



European Parliament Plenary Session Strasbourg Coming Week Highlights

President's diary. President Roberta Metsola will meet Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson on Tuesday morning before the plenary debate, and afterwards they will hold a joint press conference. On Thursday and Friday, President Metsola will be in Davos, Switzerland, to participate in the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, where on Thursday she will take part in a panel discussion on "Widening Europe's Horizons" and meet Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković.

Digital workers. On Monday, President Metsola will announce a draft mandate to start negotiations with Council on measures to improve working conditions for workers on digital labour platforms. MEPs will have until Tuesday at midnight to decide whether to endorse or object to the mandate, and if enough objections are registered a plenary vote will be held on Thursday. The Parliament's Media Directorate will organise a briefing for journalists with the lead MEP on this issue on Wednesday lunchtime.

Waste shipments. MEPs will adopt their position ahead of talks with EU governments on a new law to reform EU procedures and control measures for waste shipments. The aim is to improve the environment and human health, while taking full advantage of the opportunities provided by waste for achieving a circular and zero-pollution economy. (debate Monday, vote Tuesday)

Swedish EU Council Presidency. On Tuesday at 9.00, MEPs will discuss the programme of Sweden's six-month Presidency of the Council, which started on 1 January, with Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson. Parliament's President Roberta Metsola and Prime Minister Kristersson will hold a joint press conference after the debate.

Prosecution of Russian war criminals. On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will quiz Commission representatives on the prospects of establishing a tribunal to consider prosecuting Russia for the crime of aggression against Ukraine. A resolution will be put to the vote on Thursday.


30th anniversary of the EU Single Market. After a short ceremony and debate with the Commission on Monday afternoon, on Wednesday MEPs will adopt a resolution on the 30th anniversary of the EU single market.

Election of a new EP Vice-President. MEPs will, on Wednesday, choose a new Parliament Vice-President following the removal of Eva Kaili.

Key debate/EU summit. On Wednesday morning, MEPs will debate the results of the 15 December EU summit and current affairs with European Council President Charles Michel and Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Uber lobbying in the EU. On Wednesday afternoon, MEPs will discuss with the Council and the Commission recent revelations concerning Uber's former lobbying practices in the EU, the situation of Uber drivers in Europe, and the extent to which Uber's lobbying activities have affected their labour and social rights.

Protest crackdown and executions in Iran. On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will discuss the EU's



response to the protests and executions in Iran with EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell. A resolution will be put to the vote on Thursday.

Link to Plenary [Agenda](#)

European Commission

Coming Week Highlights

16 - 20 January	World Economic Forum - Davos , participation of M. Valdis Dombrovskis, Mme Věra Jourová, M. Johannes Hahn, Mme Mariya Gabriel, M. Nicolas Schmit, M. Paolo Gentiloni, M. Janez Lenarčič , Mme Kadri Simson, Mme Mairead McGuinness.
Monday	Ms Mairead McGuinness receives Mr Michael McGrath Minister for Finance, of Ireland.
Tuesday	Ms Mairead McGuinness receives M. Michael O'Leary, MD Ryanair

European Council and Council of the European Union

Coming Week Highlights

16 January	Eurogroup : Draft agenda: Euro area enlargement: update on euro cash changeover in Croatia; Digital euro - stocktake on the advancement of the project; Fiscal policy coordination in the euro area - energy support to households and firms - case studies; Economic situation and IMF Article IV review of euro area policies – interim staff visit; Euro area aspects of the economic governance review; The euro area recommendations for 2023; Miscellaneous
17 January	Economic and Financial Affairs Council Agenda: Presidency work programme; Economic and financial impact of Russia's aggression against Ukraine; Recovery and Resilience Facility; European Semester 2023.



Highlights 9 to 15 January 2023

European Parliament. Highlights Week 9 to 15 January

Eurobarometer survey: Europeans concerned by cost of living crisis and expect additional EU measures

Highlights from Eurobarometer Survey:

The rising cost of living is the most pressing worry for 93% of Europeans, followed by the threat of poverty and social exclusion (82%)

Recent crises strengthened citizens' support for the European Union: 72% believe that their country has benefited from being a member of the EU and 62% see EU membership as a "good thing"

Citizens expect the EU to continue working on solutions to mitigate the effects of the consecutive crises

Link to EP report [here](#)

report here

European Commission. Highlights Week. 9 to 15 January

Joint Statement by Vice-President Šefčovič and UK Foreign Secretary Cleverly following their meeting in London.

Vice President Šefčovič met Foreign Secretary Cleverly and the Northern Ireland Secretary Heaton-Harris in London on 9 January. They took stock of work to find joint solutions to the concerns raised by businesses and communities in Northern Ireland.

Link to Joint statement [Here](#)

Antitrust: Commission invites comments on draft Guidelines for sustainability agreements in agriculture

On Tuesday, the Commission launched a public consultation inviting all interested parties to comment on its draft proposal for Guidelines on how to design sustainability agreements in the field of agriculture ('Guidelines') using the novel exclusion from EU competition rules introduced during the recent reform of the common agricultural policy ('CAP').

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

Foreign Subsidies Regulation: rules to ensure fair and open EU markets enter into force

On Wednesday, the [Foreign Subsidies Regulation](#) ('FSR') entered into force. This new set of rules for addressing distortions caused by foreign subsidies will allow the EU to remain open to trade and investment, while ensuring a level playing field for all companies operating in the Single Market. The Regulation was proposed by the Commission in [May 2021](#) and agreed by the European Parliament and the Council in record-time, in [June 2022](#).

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

State Aid

Denmark. The Commission approved, under EU State aid rules, a €1.1 billion [Danish scheme](#) to support the roll-out of carbon capture and storage ('CCS') technologies. The measure contributes to the achievement of Denmark's climate targets and the [EU's strategic objectives under the European Green Deal](#), in particular the 2050 climate neutrality goal.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

European Citizens' Initiative: Commission decides to register a new initiative on safeguarding fundamental rights at the EU's borders

The Commission has decided to register a European citizens' initiative (ECI) entitled 'Article 4: Stop torture and inhuman treatment at Europe's borders'.

The Initiative calls for a framework ensuring compliance with the prohibition of violence and inhuman and degrading treatments enshrined in Article 4 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in relation to the EU policies concerning border controls, asylum and immigration.

Next Steps

Following today's registration, the organisers have six months to open the signature collection. If a European Citizens' Initiative receives one million statements of support within one year, from at least seven different Member States, the Commission will have to react. The Commission could decide to take the request forward or not, and will be required to explain its reasoning.

The decision to register is of a legal nature and it does not prejudge the final legal and political conclusions of the Commission on this initiative and the action it will intend to take, if any, in case the initiative obtains the necessary support.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

European Council and Council of the European Union Highlights Week 9 to 15 January.

No meetings were scheduled

European Court of Auditors

Highlights Week 9 to 15 January

Special report 01/2023 "Tools facilitating travel within the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic – Relevant initiatives with impact ranging from success to limited use"


The European Court of Auditors (ECA) has just published special report 01/2023 "[Tools facilitating travel within the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic – Relevant initiatives with impact ranging from success to limited use](#)",

Inter-parliamentary meetings and conferences during the Parliamentary Dimension of the Swedish Presidency (1st semester 2023)

Date	Meeting	Host	Location
29-30 January	Conference of the Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) – Meeting of the Chairpersons	SE Presidency	Stockholm
6 February	Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments	CZ Presidency	Remote
20 February	Inter-parliamentary Conference on the European Green Deal with a focus on a circular bio-economy	SE Presidency	Remote
27-28 February	European Parliamentary Week -IPC on SECG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference on the European Semester. • The Inter-parliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union (Conference under Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union) 	SE Presidency EP: BUDG; ECON; EMPL	EP Brussels

Inter-parliamentary meetings and conferences during the Parliamentary Dimension of the Swedish Presidency (1st semester 2023)

2-3 March	22nd Inter-parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (IPC for CFSP/CSDP)	SE Presidency	Stockholm
1 March	ICM FEMM on the occasion of International Women's Day	EP: FEMM	EP Brussels
26-27 March	The 12th Meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol (JPSG on Europol) pursuant to Article 88 TFEU and the EUROPOL Regulation EU (2016)/749	SE Presidency	Stockholm
23-24 April	Inter-parliamentary Conference on Challenges and Opportunities for the EU's Future Energy Supply	SE Presidency	Stockholm
24-25 April	Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments	CZ Presidency Senate	Prague
27 April	Inter-parliamentary Committee Meeting on the European Parliament's position for a new European electoral act and the role of national parliaments in this this procedure (exact title TBC)	AFCO	EP Brussels
14-16 May	The LXIX Conference of the Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union -- COSAC (LXIX COSAC)	SE Presidency	Stockholm
23 May	ICM DROI on the Coordination of EU Delegations and EU MS's Embassies on Human Rights in third countries	EP: DROI	EP Brussels
25 May	ICM on Reaching the transport objectives of Fit for 55 at national level - opportunities and challenges	TRAN	EP: Brussels
26 June	ICM on the Role of national parliaments in overseeing the spending of EU funds and the Next Generation EU plan	CONT	EP Brussels
27 June	ICM on the current EU foreign and security policy challenges	AFET	EP Brussels



Inter-parliamentary meetings and conferences during the Parliamentary Dimension of the Swedish Presidency (1st semester 2023)

28 June	ICM EMPL with National Parliaments to celebrate two years of the Child Guarantee	EMPL	EP Brussels
18-19 June	Inter-parliamentary Conference on Democracy in Europe	SE Presidency	Stockholm

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