



## European Parliament

### Committee and Political Group meetings, Brussels

#### Coming Week Highlights

**President's diary.** On Tuesday, EP President Roberta Metsola will meet the Executive Director of Europol, Catherine De Bolle. On Wednesday, she will meet Yulia Navalnaya and Leonid Volkov, Chief of Staff for Alexey Navalny and Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Foundation, before giving the opening address at the European Research and Innovation Days. In the evening, the President will be in Berlin for the "Night of European Ideas" and give the keynote speech. On Thursday, she will have a meeting with the Director General of the International Organization for Migration, António Vitorino.

**2022 Sakharov Prize.** MEPs on the Development and Foreign Affairs Committees and the Human Rights Subcommittee will present the candidates for this year's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. The nominees include the people of Ukraine and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, Brazilian environmental and indigenous activist Sônia Guajajara, and Colombia's Truth Commission (Monday).

**ECB President Lagarde.** European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde will hold her regular debate with the Economic Affairs Committee, the first since the ECB's decision to twice raise interest rates. MEPs are likely to quiz her on the ECB's monetary policy stance in a context of rapid inflation, and the new "Transmission Protection Instrument" (TPI) for purchasing national bonds under certain conditions. Afterwards, MEPs will discuss ongoing and upcoming taxation policy priorities with Economy Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni (Monday).

**Ukraine/Transport.** The Transport and Tourism Committee will talk to Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Infrastructure Mustafa Nanyem about the logistics situation in Ukraine, including the new 'grain corridor' via the Black Sea that was agreed on 27 July 2022 with Russia (Monday).

**Ukraine/Russian disinformation.** The EP Special Committee on Foreign Interference and Disinformation will hold a public hearing on "Russian disinformation and propaganda regarding Ukraine in the light of its war of aggression and its impact on democratic processes in the EU". Among the guest speakers are Dmitry Muratov, the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize laureate and editor-in-chief of Novaya Gazeta, and Olga Rudenko, editor-in-chief of Kyiv Independent (Thursday).

**Taiwan/Chinese disinformation.** The Special Committee on Foreign Interference and Disinformation will hold a debate with Taiwanese Digital Affairs Minister Audrey Tang on Taiwan's responses to Chinese interference (Thursday).

**Plenary preparations.** Political groups will prepare for the 3-6 October session, during which MEPs will debate and vote on rules for a common charger to reduce hassle for consumers and curb e-waste, on the EU Health Union to improve prevention, preparedness and response at EU and national levels, and adopt a resolution on the EU's response to soaring energy prices. Parliament will also discuss and vote on resolutions relating to the humanitarian situation in Pakistan following the devastating floods, the situation of Roma people living in settlements in the EU, and ending all illegal wildlife trade by 2025.

Link to all committee [meetings](#)



## European Commission Coming Week Highlights

<b>Wednesday</b>	College Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	Commissioner Mairead McGuinness receives Ms Sharon Donnery, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland; speaks at the dinner of 13th Rural Development Conference 'Building Sustainable, Resilient and Thriving Rural Places' of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in Cavan.
<b>Friday</b>	Commissioner Margrethe Vestager in Dublin: delivers a keynote speech at the event 'Ireland as a leader in a strong, digital EU', organised by Irish the Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC); delivers a keynote speech at the event 'Europe in Changing Times', organised by The Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA).
<b>Friday</b>	Commissioner Mairead McGuinness participates in the Russian Elites, Proxies, and Oligarchs (REPO) deputies TaskForce.

Link to full week's calendar [here](#)

## European Council and Council of the European Union Coming Week Highlights

<b>26 September</b>	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries Council</a> Main Topics: Agricultural production in Ukraine, Ministers will exchange views on fishing opportunities for 2023, including on fish stocks shared with the United Kingdom. They will also debate EU-Norway and coastal states annual consultations for the coming year.
<b>29 September</b>	<a href="#">Competitiveness Council (Internal market and industry)</a> Main Topics: Ministers will kick off with a policy debate on the upcoming proposal for a single market emergency instrument (SMEI), which the European Commission presented on 19 September 2022. Ministers will also have a policy debate on the proposal for ecodesign for sustainable products regulation (ESPR), which was presented by the European Commission in March 2022.
<b>30 September</b>	<a href="#">Extraordinary Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Energy)</a> EU energy ministers will aim to reach a political agreement on a proposal for a Council regulation on an emergency intervention to address high energy prices. The proposal aims to ease the pressure of high energy prices on citizens and the economy. It includes measures to shrink electricity demand in order to reduce electricity prices for consumers, and measures to redistribute the energy sector's surplus revenues to final customers.



## Highlights Week 19 to 25 September 2022

### European Parliament.

#### Highlights Week 19 to 25 September 2022

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No parliamentary meetings were scheduled as the week was set aside for committee delegations conducting visits linked to topics falling under their responsibility.

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### European Commission.

#### Highlights Week 19 to 25 September 2022

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##### **New Single Market Emergency Instrument (SMEI).**

On Monday, the Commission presented the new Single Market Emergency Instrument (SMEI). This crisis governance framework aims to preserve the free movement of goods, services and persons and the availability of essential goods and services in the event of future emergencies, to the benefit of citizens and businesses across the EU. While the Single Market has proven to be our best asset in crisis management, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted structural shortcomings hampering the EU's ability to effectively respond to emergency situations in a coordinated manner. Unilateral measures caused fragmentation, worsening the crisis and affecting particularly SMEs.

The Single Market Emergency Instrument complements other EU legislative measures for crisis management like the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, as well as EU rules for specific sectors, supply chains or products like health, semiconductors or food security, which already foresee targeted crisis response measures.

##### **Next Steps**

The proposals will now be discussed by the European Parliament and Council of the European Union. After adoption by the co-legislators, the Regulations will enter into force on the twentieth day following their publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Link to full details and Commission statement [here](#)

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The Commission has presented a new approach to support Member States increasing the uptake of cancer screening. Focusing on detection of cancers at an early stage, the objective of the proposed recommendation is to increase the number of screenings, covering more target groups and more cancers.

This new EU approach, based on the latest available scientific developments and evidence, will support Member States ensuring that 90% of the EU population who qualify for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings are offered such screening by 2025. The new recommendation also expands population-based organised cancer screening to include lung, prostate and, under certain circumstances, gastric cancers.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

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## **EU Cohesion Policy: €1.4 billion for Ireland's economic and social development and green transition in 2021-2027**

Ireland will benefit from €1.4 billion in Cohesion Policy funding between 2021-2027 to support the sustainable development of its economy. The details and strategy for these investments are set out in the Partnership Agreement between Ireland and the Commission that was formally launched on Tuesday.

These EU funds will help Ireland address regional disparities by boosting innovation and competitiveness, enabling the economy's digital transformation, investing in social inclusion, skills training and employment, and in the green transition.

Link to full details and Commission statement [here](#)

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## **Commission approves up to €5.2 billion of public support by thirteen Member States for the second Important Project of Common European Interest in the hydrogen value chain**

The Commission has approved, under EU State aid rules, a second Important Project of Common European Interest ('IPCEI') to support research and innovation, first industrial deployment and construction of relevant infrastructure in the hydrogen value chain.

The project, called "IPCEI Hy2Use" was jointly prepared and notified by thirteen Member States: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden.

The Member States will provide up to €5.2 billion in public funding, which is expected to unlock additional €7 billion in private investments. As part of this IPCEI, 29 companies with activities in one or more Member States, including small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs') and start-ups, will participate in 35 projects.

IPCEI Hy2Use will cover a wide part of the hydrogen value chain by supporting (i) the construction of hydrogen-related infrastructure, notably large-scale electrolyzers and transport infrastructure, for the production, storage and transport of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen; and (ii) the development of innovative and more sustainable technologies for the integration of hydrogen into the industrial processes of multiple sectors, especially those that are more challenging to decarbonise, such as steel, cement and glass. The IPCEI is expected to boost the supply of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen, thereby reducing dependency on the supply of natural gas.

Several projects are expected to be implemented in the near future, with various large-scale electrolyzers expected to be operational by 2024-2026 and many of the innovative technologies deployed by 2026-2027. The completion of the overall project is planned for 2036, with timelines varying in function of the project and the companies involved.

Norway, as part of the European Economic Area, also participates to the IPCEI 'Hy2Use' with two individual projects. The EFTA Surveillance Authority is in charge of assessing State aid notified by Norway.

IPCEI Hy2Use follows and complements the first IPCEI on the hydrogen value chain, the IPCEI "Hy2Tech", which the Commission approved on 15 July 2022. While both IPCEIs address the hydrogen value chain, Hy2Use focuses on projects that are not covered by Hy2Tech, namely hydrogen-related infrastructure and hydrogen applications in the industrial sector (while Hy2Tech focuses on end-users in the mobility sector).

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

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## **CETA turns 5**

Thursday marked the fifth anniversary of the provisional application of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). CETA is a central pillar of the political, trade and economic partnership between the EU and Canada.



CETA is a trade agreement between the EU and Canada and a cornerstone of bilateral relations. It entered into force provisionally in 2017 and will enter into effect fully once all EU Member States ratify it according to their national procedures. So far, 16 of 27 Member States have ratified CETA.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

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## **Non-transposition of EU legislation: Commission takes action to ensure complete and timely transposition of EU directives**

The Commission is adopting a package of infringement decisions due to the absence of communication by Member States of measures taken to transpose EU directives into national law (referred to as 'non-communication infringements'). The Commission is sending a letter of formal notice to those Member States who have failed to notify national measures transposing directives. In this case, there are 24 Member States who have not yet notified full transposition measures for 10 EU directives whose transposition deadline expired between 1st July and 31st August 2022. Member States concerned now have two months to reply to the letters of formal notice and complete their transposition, or the Commission may decide to issue a reasoned opinion.

Ireland is amongst the countries listed for infringement of the Workers' rights: Directive (EU) 2019/1152 on transparent and predictable working conditions

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

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## **European Council and Council of the European Union Highlights Week 19 to 25 September 2022.**

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### **General Affairs Council, 20 September**

#### **October European Council**

The Council started preparations for the European Council meeting on 20-21 October by discussing an annotated draft agenda. At the European Council meeting, leaders will revert to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and its consequences. They will also address the energy situation and economic issues.

#### **Conference on the Future of Europe**

Ministers exchanged views on the follow-up to the Conference on the Future of Europe.

The discussion focused on the possible use of passerelle clauses included in the Treaties to switch from unanimity to qualified majority voting in the Council, and Conference-related initiatives highlighted in the State of the Union address as well as in the related Commission's 'letter of intent' outlining key initiatives planned for 2023. Ministers were also informed about the Conference proposed measures where the Council could act on its own. During the debate on the follow-up to the Conference, ministers considered that priority should be given at this stage to the follow-up of the vast majority of Conference proposals and initiatives (approximately 95%) that can be implemented using all the possibilities offered by the current Treaty framework. Various views were offered on the issue of the extension of qualified majority voting in the Council by using passerelle clauses. Most of the ministers were open to consider the use of passerelle clauses in certain fields, on a case-by-case basis. Several ministers pointed out that further assessment was needed before they could express a detailed position on this issue or take a decision on this matter.

Ministers welcomed the Commission's plan to propose a number of legislative initiatives to follow up on the Conference, in line with the commitment taken by the three EU institutions when launching the exercise.



The presidency also briefed ministers on preparations for the feedback event for citizens, which is scheduled for 2 December.

### **EU-UK relations**

Ministers assessed the state of play of EU-UK relations, focusing on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement, in particular the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland.

European Commission Vice President Maroš Šefčovič updated ministers on the latest developments, following the UK government's decision to table legislation disapplying core elements of the Protocol in June 2022 and its reply to the ongoing infringement procedures on 15 September 2022.

Ministers reaffirmed their support to the European Commission's approach. They reiterated in particular the EU's readiness to constructively discuss a negotiated solution within the Protocol to the practical difficulties in implementing it on the ground.

### **Legislative programming**

As part of the annual legislative programming exercise, the Commission presented to the Council the 2022 Strategic Foresight Report and its 'letter of intent' with regard to the preparation of the Commission's work programme. Ministers outlined their views on the main priorities for next year and the initiatives that in their view are the most needed.

Link to Council report [here](#)

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### **Informal meeting of consumer protection ministers, 22-23 September**

Link to Council report [here](#)

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## **European Court of Auditors Highlights Week 19 to 25 September 2022.**

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### **The Members of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) today elected Tony Murphy as President for a renewable three-year term.**

Tony Murphy, an Irish national, will officially assume his new position on 1 October 2022, thereby becoming the 12th President of the institution. He is taking over from Klaus-Heiner Lehne, who has served as President since October 2016.

For Tony Murphy's full CV, please click [here](#).

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Presidency, EP Committee</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Postponed until autumn</b>	<b>Interparliamentary Meeting on the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction.</b>	<b>DROI- JURI</b>	<b>EP Brussels</b>
<b>September - October (tbc)</b>	<b>Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the assessment of the 2022 European Semester and on the Priorities for the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy.</b>	<b>ECON</b>	<b>EP, Brussels</b>
<b>10 – 11 October 2022 (Monday-Tuesday)</b>	<b>Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union (IPC-SECG)</b>	<b>Czech Presidency BUDG ECON EMPL</b>	<b>Prague (Chamber in charge)</b>
<b>24 – 25 October 2022 (Monday-Tuesday)</b>	<b>11th Meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol (JPSG on Europol)</b>	<b>Czech Presidency LIBE</b>	<b>EP ,Brussels,</b>
<b>26 October TBC</b>	<b>Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the conclusions of the COFE and the role of national Parliaments in the EU (exact title tbc)</b>	<b>AFCO</b>	<b>EP, Brussels</b>
<b>13 – 15 November 2022 (Sunday-Tuesday)</b>	<b>LXVIII Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC)</b>	<b>Czech Presidency</b>	<b>Prague (Chamber in charge)</b>
<b>30 November (TBC)</b>	<b>Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the current EU Foreign and Security Challenges (exact title tbc)</b>	<b>AFET</b>	<b>EP Brussels</b>
<b>November (tbc)</b>	<b>Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on Eurojust</b>	<b>LIBE</b>	<b>EP, Brussels</b>

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

<b>December (tbc)</b>	<b>Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on Rule of Law.</b>	<b>LIBE</b>	<b>EP, Brussels</b>
<b>January/February 2023</b>	<b>Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments (EUSG)</b>	<b>Prague (Senate in charge)</b>	
<b>April/May 2023</b>	<b>Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments (EUSC)</b>	<b>Prague (Senate in charge)</b>	

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