



European Parliament Coming Week Highlights Plenary Session, Strasbourg

28 April 2026	EU long-term budget. MEPs will debate and vote on their negotiating position on the 2028-2034 EU budget (multiannual financial framework - MFF), including a breakdown of the amounts they want to allocate to each EU funding programme.
28 April 2026	Welfare of dogs and cats. To protect the health of cats and dogs, MEPs are set to approve the first ever EU standards for their breeding, housing, traceability, import and handling.
28 April 2026	Defining rape based on absence of consent. Parliament will vote on a draft report calling on the Commission to propose legislation establishing a common definition of rape based on the concept of freely given, informed and revocable consent.
28 April 2026	Digital Markets Act. In the lead up to the Digital Markets Act review, MEPs are set to call for quicker compliance proceedings and closer scrutiny of AI-driven search tools and cloud services.
28 April 2026	EU trade instrument for development. MEPs are set to approve revised rules for the EU's preferential trade arrangement with developing countries, which allows them to export goods to the EU with low or zero tariffs.
28 April 2026	Artificial intelligence. In Committee, Parliament and Council negotiators will try to reach a deal on postponing certain EU rules on high-risk systems using artificial intelligence (the "digital omnibus" proposal). The talks will also cover a possible ban on "nudification" apps.
29 April 2026	Middle East/energy security. MEPs, the Council and the Commission will discuss how to respond to the ongoing Middle East crisis, and its implications for energy prices and fertiliser availability. MEPs will also discuss with the Commission the situation in southern Lebanon and the need to maintain a sustainable ceasefire and increased humanitarian access.

29 April 2026	Proxy voting rights for MEPs. Parliament is set to conclude the legislative process to enable MEPs to delegate their vote while absent during pregnancy and after childbirth.
29 April 2026	Cyberbullying and online harassment. MEPs will debate with the Commission the need for targeted criminal provisions and increased platform responsibility to tackle harmful online behaviour.
30 April 2026	Accountability and justice for Ukraine. MEPs will vote on a resolution about ensuring accountability and justice for Russia's relentless attacks on Ukrainian civilians. MEPs and the Commission will discuss the danger of normalising relations with Russia, including its participation in major cultural and sports events.
European Parliament President's diary. Parliament President Roberta Metsola and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will sign the Framework Agreement governing relations between the two institutions (28 April).	
Link to all committee meetings here	

European Commission Coming Week Highlights	
27-29 April 2026	Commissioner Zaharieva visits California, meeting research community and investors, San Francisco.
28 April 2026	Commissioner Šefčovič participates in the meeting of the European Parliament Conference of Committee Chairs on the preparation of the Commission Work Programme.
28 April 2026	Commissioner McGrath meets (online) with the President of Romania Nicușor Dan.
28 April 2026	Commissioner McGrath participates in a plenary debate in the European Parliament on "the Commission's 2025 Rule of Law report", in Strasbourg, and meets with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Alain Berset.

29 April 2026	Commissioner McGrath participates in a plenary debate in the European Parliament on “Commission Interference in Democratic Process and Elections”, in Strasbourg.
29 April 2026	Commissioner Lahbib meets with Development Committee Chair, Barry Andrews, MEP, in Strasbourg.
30 April 2026	Commissioner Hansen receives Mr Séamus Boland, President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).
30 April 2026	Commissioner McGrath is in Latvia where he meets with Members of the National Parliament; the Director of the Latvian Consumer Protection Centre Zaiga Liepiņa; the Minister for Justice Lībiņa-Egnere; and the Director of NATO’s Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, Jānis Sārts, before delivering a speech on democratic resilience at the Riga Graduate School of Law. He later meets with the Latvian Startup Association ‘Startin.LV’.
01 May 2026	Commissioner McGrath delivers an address at South East Technological University.

Link to Commission’s weekly calendar [here](#)

European Council and Council of the European Union Coming Fortnight Highlights

27 April 2026	Agriculture and Fisheries Council (details here).
28-29 April 2026	Informal Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Maritime Affairs ministers), Cyprus (details here).
29-30 April 2026	Informal meeting of Telecommunication ministers, Cyprus (details here).
3-5 May 2026	Informal meetings of Agriculture and Fisheries ministers, Cyprus (details here).
5 May 2026	Economic and Financial Affairs Council (details here).



Link to Council Meeting Calendar [here](#)

Link to CORPER Meeting Calendar [here](#)



Highlights Week 20 to 24 April 2026

European Parliament

Highlights Week 20 to 24 April 2026

Mobile Workers' Social Benefits. A provisional agreement on modernised rules to coordinate national social security systems was reached between negotiators from the European Parliament and the Council on Wednesday. The new rules focus on facilitating labour mobility within the EU, while safeguarding workers' social rights in cross-border situations. 22 April 2026.

Link to EP report [here](#)

One Europe, One Market. The Presidents of the European Parliament, Council and Commission signed a Joint Declaration committing to achieve the "One Europe, One Market" roadmap. On the sidelines of the Informal meeting of Heads of State or Government in Cyprus, the President of the Republic of Cyprus as the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and the Presidents of the European Parliament and the European Commission, signed the "One Europe, One Market Roadmap". 24 April 2026.

Link to EP report [here](#)

European Commission

Highlights Week 20 to 24 April 2026

Fossil Fuels. For the second time in less than five years, Europeans are paying the price of Europe's dependency on imported fossil fuels. AccelerateEU is the Commission's toolbox to bring immediate relief to European households and industries, especially the most vulnerable ones, while putting Europe on a steady pathway to energy independence. Since the escalation of the conflict in the Middle East, the EU has spent an additional €24 billion on energy imports due to higher prices – without receiving a single extra molecule of energy. Q&A [here](#) 22 April 2026.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

Sanctions Against Russia. The Commission has welcomed the adoption by EU Member States of the 20th package of sanctions against Russia. The EU's commitment to a free and sovereign Ukraine is unwavering. This package puts further pressure on Russia to engage in negotiations and do so on terms acceptable for Ukraine. Every day of further Russian attacks on Ukrainian civilian infrastructure is another day of suffering for the Ukrainian people. The new sanctions have a strong anti-circumvention angle and include robust energy measures, as well as the activation for the first time of the "anti-circumvention" tool. The package also targets financial services (including crypto), trade and media propaganda, and includes further measures for the protection of EU operators. Q&A on the package [here](#). 23 April 2026.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

Cities and Regions, R&D. The European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions signed a new Joint Action Plan to enhance the role of cities and regions in research and innovation (R&I). Under the Joint Action Plan, the Commission and the Committee of the Regions will collaborate to reinforce the regional and local dimension of the EU's R&I policies and initiatives. The Joint Action Plan will also support the implementation of the Commission's key actions at local and regional levels and will facilitate the exchange of expertise and data between the two institutions. 24 April 2026.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

Critical Minerals. The EU and US signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a strategic partnership on critical minerals and agreed an EU-US Critical Minerals Action Plan. These initiatives reflect the EU's commitment to deepen cooperation on critical raw materials. This is a key step in enhancing resilience and diversification of supply chains, amid shared geopolitical and economic challenges. 24 April 2026.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)



European Council and Council of the European Union Highlights Week 20 to 24 April 2026

Forestry. The Council adopted new rules to improve the quality, availability and traceability of forest reproductive material (FRM), while supporting innovation and competitiveness in the EU seed sector. The regulation will strengthen the resilience of Europe's forests to climate change, pests and diseases. It will support biodiversity, sustainable forest management and the conservation of genetic resources. Forest reproductive material, such as seeds and plants, is essential for forest regeneration, including reforestation and afforestation across the EU. 21 April 2026.

Link to Council report [here](#)

Corruption. The Council gave the final approval to a new EU law that harmonises the definition of corruption across member states and establishes a common level of penalties to sanction such offences. With measures to prevent corruption and rules to strengthen investigation and prosecution, the law will reinforce the fight against corruption both in the public and private sector. This new EU directive will replace two existing EU laws: one law from 2003 on corruption in the private sector, and an EU Convention from 1997 on corruption involving EU officials and officials of EU member states. 21 April 2026.

Link to Council report [here](#)

EU Agrifood Sector. The Council has adopted new rules on genomic techniques (NGTs), establishing a framework to support a more competitive and sustainable EU agrifood sector. The regulation is designed to enhance food security, reduce external dependencies and ensure a level playing field for European operators, while maintaining high standards for human and animal health and environmental protection. It also supports EU sustainability objectives by enabling the development of more resilient and resource-efficient crops. 21 April 2026.

Link to Council report [here](#)

Energy Security. In a world of growing geopolitical fragmentation and a rules-based international order under strain, energy security risks and the existential threat of climate change endanger the EU's sovereignty. Vulnerabilities in energy and technology supply chains put EU competitiveness and economic security at risk, while the severe impacts of climate change and environmental degradation imperil international peace and security. Against this backdrop, the Council approved conclusions on 'EU energy and climate diplomacy – strengthening sovereignty and advancing the global clean



transition'. Acknowledging the EU's geopolitical exposure due to its significant reliance on imported fossil fuels – as demonstrated in the context of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and by the threats posed by hostilities in Iran and the wider region – the Council reconfirmed the EU's commitment to the clean transition as the most effective strategy towards achieving Europe's strategic autonomy. 21 April 2026.

Link to Council report [here](#)

Funding for Ukraine. The Council adopted the final key piece of legislation underpinning a €90 billion EU loan to Ukraine, agreed by the European Council in December 2025. The move will allow the Commission to begin disbursements as soon as possible in the second quarter of 2026. The loan will help cover the country's most urgent budgetary and defence industrial capacity needs in 2026 and 2027, within a robust and conditional framework. Funding will be linked to strict conditions on Ukraine's side such as adherence to the rule of law, including the fight against corruption. 23 April 2026.

Link to Council report [here](#)

European Court of Auditors Highlights Week 20 to 24 April 2026

Employment Opportunity. The European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) has recently launched an open competition to recruit audit professionals as administrators (grade AD7). The initiative seeks to establish a reserve list of qualified candidates from which EU institutions, bodies, and agencies will be able to hire experts in the field of audit. The European Court of Auditors, as a potential employer, offers a multicultural and dynamic environment where auditors directly contribute to ensuring that EU public money is spent effectively and transparently. Further details [here](#). 22 April 2026.



European Committee of the Regions (CoR)

Link to European Committee of the Regions Home Page [here](#)

Link to European Committee of the Regions News Page [here](#)

European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Link to European Economic and Social Committee Home Page [here](#)

Link to European Economic and Social Committee News Page [here](#)

Interparliamentary Meetings and Conferences during the Parliamentary Dimension of the Cypriot Presidency 1st Semester: 1st January - 30th June 2026

Date	Meeting	Host	Location
3-5 May 2026	Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments		Copenhagen, Denmark
6-7 May 2026	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the theme: Human Work in the Digital Age - Artificial Intelligence, new forms of working, and work-related stress (EMPL: European Parliament Committee on Employment and Social Affairs)		European Parliament, Brussels
6-7 May 2026	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on EU and Member States' role in support of global accountability mechanisms, including universal jurisdiction, international courts and special tribunals (DROI: European Parliament Sub-Committee on Human Rights)		European Parliament, Brussels
3-4 June 2026	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the theme: Discussion on Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps and Creative Europe in the current and new Multiannual Financial Framework (including lessons learned and the way forward) (CULT: the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education)		European Parliament, Brussels
Week of 23 June 2026 (date to be advised)	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the theme: Discussion on Social Climate Plans implementation in Member States to fight transport poverty (social climate fund obligation) (TRAN: European Parliament Committee on Transport and Tourism)		European Parliament, Brussels
24 June 2026	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) (AFET: European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs)		European Parliament, Brussels
24-25 June 2026	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) oversight and the future outlook concerning the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) (CONT: European Parliament Committee on Budgetary Control)		European Parliament, Brussels



Interparliamentary Meetings and Conferences during the Parliamentary Dimension of the Cypriot Presidency 1st Semester: 1st January - 30th June 2026

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