



Since its establishment in 2000, the European Research Area (ERA) has been aiming at guaranteeing free circulation of researchers, of scientific knowledge and technology. With a view to establishing a new communication on the future of the ERA, the European Commission is conducting a *Tour des Capitales* to get the opinions, views and experiences of researchers, decision-makers, citizens and other stakeholders in Europe. On March 20, Belgium hosts this *Tour des Capitales* with a debate on *The Future of the European Research Area & the Belgian Dreams*.

Location: Grand Auditorium - Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences, rue Vautier, 29, 1000 Brussels

Programme

- 09:30 Registration and welcome coffee
- 10:00 Welcome by Pierre Bruyere, Chairman a.i. of the Board of Directors of BELSPO
- 10:10 The European Research Area - presentation by Signe Ratso, Deputy DG for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- 10:30 Panel debate with:
- Koen Verlaeckaert, Secretary General Flemish Interuniversity Council (on behalf of VLIR and CREF)
 - Kourosch Abbaspour Tehrani, Scientific Director, INNOVIRIS
 - Peter Spyns, Co-ordinator International R&I Policy, EWI
 - Jos van Sas, Director External Affairs, Nokia Bell Labs / BIR&D
 - Rose Detaille, Head of Dept. of Research and Technological Development, SPW
 - Marc Vanholsbeeck, Director, FWB
 - Signe Ratso, Deputy DG for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- Moderator: Katrina Sichel
- 11:15 Debate with the audience
- 12:00 End of the debate