The Week Ahead 18 – 24 September 2017

Delegations

**DELEGATIONS**

**EU/Latin America.** The future of the multilateral trade system and the cooperation between the EU and Latin America in the fight against organised crime and terrorism will be some of the main topics addressed at the tenth plenary session of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat), taking place in El Salvador. Other issues on the agenda are food price volatility, informal and undeclared work, regulation of lobbies, cooperation in the field of aviation and research. *(Monday to Thursday)*

**Migration/Tunisia.** A Civil Liberties Committee delegation will go to Tunisia to look into cooperation in managing migration and border-control between the EU and countries in the region, particularly in Libya. The delegation will discuss “search and rescue” operations in the Mediterranean and the current situation in detention centres and on human rights, as well as issues such as visa liberalisation and readmission agreements, with Tunisian ministers, members of Parliament as well as civil society representatives. *(Monday to Friday)*

**Environment/Poland.** Following the European Court of Justice decision ordering an immediate halt to logging in the protected Białowieża forest, and the refusal of Polish authorities to respect this ban, a delegation of the Environment Committee will go to Warsaw to meet with Polish Environment minister Jan Szyszko, NGOs as well as representatives from Polish industry and trade unions. *(Monday to Wednesday)*

**EU funds/Hungary.** Budgetary Control Committee MEPs will go to Hungary to visit a number of project sites and meet members of the Hungarian Parliament, the State Audit Office and civil society representatives. The Budgetary Control Committee regularly inspects EU-funded projects in the member states and other countries. *(Monday to Wednesday)*

**Myanmar mission cancelled.** In light of the recent developments in Myanmar, the European Parliament Committee on International Trade has decided to postpone indefinitely its planned visit to the country. Parliament just adopted a resolution calling for “the killings, harassment and rape of the Rohingya people” to cease immediately.

**President’s diary.** EP President Antonio Tajani will pay an official visit to France on Thursday and Friday. He will meet the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, Prime-Minister Édouard Philippe and National Assembly President François de Rugy.

**EP Press Service contact 16-17 September**

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DELEGATIONS

09:00-19:00

Civil Liberties delegation to Tunisia
Tunisia

18-22 September

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13:00-21:30

CONT Fact-finding mission to Hungary

Composed of seven Members of the Committee on Budgetary Control, members of the European Commission and the Court of Auditors, and led by the Committee Chair Ingeborg Gräßle (EPP, Germany), the mission will visit project sites and plans to meet representatives of the civil society, the Parliament, the State Audit Office and other stakeholders. The Budgetary Control Committee, in charge of controlling the legality and efficiency of EU spending, undertakes visits to Member States as well as third countries to inspect the use of EU funds. During its current tenure, the Committee has visited Croatia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland and Jordan, the USA, Lebanon, Turkey and Ukraine. After each visit, a report is drafted and submitted to the European Commission, which manages the largest part of EU’s budget. Mission findings are also taken into account during the annual budgetary discharge procedure.
CULT Delegation to Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria)
A delegation from the Committee on Culture and Education will visit Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria). MEPs will meet the Ministers of Education, Culture and Youth, as well as chairs of national parliamentary committees. They will discuss challenges and ways to improve and modernise the school and higher education sectors with representatives of Bulgarian universities, high schools and regional VET schools. Members of the EP delegation will visit cultural venues in Veliko Tarnovo and debate on the role of traditional handcrafts and skills in preserving local know-how and production methods.

TRAN Delegation to Sofia and Burgas (Bulgaria)
A delegation of six Members from the Committee on Transport and Tourism led by Mr. Wim Van de Camp (EPP, NL) will visit Bulgaria to meet with the Minister of Transport, members of parliament, local authorities and railway and port representatives to discuss transport policy initiatives, progress with ongoing EU funded projects and infrastructure development.

REGI Delegation to Cluj-Napoca (Romania)
Members of the Committee on Regional Development will meet with the Mayor of Cluj-Napoca to discuss the impact of the EU regional development policy to the economic and social development of the region. They will visit several projects which are co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund in order to evaluate the already achieved results and possible developments. MEPs will also hold meetings with local, regional and national authorities and the beneficiaries of EU funds to discuss the issues of simplification, absorption of funds and smart specialisation.
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DELEGATIONS

Employment committee fact-finding mission to Slovenia and Croatia
A delegation from the Employment and Social Affairs Committee will be in Slovenia and Croatia from 19 to 21 September on a fact-finding mission in the context of the report on “The implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative in the member states” which should be voted in committee in December. The aim of the mission is to investigate if and to which extent national policies related to the Youth Employment Initiative have played a role in the recent positive developments on the Slovenian and Croatian labour market and what lessons could be learned.

Members participating in the fact-finding mission are Romana TOMC (EPP, SI), Emilian PAVEL (S&D, RO), Kostadinka KUNEVA (GUE/NGL, GR) and Joëlle MÉLIN (ENF, FR).

ITRE delegation to Athens
Two members of the committee on industry, energy and research - Angelika NIEBLER (EPP, DE) and Cora VAN NIEUWENHUIZEN (ALDE,NL) – will visit between September 19th and 20th the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) in Athens.

Internal Market Committee delegation to Washington D.C.
A delegation from the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee will be in Washington from 19 to 21 September 2017. E-commerce and digital market, EU-US cooperation in the field of services and in standards setting, market access and public procurement, cybersecurity, sharing economy and consumer protection are among the topics to be discussed with the US counterparts. MEPs will meet with trade officials, members of the US Congress and Senate, the US Department of Commerce, as well as with consumer organisations, think tanks, start-ups and the business community, amongst others.

Members participating in the delegation are Anneleen VAN BOSSUYT (ECR, BE) (chair of the committee and head of delegation), Andreas SCHWAB (EPP, DE), Róża THUN (EPP, PL), António LÓPEZ-ISTÚRIZ (EPP, ES), Marlene MIZZI (S&D, MT), Christel SCHALDEMOSE (S&D, DK) and Mylène TROSZCZYNSKI (ENF, FR).

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09:00-20:00
CULT Delegation to Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria)

A delegation from the Committee on Culture and Education will visit Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria). MEPs will meet the Ministers of Education, Culture and Youth, as well as chairs of national parliamentary committees. They will discuss challenges and ways to improve and modernise the school and higher education sectors with representatives of Bulgarian universities, high schools and regional VET schools. Members of the EP delegation will visit cultural venues in Veliko Tarnovo and debate on the role of traditional handicrafts and skills in preserving local know-how and production methods.
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A delegation of six Members from the Committee on Transport and Tourism led by Mr. Wim Van de Camp (EPP, NL) will visit Bulgaria to meet with the Minister of Transport, members of parliament, local authorities and railway and port representatives to discuss transport policy initiatives, progress with ongoing EU funded projects and infrastructure development.

REGI Delegation to Cluj-Napoca (Romania)

Members of the Committee on Regional Development will meet with the Mayor of Cluj-Napoca to discuss the impact of the EU regional development policy to the economic and social development of the region. They will visit several projects which are co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund in order to evaluate the already achieved results and possible developments. MEPs will also hold meetings with local, regional and national authorities and the beneficiaries of EU funds to discuss the issues of simplification, absorption of funds and smart specialisation.

PECH Delegation to Tokyo (Japan)

Members of the Committee on Fisheries will meet with the President of the Fisheries Research and Education Agency and the Director-General of the Japan Fisheries Agency. They will visit the world’s largest fish market and also hold meetings with representatives of fisheries cooperatives. They will meet representatives of the Japan Fisheries Association and experts from universities to discuss inter alia the issues of illegal and unreported fisheries.
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DELEGATIONS

Employment committee delegation to Madrid

The Employment and Social Affairs Committee will send a delegation to Madrid from 20 to 22 September with the aim to focus on ongoing files such as the Accessibility Act, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, active ageing, the social economy and the New Skills Agenda. The delegation will meet stakeholders which are active in these areas, in particular ONCE, the National Organization of the Blind in Spain, and the ONCE Foundation. The visit of an ESF co-financed project and relevant authorities is also foreseen.

Members participating in the delegation are Agnieszka KOZLOWSKA-RAJEWICZ (EPP, PL), Marek PLURA (EPP, PL), Elena GENTILE (S&D, IT), Siôn SIMON (S&D, UK) and Tatjana ŽDANOKA (Greens/EFA, LV), Rosa ESTARÁS (EPP, ES), Sergio GUTIERREZ PRIETO (S&D, ES), Enrique CALVET CHAMBON (ALDE, ES), and Paloma LÓPEZ BERMEJO (GUE/NGL, ES).

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08:00-14:30
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08:45-16:45
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05:00-19:00

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The President's agenda
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Official Visit to France

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ITRE delegation to Ljubljana
Two members of the committee on industry, energy and research - Miroslav POCHE (S&D, CZ) and Morten Helweg Petersen (ALDE, DA) - will visit on September 21st the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) in Ljubljana.

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