recommendations going forward. R&I solutions demonstrating the added value of the R&I Framework Programme for the green transition. In this session, the focus is on localised approaches and how to involve citizens and communities

Featured projects: FoodCLIC, Bio2Reg, Adaptation Agora, INCiTiS FOOD

"Environmental Observation, Data, and AI tools for implementing the European Green Deal" – 14:40-15:35

A show-and-tell moment and discussion about lessons learnt and recommendations going forward. R&I solutions demonstrating the added value of the R&I Framework Programme for the green transition. In this session, the focus is on the cross-roads between digital and green: how AI, data, digital technologies can help us accelerate the green transition.

Featured projects: GUARDEN, ClimateEurope2, AD4GD, ILIAD, OEMC

"Fresh water and clean oceans: success stories and lessons learned" – 15:50-16:35

A show-and-tell moment and discussion about lessons learnt and recommendations going forward. R&I solutions demonstrating the added value of the R&I Framework Programme for the green transition. In this session, the focus is on the successes and solutions in the "blue" areas of the green transition (water, oceans, blue economy etc).

Featured projects: SOS-WATER, CrossGov, SCENARIOS, Bridge BS, MERLIN