



European Parliament Plenary Session and Committees, Strasbourg Coming Week Highlights

President's diary. President Roberta Metsola will give her Europe Day address, before Chancellor Scholz's "This is Europe" intervention, on Tuesday. On Sunday, President Metsola will be in Aachen, Germany, to attend the ceremony for the International Charlemagne Prize 2023.

Reducing methane emissions. MEPs will debate and vote on their position to start talks with Council on legislation to reduce methane emissions in the energy sector to reach the EU's climate goals and improve air quality. (Monday, Tuesday)

Pegasus and other spyware inquiry. MEPs will vote on the final report and recommendations of the spyware inquiry committee. The report will outline the findings of the year-long inquiry, and the recommendations will outline what should be done next at EU level. (Monday)

Olaf Scholz/"This is Europe". On Europe Day, Tuesday at 10.30, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will discuss with MEPs his views on Europe's challenges and future.

Key debate/Reform of the Stability and Growth Pact. MEPs will debate with the Commission and the Council Presidency the legislative proposals recently tabled to reform the EU's economic governance rule. (Tuesday)

Sudan. MEPs will debate how to avoid an escalation in hostilities that could have far-reaching implications for the East Africa region. (Tuesday)

Stopping greenwashing/durability of products. Following a debate on Tuesday, MEPs are set to adopt on Thursday their negotiating position on a new directive to improve product labelling, ban planned obsolescence so products will last longer and end misleading claims.

President of Portugal. On Wednesday at 11.30, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of Portugal will address MEPs in a formal sitting. Presidents Metsola and Rebelo de Sousa will have a bilateral meeting, followed by a joint press point at 11.20.

Suspension of EU import duties on Ukrainian exports and impact of Solidarity Lanes. Parliament is expected to give its green light to suspend EU import duties on Ukrainian agricultural products for another year to support the country's economy. In a separate debate, MEPs will discuss the impact of grain imports from Ukraine on EU prices. (Tuesday, Wednesday)

Repaying the Recovery plan. MEPs will debate and vote on a resolution warning about the impact of rising recovery borrowing costs on next year's EU budget, putting flagship EU programmes at risk. (Monday, Wednesday)

Anti-corruption. In a debate with the Commission, Parliament will assess the newly proposed "stronger rules to fight corruption in the EU and worldwide". (Wednesday)



Key debate/Farmers in the green transition. On Wednesday from 9.00, MEPs will debate the role of farmers in the green transition and how to support the agriculture sector more effectively.

Committees, Strasbourg

Artificial Intelligence Act. The Internal Market and Civil Liberties committees will vote on draft rules ensuring AI systems placed on the EU market are safe and lawful. The text includes specific obligations for high-risk AI systems and bans on certain unacceptable AI practices, e.g. social scoring. (Thursday)

Link to Full Plenary Agenda [here](#)

European Commission Coming Week Highlights

Monday	Ms Mairead McGuinness visits, in association with European Movement Ireland's Blue Star Programme, St. Ita's School and Aston Village Education Together National School, in Drogheda, Co. Louth, and St. Patrick's National School, in Stamullen, Co. Meath.
Tuesday	Ms Mairead McGuinness in Dublin: delivers an address to Seanad Éireann to mark Europe Day 2023 and Ireland's 50 years of membership in the EU.
Friday	Ms Mairead McGuinness delivers a keynote address at the event: 'Ireland and the European Union at 50: politics, policy and transformation' co-organised by Maynooth University, National University of Ireland and the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA), in Maynooth, Co. Kildare; addresses the finalists of the Money Smarts Quiz Challenge, organised for secondary school students by the Bank of Ireland, in Dublin;

European Council and Council of the European Union Coming Week Highlights

11 May	European Union Military Committee (EUMC), EU Chiefs of Defence
12 May	Informal meeting of foreign affairs ministers - Gymnich



Highlights Week 1 to 7 May 2023

European Parliament.

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Deal on geographical protection for local craft and industrial products

European Parliament and Council negotiators agreed on a new scheme to protect the so-called “geographical indication” of traditional crafts at the EU and international level.

The new legislation will close the gap between diverging national systems in the EU by protecting original quality and tradition of locally renowned goods such as jewellery, textiles, lace, natural stones, cutlery, glass and porcelain both in the EU and internationally.

Next steps

This informal agreement will now have to be confirmed by the Parliament’s plenary and the Council before entering into force twenty days following its publication in the EU Official Journal. The regulation will apply two years after this date. The Commission will have to assess the results of the application every five years.

Link to EP report [here](#)

Europe Day: European Parliament opens its Brussels site to citizens on 6 May

The Parliament will celebrate Europe Day by welcoming citizens to its Brussels premises for visits, debates with MEPs, interactive presentations and live performances.

Parliament’s doors will be open from 10.00, with the last entrance at 17.30, with all public areas and meeting rooms accessible to citizens. Discover the [full programme of the day](#).

Inauguration ceremony

A Europe Day inauguration ceremony will take place in the EP Hemicycle. It will open at 10.30 with a performance by Ukrainian singers, followed by an address from Vice-President Pina Picierno (S&D, Italy) and a panel discussion with MEPs. The panel will discuss the 2024 European elections, Parliament’s political priorities for the next legislature and take questions from citizens.

Link to EP report [here](#)

Link to EU institutions marking Europe Day [here](#)

European Commission.

Highlights Week 1 to 7 May 2023.

State Aid

The Commission has approved, under EU State aid rules, [two Dutch schemes](#) with a total budget of around



€1.47 billion to reduce nitrogen deposition on nature conservation areas. The measures will contribute to the EU's strategic objectives relating to the European Green Deal.

Commission proposes to extend suspension of tariffs and quotas on imports from Moldova

The Commission has proposed to renew and expand the suspension of import duties and quotas on Moldovan exports to the European Union – known as Autonomous Trade Measures (ATMs) – for another year. The proposal would renew the current suspension of import duties on Moldovan exports to the EU for another year and extend this suspension to all remaining tariffs and tariff rate quotas on Moldovan imports. This is a clear signal of EU's full support for Moldova's economy and helps further alleviate the difficult situation faced by Moldovan producers and exporters because of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine.

Next Steps

The proposal will now be considered by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union with a view to ensuring the seamless transition from the current regime of ATMs to the new one.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

Commission adopts exceptional and temporary preventive measures on limited imports from Ukraine

The Commission has adopted exceptional and temporary preventive measures on imports of a limited number of products from Ukraine under the exceptional safeguard of the Autonomous Trade Measures Regulation. These measures are necessary given the exceptional circumstances of serious logistical bottlenecks experienced in five Member States. The measures concern only four agricultural products – wheat, maize, rapeseed and sunflower seed – originating in Ukraine. They aim to alleviate logistical bottlenecks concerning these products in Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The measures will enter into force on 2 May and will last until 5 June 2023.

During this period, wheat, maize, rapeseed and sunflower seed originating in Ukraine can continue to be released for free circulation in all the Member States of the European Union other than the five frontline Member States: Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The products can continue to circulate in or transit via these five Member States by means of a common customs transit procedure or go to a country or territory outside the EU.

In parallel, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia have committed to lift their unilateral measures on wheat, maize, rapeseed and sunflower seed and any other products coming from Ukraine.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

Defence: €500 million and new measures to urgently boost EU defence industry capacities in ammunition production

The Commission has adopted the Act in Support of Ammunition Production (ASAP) as a response to track 3 of the plan agreed by the Council on 20 March, to urgently deliver ammunition and missiles to Ukraine and to help Member States refill their stocks. By introducing targeted measures including financing, the Act aims at ramping up the EU's production capacity and addressing the current shortage of ammunition and missiles as well as their components. It will support the destocking from Member States (track 1) and the joint procurement for ammunition (track 2).

In particular, it will strengthen the responsiveness and ability of the Union defence industry to ensure the timely supply of ammunition and missiles in Europe. In light of the return of high intensity conflict in Europe, the timely availability in sufficient volumes of these products is critical for our security and for our continuous



efforts to support Ukraine.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

Anti-corruption: Stronger rules to fight corruption in the EU and worldwide

The Commission presented proposals to fight against corruption at national and EU level. The Commission intends to step up its action: building on measures in place, strengthening efforts to integrate the prevention of corruption into the design of EU policies and programs, and actively supporting Member States' work to put in place strong anti-corruption policies and legislation. Through its annual Rule of Law Report cycle, the Commission also monitors anti-corruption developments at national level, identifies challenges and issues of recommendations to Member states.

Next steps

The proposed Directive on combating corruption will have to be negotiated and adopted by the European Parliament and the Council before it can become EU law.

The proposed new framework of CFSP sanctions targeting corruption will have to be discussed and adopted by the Council.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

European Council and Council of the European Union Highlights Week 1 to 7 May 2023

Foreign Affairs Council (Development), 4 May

Development ministers held an exchange with Rebeca Grynspan Mayufis, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to discuss the global consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

The discussion focused on how the EU and the UN can take actions to respond to the interconnected food, energy and financing crises and give a renewed boost to the 2030 Agenda.

The Secretary-General informed about the work of the UN Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance and the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

Under current affairs, the High Representative referred to EU support to Ukraine with a focus on financial and reconstruction needs, also in view of the Ukraine Recovery Conference in London on 21-22 June.

The High Representative also raised Sudan in light of recent developments and reiterated that the

EU and its member states strongly condemned the ongoing fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, which threatens the safety and security of the people of Sudan as well as the unity and stability of the country.

Link to Council report [here](#)

European Court of Auditors

Highlights Week 1 to 7 May 2023

Annual activity report of the European Court of Auditors, 2022

The Annual activity report of the European Court of Auditors 2022 is available [here](#)

Special report 13/2023: Authorised Economic Operators – Solid customs programme with untapped potential and uneven implementation

The European Court of Auditors has issued [Special Report 13/2023](#) Authorised Economic Operators – Solid customs programme with untapped potential and uneven implementation

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

Date	Meeting	Host	Location
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

Inter-parliamentary meetings and conferences during the Parliamentary Dimension of the Spanish Presidency (2nd Semester 1st July - 31 December 2023)

Date	Meeting	Host	Location
June 30 July 1	Global Conference - Commemoration of the International Day of Parliamentarism,	Spanish Parliament	Leon Spain
9 - 10 July	COSAC Chairpersons	Congress of Deputies,	Madrid
20 -21 July	Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU (IPC on SECG)	Senate	Madrid
27 July	15th EuroLat Plenary Session	Senate	Madrid
3 - 5 September	Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (IPC on CFSP/CSDP)	Congress of Deputies	Madrid
15 September	Conference on Ecological Transition		Tenerife
20 -21 September	Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol (JPSG on Europol)		European Parliament
24 - 26 September	LXX COSAC Plenary	Congress of Deputies,	Madrid



Inter-parliamentary meetings and conferences during the Parliamentary Dimension of the Spanish Presidency (2nd Semester 1st July - 31 December 2023)

29 September	Conference on Women Equality		Malaga
January 2024	Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments (EUSG)	Senate	Madrid
April 2024	Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments (EUSC)	Congress of Deputies	Madrid

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