



The Week Ahead 20-26 February 2012

Agenda

External Parliamentary Activities Week

President Schulz in Italy. EP-President Martin Schulz will pay an official visit to Italy. In Rome he will meet President Giorgio Napolitano, Prime Minister Mario Monti, Parliament speaker Gianfranco Fini and Senate Speaker Renato Schifani. President Schulz will also attend a ceremony in Bologna City Hall to commemorate the Marzabotto Massacre and visit the Monte Sole memorial there in honour of the hundreds of victims of Waffen SS reprisals during World War II (*Thursday-Saturday*).

The coming week is set aside for MEPs to work in their constituencies or take part in inter-parliamentary meetings or other delegation visits outside the EU. Parliament is sending a delegation to observe the presidential elections in Senegal from 22 to 29 February. MEPs will also meet their counterparts this week in Norway, Bangladesh, Turkey and Mauritania.

There are no official parliamentary meetings in Brussels this week.

Monday 20/02/2012

DELEGATIONS

09:00-19:00 Dhaka, Bangladesh

5th EP-Bangladesh Interparliamentary meeting

A 7-member delegation led by Jean Lambert (Greens/EFA, UK) will visit Bangladesh from 19 to 24 February for the 5th interparliamentary meeting. The delegation is composed by Thomas MANN (EPP, DE), Niccolò RINALDI (ALDE, IT), Salvador SEDÓ I ALABART (EPP, ES), Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR (S&D, ES), Nirj DEVA (ECR, UK), Slavi BINEV (NI, BG).

The delegation will meet ministers, party groups and civil society. It will also have a meeting with professor Muhammad YUNUS, awarded by the Nobel Price for peace in 2006.

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09:00-19:00 Nouakchott, Mauritania

8th EP-Mauritania Interparliamentary meeting

EP delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries to visit Mauritania from 20 to 23 February for the 8th EP-Mauritania Interparliamentary meeting.

The head of the delegation is Mr Pier Antonio PANZERI (S&D, IT). The other 3 MEPs attending the meeting are Mr Cristian Dan PREDA (EPP, RO), Mrs Inés AYALA SENDER (S&D, ES) and Mrs Malika BENARAB-ATTOU (Greens/EFA, FR).

The purpose of the visit is to pursue the cooperation with the Mauritanian National Assembly and to exchange views on the general political situation following the negotiations on the National Inclusive Dialogue.

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09:00-19:00 Oslo, Norway

28th EU-Norway Interparliamentary meeting

A delegation of 5 MEPs is visiting Oslo, Norway for the EU-Norway interparliamentary meeting 20-21 February.

Agenda

The chair of the delegation is Mr Pat the Cope GALLAGHER (ALDE, IE). The other MEPs attending the meeting are Ms Anna HEDH (S&D, SE), Mr Paul RÜBIG (EPP, AT), Mr Alyn SMITH (Greens/EFA, UK) and Ms Silvana KOCH-MEHRIN (ALDE, DE).

The main items on the agenda will be the conclusions of the review of the Norwegian relationship with the EU and a discussion on the fisheries policy and the financial and economical crisis.

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09:00-19:00 *Ankara, Turkey*

Visit to Ankara, Turkey

A delegation from the **Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee** will visit Ankara on 20-22 February 2012. The purpose of the visit is to learn more about gender equality and women's rights in Turkey. On Monday evening discussions with representatives of civil society and NGOs will take place.

On Tuesday, the delegation will meet with various government ministers and chairs of parliamentary committees.

Participants include:

- Edit BAUER (EPP, SK), Chair
- Emine BOZKURT (S&D, NL)
- Fatma ŞAHİN, Minister of Family and Social Policies
- Sadullah ERGİN, Minister of Justice
- Egemen BAĞIŞ, Minister for EU Affairs
- Idris Naim SAHİN, Minister of Interior
- Azize Sibel GÖNÜL, Chairperson and with Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women
- Ayhan Sefer ÜSTÜN, Chair of Parliamentary Committee on human rights
- Afif DEMIRKIRAN, Co-chair of EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee
- Meral DEMIRBAŞ, Deputy General of the Directorate for the Status of Women

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09:00-19:00 *Ukraine*

Agenda

18th EU-Ukraine parliamentary cooperation committee

A seven-member delegation visits Ukraine 20-22 February for the 18th EU-Ukraine parliamentary cooperation committee. The head of the delegation is Paweł Robert Kowal (ECR, PL). The other members are Jelko KACIN (ALDE, SI), Jan KOZŁOWSKI (EPP, PL), Alexander MIRSKY (S&D, LV), Zuzana ROITHOVA (EPP, CZ), Marek SIWIEC (S&D, PL), Dimitar STOYANOV (NI, BG).

The main items on the agenda will be finalization of the negotiations on the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), Internal developments in Ukraine and the EU and Cooperation in the sphere of justice and home affairs.

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09:00-19:00 Azerbaijan and Armenia

Foreign Affairs delegation to the South Caucasus

A four-member delegation from the Foreign Affairs Committee visits Armenia and Azerbaijan from 19 to 22 February.

It is led by Bulgarian MEP, Andrey KOVATCHEV (EPP, BG) and composed by Monica Luisa MACOVEI (EPP, RO), Evgeni KIRILOV (S&D, BG), Jo LEINEN (S&D, DE), Ulrike LUNACEK (Greens/EFA, AT). It will visit Baku and Yerevan and it will meet Presidents ALIYEV and SARGSYAN.

The delegation will look at the state of negotiations on the Association Agreements with Armenia and Azerbaijan, at the preparations for the second EURONEST Assembly meeting in Baku in April, and at the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Armenia in May.

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Tuesday 21/02/2012

THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

09:00-16:30 Brussels

The President's Diary

- 09:00 Meeting with Edmund STOIBER, Chairman of the High Level Group of Independent Stakeholders on Administrative Burdens - President's Office, Paul-Henri Spaak building (PHS, 9th floor)
- 15:30 Meeting with Alfredo PÉREZ RUBALCABA, Secretary General of PSOE - President's Office, Paul-Henri Spaak building (PHS, 9th floor)

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- Egemen BAĞIŞ, Minister for EU Affairs
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Wednesday 22/02/2012

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EP - Election Observation in Senegal

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The delegation will observe in Dakar and surroundings and in the region of Diourbel, close to the city of Touba.

A joint press conference to announce the preliminary findings of the EU EOM is scheduled for the 28th February.

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Thursday 23/02/2012

THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

11:30-18:00 *Rome*

The President's Diary

- 11:30 Meeting with Giorgio NAPOLITANO, President of the Italian Republic - Palazzo Quirinale
- 13:00 Meeting with Gianfranco FINI, Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies - Palazzo Montecitorio
- 15:30 Meeting with Renato SCHIFANI, Speaker of the Italian Senate - Palazzo Giustiniani
- 17:00 Meeting with Mario MONTI, President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic, followed by a press conference - Palazzo Chigi

DELEGATIONS

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The delegation will observe in Dakar and surroundings and in the region of Diourbel, close to the city of Touba.

A joint press conference to announce the preliminary findings of the EU EOM is scheduled for the 28th February.

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09:00-19:00 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ad-hoc delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina

The delegation is led by Jelko KACIN (ALDE, SI), and composed by Anna ROSBACH (ECR, DK), Francesco DE ANGELIS (S&D, IT), and Nikos CHRYSOGELOS (Greens/EFA, EL).

The delegation of MEPs travels to Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 23 to 24 February, to take part in a parliamentary seminar with Members of the Western Balkan parliaments on challenges in the field of environment and the way forward.

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Agenda

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09:00-19:00 *Haiti*

Budgetary Control Committee to take stock of humanitarian aid management in Haiti

A six-member delegation of Parliament's Budgetary Control Committee will visit Haiti on 23 and 24 February to look into the management of EU funds for reconstruction and humanitarian aid, released after the catastrophic earthquake that hit Haiti in 2010.

The European Commission pledged €522 million at the International Donor Conference in New York in March 2010, of which €395 million have been committed so far and the payments made until the end of 2011 amount to €210 million.

The delegation includes Ingeborg Grässle (Leader, EPP, DE), Jean-Pierre Audy (EPP, FR), Jens Geier (S&D, DE), Ivailo Kalfin (S&D, BG), Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR, PL) and Martin Ehrenhauser (N-A, A). They will meet politicians, officials involved in managing the funds, and also representatives of NGOs, international finance institutions and the UN. MEPs will also visit a disaster response management training centre and the Champ de Mars site in front of the destroyed presidential palace that now accommodates 20.000 displaced people with help of EU money.

Critical report

The visit comes just a month after the adoption of a critical report on EU humanitarian aid management, prepared by one of the delegation members, Martin Ehrenhauser (non-attached, AT). In their resolution, MEPs called for more efficiency and less bureaucracy in aid management by the Commission's Humanitarian Aid Directorate-General (DG ECHOE) while at the same timing ensuring a high level of accountability and transparency of humanitarian aid. They pointed - as on other occasions - to weaknesses in transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of UN management of EU funds.

The delegation's findings will feed into the annual discharge report on Commission spending and the discharge of the European Development Funds.

Budgetary Control Committee role

The Budgetary Control Committee oversees EU budget spending. It assesses whether goals are met, programmes provide value for money and money is spent efficiently and according to EU rules.

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Friday 24/02/2012

THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

10:15-19:30 Rome and Bologna

The President's Diary

- 10:15 Meeting with students and young workers at Porta Futuro - Rome
- 18:30 Opening of the Study Centre in memory of Renzo IMBENI - Bologna

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The delegation includes Ingeborg Grässle (Leader, EPP, DE), Jean-Pierre Audy (EPP, FR), Jens Geier (S&D, DE), Ivailo Kalfin (S&D, BG), Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR, PL) and Martin Ehrenhauser (N-A, A). They will meet politicians, officials involved in managing the funds, and also representatives of NGOs, international finance institutions and the UN. MEPs will also visit a disaster response management training centre and the Champ de Mars site in front of the destroyed presidential palace that now accommodates 20.000 displaced people with help of EU money.

Critical report

The visit comes just a month after the adoption of a critical report on EU humanitarian aid management, prepared by one of the delegation members, Martin Ehrenhauser (non-attached, AT). In their resolution, MEPs called for more efficiency and less bureaucracy in aid management by the Commission's Humanitarian Aid Directorate-General (DG ECHOE) while at the same timing ensuring a high level of accountability and transparency of humanitarian aid. They pointed - as on other occasions - to weaknesses in transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of UN management of EU funds.

Agenda

The delegation's findings will feed into the annual discharge report on Commission spending and the discharge of the European Development Funds.

Budgetary Control Committee role

The Budgetary Control Committee oversees EU budget spending. It assesses whether goals are met, programmes provide value for money and money is spent efficiently and according to EU rules.

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OTHER EVENTS

09:00-19:00 Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)

G20 Speakers Consultation

Mr Othmar KARAS (EPP, AT), Vice-President in charge of multilateral questions and bodies and international financial institutions, will represent the European Parliament at the third consultative meeting of G20 parliamentary speakers in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) from 24 to 26 February 2012.

Mr KARAS will speak on the financial crisis and its impact on the world economy, present the legislative measures on economic governance adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in the autumn, and the European Parliament's position on the accountability of executives to parliaments. He will also raise the issue of exchange rate volatility.

The consultative meeting of G20 parliamentary speakers was established under Canada's G20 presidency in 2010. A second meeting took place in Seoul (South Korea), in 2011.

The European Parliament is committed to ensuring that the G8 and the G20 fora, whose role in world governance is growing, are not limited to intergovernmental co-operation, but fully involve parliaments in debates and decision-taking processes. The European Parliament holds plenary debates, and passes resolutions, on the themes of each G20 summit.

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Saturday 25/02/2012

THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

09:00-10:00 *Bologna*

The President's Diary

- 9.00 Ceremony in City Hall and visit to the Monte Sole memorial to commemorate the Marzabotto Massacre

DELEGATIONS

09:00-19:00 *Senegal*

EP - Election Observation in Senegal

A 7-member delegation of MEPs will travel to Senegal to observe the presidential elections on 22-29 February. The delegation is led by Cristian Dan PREDE (EPP, RO). The delegation is composed by Santiago FISAS AYXELA (EPP, ES), Gaston FRANCO (EPP, FR), John ATTARD-MONTALTO (S&D, MT), Enrique GUERRERO SALOM (S&D, ES), Jo LEINEN (S&D, DE), Norica NICOLAI (ALDE, RO).

The delegation will observe in Dakar and surroundings and in the region of Diourbel, close to the city of Touba.

A joint press conference to announce the preliminary findings of the EU EOM is scheduled for the 28th February.

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Sunday 26/02/2012

DELEGATIONS

09:00-19:00 Senegal

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