



SPOTLIGHT

European Parliament

Committee meetings and plenary session, Brussels Coming Week Highlights

Committee Meetings

ECB/Lagarde. The Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee will quiz the European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde on the implications for the ECB of the war in Ukraine, as well as on the high and disparate inflation in the Eurozone. (Monday).

Plenary - Brussels

President's Diary. On Monday and Tuesday, President Metsola will be in Finland where she will meet President Sauli Niinistö and the Speaker of Eduskunta (the Finnish Parliament) Matti Vanhanen (both followed by press points). She will also meet the Chair of the Grand Committee Satu Hassi and representatives of political parties represented in Eduskunta, attend the Plenary Session of Eduskunta, take part in a town-hall discussion with students, and deliver the keynote address at the Paasikivi Society on 'Europe's Security & Future'. On Wednesday, she will meet the President of the German Bundesrat Bodo Ramelow and Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez. On Thursday at 15.00, she will address heads of state or government during the EU summit, followed by a press conference

"This is Europe" debate with Croatia's Prime Minister Andrej Plenković. MEPs will discuss the state of the EU and its future prospects with the Prime Minister of Croatia, Andrej Plenković, on Wednesday at 15.00. This will be the fourth in a series of debates on the EU labelled "This is Europe".

Spring 2022 Eurobarometer. Parliament will publish its spring 2022 Eurobarometer public survey, carried out between 19 April and 16 May 2022, on citizens' perception of the EU (Wednesday).

EU summit/Candidate status of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia. On Wednesday afternoon, MEPs will outline their expectations for the 23-24 June European Council and will discuss whether Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia should be granted EU candidate status. A resolution on these countries will be put to the vote on Thursday.

EU COVID Certificate. MEPs will vote on a deal reached with EU ministers prolonging the EU Digital COVID Certificate scheme - set to expire on 30 June - for another 12 months, to ensure EU citizens the right to free movement even if a new variant of concern emerges (Thursday).

Russia and extremist EU parties. On Thursday morning, MEPs will debate the Russian government's relations with European parties on the extreme right and left, in the context of the war in Ukraine

Restocking EU gas reserves before winter. Parliament will debate and vote on an agreement with EU governments to refill Europe's strategic gas reserves more quickly before winter, to ensure households and businesses have enough gas for the next heating season (Thursday).



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President of Zambia. On Thursday at 11.00, Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia, will address MEPs in a formal sitting.

Link to all Full Weekly Agenda [here](#) and [here](#)

European Commission Coming Week Highlights

Ms Mairead McGuinness in Dublin, Ireland: meets with Mr Francesco Ceccato, CEO of Barclays Europe.

College Meeting on Wednesday

Weekly Calendar [here](#)

European Council and Council of the European Union Coming Week Highlights

June 20. [Foreign Affairs Council](#) The Foreign Affairs Council will be briefed on current affairs and the Ministerial Round will be able to exchange views on recent events and rapid developments in external relations. The Council will then discuss recent developments in the Horn of Africa and the EU's relations with Egypt. Finally, in the context of the special European Council of 30-31 May 2022 and the adoption of a sixth package of sanctions against certain sectors of the Russian economy and persons, the Council will hold an exchange of views on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

June 21 [General Affairs Council](#) Ministers will prepare the agenda of the upcoming European Council of 23 and 24 June. EU leaders will address the situation in Ukraine, discuss the economic situation, set out the way forward on the Conference on the Future of Europe and hold a strategic discussion on the European Union's relations with its partners in Europe.

23 - 24 June [European Council, 23-24 June 2022](#)

23 June [EU-Western Balkans leaders' meeting](#)

26 - 28 June [G7 summit, Schloss Elmau](#)

Highlights of Week 13 to 19 June 2022

European Parliament.

Highlights Week 13 to 19 June 2022

EU COVID Certificate: MEPs and Council agree to extend rules for another year

Parliament and Council negotiators have agreed to keep the EU Digital COVID Certificate framework in place for another year, until June 2023.

On Monday evening, negotiating teams from the European Parliament and the Council of the EU reached a deal to prolong the EU Digital COVID Certificate (EUDCC) scheme -set to expire on 30 June- for another 12 months. By extending the legal framework by a year, EU lawmakers want to ensure that EU citizens have the right to free movement in case there is a new variant of concern.

Link to EP report [here](#)

Taxonomy: MEPs object to Commission's plan to include gas and nuclear activities

MEPs in the two responsible committees objected on Tuesday to the inclusion of nuclear and gas in the list of environmentally sustainable economic activities.

In a joint meeting of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee and the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee on Tuesday 14 June, MEPs adopted an objection to the Commission's proposal to include specific nuclear and gas energy activities in the list of environmentally sustainable economic activities covered by the so-called EU Taxonomy, with 76 votes to 62 votes and 4 abstentions.

MEPs recognise the role of nuclear and fossil gas in guaranteeing stable energy supply during the transition to a sustainable economy. But, they consider that the technical screening standards proposed by the Commission, in its delegated regulation, to support their inclusion do not respect the criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities as set out in Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation.

The resolution adopted by MEPs also requests that any new or amended delegated acts should be subject to a public consultation and impact assessments, as they could have significant economic, environmental and social impacts.

Next steps

The resolution is scheduled for a vote during Parliament's plenary session of 4-7 July 2022. Parliament and Council have until 11 July 2022 to decide whether to veto the Commission's proposal. If an absolute majority of MEPs (353) objects to the Commission's proposal, the Commission will have to withdraw or amend it.

Link to EP report [here](#)

Serious breach of international law: MEPs call on UK not to adopt new bill

The UK Contact Group co-Chairs David McAllister, Bernd Lange and Nathalie Loiseau issued a statement on Tuesday after a meeting with Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič. They express their deep concern with the UK's unilateral action, which they said constitutes a serious and unacceptable breach of international law. The Northern Ireland Protocol Bill puts into question the credibility of the UK Government to comply with its international obligations under the Withdrawal Agreement and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, damages mutual trust and creates uncertainty for people, investors and business in Northern Ireland. We call upon the UK government and UK Parliament not to adopt the proposed bill and to return to

the discussion table to find practical, flexible and durable solutions within the legal framework of the Protocol.

Link to EP full statement [here](#)

MEPs to assess food corridors at the Polish-Ukrainian border

A delegation from the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, led by Chair Norbert Lins, will travel to the Polish-Ukrainian border on 20-21 June 2022.

During the visit, MEPs will visit the Medyka (rail) and Korczowa (road) border crossings to assess the import of Ukrainian agricultural commodities and the potential for alternative routes. The capacity for storing agricultural products will be the subject of an exchange of views between MEPs and Ukrainian business and trade representatives.

Link to EP report [here](#)

Internal Market Committee endorses agreement on Digital Services Act

On Thursday, Parliament's Internal Market Committee endorsed the provisionally reached agreement with EU governments on the Digital Services Act (DSA) with 36 votes in favour, 5 against and one abstention. The DSA, together with its sister proposal on Digital Markets Act (DMA), sets landmark standards for a safer and more open digital space for users and a level playing field for companies for years to come.

The new rules introduce new obligations for online platforms, proportionate to their size and to the societal risks they pose. Micro and small companies will have additional time to conform to the rules and will be subject to certain exemptions.

Penalties for non-compliance can reach up to 6% of platforms' worldwide turnover.

Link to EP report [here](#)

Greater consumer safety when shopping online and offline

On Thursday, the Internal Market Committee adopted its position on the EU's updated rules on product safety of non-food consumer products with 41 in favour, one against and two abstentions. MEPs adopted changes to enhance the safety of products sold in the EU and future-proof the existing legal framework. MEPs also clarified obligations for economic operators and online marketplaces and strengthened product safety requirements.

Next steps

Once the Council adopts its negotiating mandate, interinstitutional talks between Parliament and member states can start. Once an agreement is reached, it will have to be endorsed by Parliament and Council before its publication and entry into force.

Link to EP report [here](#)

European Commission. Highlights Week 13 to 19 June 2022 .

State Aid



Finland. The Commission has approved an [€500 million scheme](#) to support companies active in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Portugal. The European Commission has ranked easyJet first among the air carriers that have applied for the portfolio of up to 18 daily slots at Lisbon airport. The slots will be made available by TAP Air Portugal to mitigate possible undue competition distortions created by the restructuring aid it received from Portugal, as approved by the Commission in December 2021. As a result of [this decision](#), easyJet will be able to start operating new routes as of 30 October 2022.

Hungary. The Commission has approved a €226 million (HUF 90 billion) [Hungarian scheme](#) to support small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs') across sectors in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Statement by Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič on the UK government's decision to table a bill disapplying core elements of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland

Link to statement [here](#)

[Questions and answers on the Commission's reaction to the United Kingdom's bill overriding core parts of the Protocol on Ireland / Northern Ireland](#)

HERA secures vaccines for EU Member states in response to the monkeypox outbreaks

On Tuesday, HERA, the European Commission's Health Preparedness and Response Authority, concluded a contract with the company Bavarian Nordic to purchase 109 090 doses of their 3rd generation vaccines in response to the current monkeypox outbreaks. As the number of cases continues to grow, this agreement will make vaccines rapidly available to all EU Member States, Norway and Iceland.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

Commission launches infringement proceedings against the UK for breaking international law and provides further details on possible solutions to facilitate the movement of goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland

On Wednesday, the Commission launched infringement proceedings against the United Kingdom for not complying with significant parts of the Protocol on Ireland / Northern Ireland. Despite repeated calls on the UK government to implement the Protocol, it has failed to do so.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

Eurobarometer: Europeans set defence and energy autonomy as key priorities for 2022

A Eurobarometer released today shows that European citizens support massively a common security and defence policy and expect the EU to phase out its dependency on Russian sources of energy. The survey also confirms the large support for the EU's response to the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

European Commission recommends to Council confirming Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia's perspective to become members of the EU and provides its opinion on granting them candidate status

On Friday, the European Commission presented its Opinions on the application for EU membership submitted



by Ukraine, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova as invited by the Council. The Opinions are based on the Commission's assessment in light of the three sets of criteria to join the EU agreed by the European Council: political criteria, economic criteria and the ability of the country to assume the obligations of EU membership (EU *acquis*). The Opinions also take into account Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia's efforts in implementing their obligations under the Association Agreements (AA), including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTA), which cover significant parts of the EU *acquis*.

Next steps

Based on the European Commission's Opinions, the EU Member States will now have to decide unanimously on the next steps.

The applications for EU membership by Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova in light of the Commission's Opinions will be discussed at the next European Council on 23 and 24 June. In the meantime, the EU remains committed to continue to further strengthen ties and deepen their partnership to support Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, in line with our Association Agreements and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

[Statement by President von der Leyen on the Commission's opinions on the EU membership applications by Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia](#)

Commission sets out first analysis of the proposals stemming from the Conference on the Future of Europe

The European Commission has today adopted a Communication setting out how it can follow up on the outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

After a year of deliberations, the Conference came to an end on 9 May 2022. In the closing ceremony in Strasbourg, the Presidents of the European Parliament, Commission and Council received a final report from the Conference participants containing 49 wide-ranging, ambitious and forward-looking proposals and 326 individual measures.

Link to Commission statement and communication [here](#)

to Commission statement [here](#)

European Council and Council of the European Union Highlights Week 13 to 19 June 2022.

Foreign Affairs Council (Trade), 12-15 June

The Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) met in Geneva in the margins of the WTO ministerial conference.

At the beginning of the conference, the Council adopted conclusions setting out the EU's position for the negotiations. Subsequently, member states were consulted on a regular basis by the Commission on developments throughout the conference.

Link to Council report [here](#)

Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 13 June

Main topics on the agenda were:

- Discussion on the market situation, especially following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia

- Reciprocity of standards for imported agricultural products
- Fishing opportunities for 2023

Link to Council report [here](#)

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (Health), 14 June

The Council held a discussion on the proposal for a regulation on the European Health Data Space (EHDS).

This proposal for a regulation, adopted by the European Commission on 3 May 2022, is an essential pillar of the European Health Union. It aims to facilitate patients' access to their health data in electronic form and to facilitate sharing the data with healthcare professionals in the EU. It also aims to allow the re-use of such data by researchers, industry and public authorities, in a secure environment and under strict conditions.

Ministers welcomed the proposal for a regulation which, once adopted, will provide a stable legal framework to facilitate the exchange of health data within the Union, allowing inter alia to make the healthcare sector more efficient and to advance scientific research. Nevertheless, they noted the sensitive issues arising from this proposal, such as security and protection of data and the need to develop an area of trust for the benefit of all.

Ministers exchanged on the EU global health strategy. In light of recent events - including the COVID-19 pandemic and the health and humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine - an update of the current strategy - dating back to 2010 - appears necessary. On 19 May 2022, the Commission announced the launch of a process to develop a new EU global health strategy. Ministers welcomed this decision to launch the review process. They stressed the importance of this strategy in redefining the EU's global health priorities, such as strengthening health systems, preparing for and responding to health crises and promoting the One Health approach. Ministers also called for this strategy to strengthen the EU's influence on health on the international scene and the coordination between relevant EU actors.

During an informal exchange, ministers discussed the upcoming challenges of the EU's COVID-19 vaccination strategy, both in terms of vaccine acquisition at European level and also in terms of international solidarity.

Link to Council report [here](#)

Eurogroup, 16 June

Euro area enlargement – Croatia

Ministers discussed the euro introduction by Croatia, on the basis of the convergence reports by the Commission and the ECB. They decided to recommend that Croatia become the 20th member of the euro area.

Greece – end of enhanced surveillance

The Eurogroup discussed the fourteenth enhanced surveillance report on Greece.

Post-Programme Surveillance of Portugal, Cyprus, Spain and Ireland

The Eurogroup was briefed by the European Commission and the ECB on the main findings of the post-programme surveillance reports on Cyprus, Portugal, Ireland and Spain.

Banking Union

Ministers discussed the developments concerning the Banking Union, and adopted a statement on the future of the Banking Union.

Link to Full Council report [here](#)

Economic and Financial Affairs Council, 17 June

Main topics for discussion were:



Economic and financial situation
EU's new own resources
Anti-money laundering
Solvency II
Alternative investment fund managers directive
Implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and Poland's plan
European Semester 2022: country-specific recommendations agreed
Enlargement of the euro area: Croatia
Financial services legislation
Conclusions on "Code of Conduct" Group (business taxation)
International procurement instrument
Energy taxation directive
Link to Council report [here](#)

European Court of Auditors Highlights Week 13 to 19 June 2022.

Free movement in the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic – Limited scrutiny of internal border controls, and uncoordinated actions by Member States”

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) has just published special report 13/2022 “Free movement in the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic – Limited scrutiny of internal border controls, and uncoordinated actions by Member States” Link to report [here](#)

Special Report 15/2022: Measures to widen participation in Horizon 2020 were well designed but sustainable change will mostly depend on efforts by national authorities

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) has just published Special Report 15/2022: Measures to widen participation in Horizon 2020 were well designed but sustainable change will mostly depend on efforts by national authorities. Link to report [here](#)

Inter-parliamentary Meetings with National Parliaments French Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Date	Meeting	EP Committee	Location
27 June	“EU enlargement policy in the aftermath of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine”	AFET	EP, Brussels
TBC	Exchange of views on best practice regarding political budgetary scrutiny with selected national parliaments (including parliaments from the Visegrad Group - V4 countries)	CONT	EP, Brussels

Interparliamentary Meetings with National Parliaments Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union Second Semester

Date	Meeting	Presidency, EP Committee	Location
10 – 11 July 2022 (Sunday-Monday)	Czech Presidency. Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC	Czech Presidency	Prague (Senate in charge)
12 July AM	Interparliamentary Meeting on the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction.	DROI- JURI	EP Brussels
12 July PM	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the Rights of Ukrainian Women Fleeing the War	FEMM	EP, Brussels

Interparliamentary Meetings with National Parliaments Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union Second Semester

4 - 5 September 2022 (Sunday-Monday)	Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (IPC-CFSP/CSDP)	Czech Presidency AFET	Prague (Chamber in charge)
September - October (tbc)	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the assessment of the 2022 European Semester and on the Priorities for the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy.	ECON	EP, Brussels
10 – 11 October 2022 (Monday-Tuesday)	Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union (IPC-SECG)	Czech Presidency BUDG ECON EMPL	Prague (Chamber in charge)
24 – 25 October 2022 (Monday-Tuesday)	11th Meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol (JPSG on Europol)	Czech Presidency LIBE	EP ,Brussels,
26 October TBC	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the conclusions of the COFE and the role of national Parliaments in the EU (exact title tbc)	AFCO	EP, Brussels
13 – 15 November 2022 (Sunday-Tuesday)	LXVIII Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC)	Czech Presidency	Prague (Chamber in charge)
30 November (TBC)	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the current EU Foreign and Security Challenges (exact title tbc)	AFET	EP Brussels
November (tbc)	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on Eurojust	LIBE	EP, Brussels
December (tbc)	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on Rule of Law.	LIBE	EP, Brussels



Interparliamentary Meetings with National Parliaments Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union Second Semester

January/February 2023	Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments (EUSG)	Prague (Senate in charge)
April/May 2023	Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments (EUSC)	Prague (Senate in charge)

Sources: Websites of: European Parliament European Commission, European Council and Council of the European Union Council, European Court of Auditors and European Ombudsman.