



European Parliament

Committee and political group meetings, Brussels

Coming Week Highlights

President's diary. EP President Roberta Metsola will meet Moldova's Prime Minister Natalia Gavrilița, followed by a joint press point, on Monday. On Thursday, the President will address the Special European Council, followed by a press conference.

"Fit for 55"/Energy performance of buildings. A proposal to update the EU's energy performance of buildings directive (EPBD), part of the Fit for 55 package, will be voted on by the Industry, Research and Energy Committee. The update would increase the rate and depth of building renovations and set a vision for achieving a zero-emission building stock by 2050 (Thursday).

"Fit for 55"/Carbon-pricing laws. The Environment Committee will vote to confirm agreements reached in December with EU governments on five draft laws, part of the "Fit For 55 in 2030" package. The files are the Emissions Trading System (ETS) reform, ETS for aviation sector, ETS Market Stability Reserve, the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and, jointly with the Employment Committee, the Social Climate Fund (Thursday).

"Fit for 55"/Gas and Hydrogen markets. The Industry, Research and Energy Committee will adopt its position on a proposal to facilitate the deployment of renewable and low-carbon gases into the energy system. The proposal aims to fight climate change by decarbonising the EU gas market and boost energy security (Thursday).

EU Data Act. The Industry, Research and Energy Committee will adopt its position on rules to boost the availability and exchange of industrial digital data, to unlock their potential for the European economy. These measures will regulate how data can be exchanged, claimed or accessed by their owners and third parties (Thursday).

European Digital Identity. The Industry, Research and Energy Committee will vote on a draft bill to make national digital identity (eID) schemes interoperable across Europe and facilitate online access to key public services. Its aim is to facilitate the use of an eID by at least 80% of citizens by 2030 (Thursday).

Plenary preparations. Political groups will prepare for the 13 - 16 February session, where MEPs will debate and vote on the agreement on revised CO2 emissions reduction targets for new passenger cars and light commercial vehicles. They will also vote on including REPowerEU measures in national recovery plans to become less dependent on Russian fossil fuels and on accelerating the green transition, as well as on electoral rights of EU citizens in European and local elections. They will also debate and vote on the European Central Bank's policy with its President Christine Lagarde, on how to prevent and combat violence against women, and on an EU strategy to boost industrial competitiveness, trade and quality jobs.

Link to all committee meetings [here](#)



European Commission

Coming Week Highlights

Wednesday College Meeting

Commission's weekly calendar [here](#)

European Council and Council of the European Union

Coming Week Highlights

6 February [General Affairs Council](#)

6-8 February [Informal meeting of competitiveness ministers](#)

7 February [EU-Republic of Moldova Association Council](#)

9-10 February [Special European Council](#)



Highlights 30 January to 5 February 2023

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European Media Freedom Act: MEPs and experts assess the draft legislation

On Tuesday, the Committee on Civil Liberties, joined by experts and stakeholders in a public hearing, discussed the proposed rules aiming to strengthen media pluralism and freedom in the EU.

During the [public hearing](#) that took place in association with the Committees on Culture and on the Internal Market, MEPs exchanged views with experts and stakeholders.

Link to EP report [here](#)

MEPS urge the EU to deliver a credible migration and asylum policy

In a plenary discussion with the Swedish Presidency and President von der Leyen, MEPs presented their views on how to deal with the migratory challenges facing Europe.

On behalf of the Presidency of the Council, Swedish Minister for EU Affairs Jessika Roswall noted that in next week's extraordinary European Council, EU leaders will look into migration issues, as well as the situation in Ukraine, the economic agenda and a European industrial plan. On migration, the focus will be on controlling external borders, cooperation with third countries and returning migrants and asylum-seekers without a right to stay in the EU more efficiently to their countries of origin or transit. The European Council is also expected to call for the legislative work on the pact for asylum and migration to continue. Minister Roswall assured MEPs that negotiations in the Council on the pact are progressing at a good pace.

Link to EP report [here](#)

Parliament lifts immunity of MEPs Cozzolino and Tarabella

MEPs on Thursday backed the decision to waive the immunities of Andrea Cozzolino and Marc Tarabella, following requests by the Belgian authorities.

Endorsing a proposal adopted by the Legal Affairs Committee on Tuesday, MEPs decided today to lift the immunity of Andrea Cozzolino (NA, IT) and Marc Tarabella (NA, BE) by show of hands.


Once the decision is formally communicated to both MEPs and to the requesting authorities, the procedure which started in January is completed.

Link to EP report [here](#)

Digital workers: MEPs ready for talks on new law to improve working conditions

On Thursday, Parliament approved the decision to start negotiations on new measures to improve conditions for workers on digital labour platforms.

376 MEPs voted in favour of the mandate for talks with member states, 212 voted against and 15 abstained. Negotiations on the new law can start once member states decide on their own position.



The new rules would regulate how to correctly determine the employment status of platform workers and how digital labour platforms should use algorithms and artificial intelligence to monitor and evaluate workers.

Link to EP report [here](#)

MEPs say work on Ukraine's EU future must start now

On Thursday, Parliament adopted a resolution detailing its expectations for the upcoming summit between EU and Ukrainian political leaders in Kyiv on 3 February. Addressing Ukraine's EU membership perspective, the text demands the EU "work towards the start of the accession negotiations and to support a roadmap outlining the next steps to enable Ukraine's accession to the EU single market". Restating their commitment to Ukraine's future EU membership following the country's formal application on 28 February 2022, MEPs stress that accession is a merit-based process involving respect for relevant procedures, and the fulfilment of EU related reforms and accession criteria.

They also invite the Ukrainian authorities to introduce substantial reforms to effectively align with EU membership criteria as soon as possible.

Link to EP report [here](#)

MEPs vote for tougher rules on political advertising

Plenary on Thursday backed numerous changes to proposed political advertising rules to make elections and referenda more transparent and resistant to interference.

With 433 votes in favour, 61 against and 110 abstentions, the House expressed its support for the negotiating position proposed by the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee. The plenary endorsement gives the go ahead to Parliament's lead negotiator, Sandro Gozi (Renew, FR) to begin talks with representatives of the member states to agree a text in time for the 2024 European elections.

Link to EP report [here](#)

European Commission.

Highlights Week 30 January to 5 February 2023.

State Aid Approvals

Romania: The European Commission has approved, under EU State aid rules, a €1.6 billion [Romanian measure](#) to set-up the Romanian Investment and Development Bank ('the Bank'). The Bank aims at supporting economic and social development, competitiveness, innovation and growth across Romania's economy.

Croatia The European Commission has approved, under EU State aid rules, a €104 million [Croatian scheme](#) to reduce an electricity consumption levy imposed on energy-intensive companies. The scheme aims at mitigating the risk that, due to this levy, energy-intensive companies may relocate their activities to locations outside the EU with less ambitious climate policies. In addition, the scheme contributes to the achievement of EU's climate and environmental objectives set out in the European Green Deal.

Slovak: The European Commission has approved a €600 million [Slovak scheme](#) to support its economy in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine. The scheme was approved under the State aid Temporary Crisis Framework, adopted by the Commission on 23 March 2022 and amended on 20 July 2022 and on 28 October 2022, based on Article 107(3)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ('TFEU'), recognising that the EU economy is experiencing a serious disturbance.

State aid: Commission consults Member States on proposal for a Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework

The European Commission has sent to Member States for consultation a draft proposal to transform the State aid Temporary Crisis Framework into a Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework to facilitate and accelerate Europe's green transition. This proposal is part of the Green Deal Industrial Plan, also presented today – in particular, it contributes to its second pillar aiming at ensuring faster access to funding for companies operating in the EU.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

The Green Deal Industrial Plan: putting Europe's net-zero industry in the lead

On Wednesday, the Commission presented a Green Deal Industrial Plan to enhance the competitiveness of Europe's net-zero industry and support the fast transition to climate neutrality. The Plan aims to provide a more supportive environment for the scaling up of the EU's manufacturing capacity for the net-zero technologies and products required to meet Europe's ambitious climate targets.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

Ukraine: College of Commissioners travels to Kyiv to boost EU support and sectorial cooperation with Ukraine

On Thursday, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, travelled to Kyiv today, accompanied by 15 Commissioners, for the first ever meeting between the College and the Ukrainian Government. The meeting takes place back to back with the EU-Ukraine summit, the first since the start of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the granting of candidate status.

The meeting between the College and the government of Ukraine sends a strong signal of the EU's unwavering commitment to stand by Ukraine for as long as it takes, including with a new €450 million assistance package for 2023 announced by President von der Leyen. This brings the total support made available so far to Ukraine since the beginning of Russia's war from the EU, its Member States and European financial institutions to around €50 billion. In addition to this, the Commission is working towards a €1 billion contribution to fast recovery.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

[Opening remarks by President von der Leyen on the occasion of the meeting between the College and the government of Ukraine](#)


European Council and Council of the European Union Highlights Week 30 January to 5 February 2023.

Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 30 January

Market situation

Ministers took stock of the market situation in member states, particularly in light of Russia's war against Ukraine. They further received information from the Commission on the latest developments on agricultural markets. While recent months have shown more stability, energy and input prices remain high, weakening profitability and leading to high consumer price

Bioeconomy



Ministers discussed the opportunities of the bioeconomy with a view to adopt Council conclusions on the subject.

Link to Council report [here](#)

EU-Ukraine summit, 3 February

Charles Michel, President of the European Council, and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, met with Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine, in Kyiv for the 24th summit between the European Union and Ukraine.

This was the first EU-Ukraine summit since the start of the Russian aggression, and also since the European Council granted Ukraine the status of candidate country.

The leaders discussed:

Ukraine's European path and the accession process

the EU's response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

Ukraine's initiatives for just peace and accountability

cooperation on issues of reconstruction and relief and in the areas of energy and connectivity

global food security

Link to Council report [here](#)

European Court of Auditors

Highlights Week 30 January to 5 February 2023

Special report 02/2023: Adapting cohesion policy rules to respond to COVID-19

[The European Court of Auditors issued Special report by the Court of Auditors pursuant to Article 287\(4\), second subparagraph, of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.](#)

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

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

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
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
9 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

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

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
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.