The Week Ahead 22-28 February 2010

Plenary Session and Committee Meetings – Brussels

*Brussels Plenary Session*

**EU summit.** MEPs will assess the informal meeting of EU leaders of 11 February on the economic crisis *(Wednesday).*

**Goldstone report/Gaza.** MEPs will debate the implementation of the recommendations in the report into the Israel-Gaza conflict drawn up by a UN panel chaired by Judge Richard Goldstone *(Wednesday).*

**Fisheries reform.** Parliament will adopt its political position on plans to reform the Common Fisheries Policy *(debate and vote Thursday).*

**Less red tape.** MEPs will vote on a new law to reduce the burden of accounting requirements on the smallest businesses *(Thursday).*

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**EP – Middle East.** President Buzek will meet Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas *(Tuesday)* and Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman *(Monday).*

**EP – Bulgaria.** President Buzek will welcome Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov to Parliament *(Tuesday).*

**EP – Belarus.** Mr Buzek will also meet Sakharov Prize winner and Belarusian opposition leader Aliaksandr Mininkevich, along with Angelika Borys, leader of the Union of Poles in Belarus *(Tuesday).*

**Maternity Leave.** The Women’s Rights Committee will vote on proposals to extend the minimum period of maternity leave set out in EU law *(Tuesday).*

**Financial Market Supervision.** The Economics Committee will debate legislative proposals aimed at improving the EU’s system of financial market supervision, and also amendments to the hedge funds/private equity directive *(Tuesday).*

**Foreign Policy.** The Foreign Affairs’s Committee votes on its annual report on the common foreign and security policy *(Tuesday).*

**WTO/Pascal Lamy.** The Director General of the World Trade Organisation will meet the International Trade Committee *(Tuesday).* He will also meet President Buzek.

**EIB and CoA.** Philippe Maystadt, President of the European Investment Bank will meet the Regional Development Committee *(Monday)* and Vítor da Silva Caldeira President of the Court of Auditors will meet the Budgetary Control Committee *(Tuesday).*
PLENARY SESSION

Plenary agenda
Wednesday 24/02/2010 15:00-20:00 Brussels, Plenary Chamber
15:00 - 20:00

- Resumption of session and order of business
- EU 2020 - Follow-up of the informal European Council of 11 February 2010 - European Council and Commission statements followed by debate (the vote will be held at the next part-session)
- Parliament's priorities for the UN Human Rights Council (Geneva, 1-26 March 2010) - Statement by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission followed by debate
- Implementation of Goldstone recommendations on Israel/Palestine - Statement by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission followed by debate
- Beijing +15 - UN Platform for Action for Gender Equality - Oral question to the Council and Commission by Eva-Britt SVENSSON (GUE/NGL, SE), followed by debate
- One-minute speeches (Rule 150)
* - Investment projects into energy infrastructure within the European Community - debate on report by Adina-Ioana VĂLEAN (ALDE, RO)
- Amending Parliament's Estimates for 2010 budget - debate on the report by Vladimír MAŇKA (S-D,SK)

Thursday 25/02/2010 09:00-13:00 Brussels, Plenary Chamber

09:00 - 10:50
- Green Paper on reform of the common fisheries policy - debate on report by Maria do Céu PATRÃO NEVES (EPP, PT)

11:00 - 13:00 Votes
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- Annual accounts of certain types of companies as regards micro-entities - report by Klaus-Heiner LEHNE (EPP, DE)
- Situation in Ukraine - motion for resolution
- Texts on which debate is closed
THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

**EP President Agenda**

**Monday 22/02/2010 17:30-20:00 Brussels**
- 17.30 Meeting with Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Avigdor LIBERMAN
- 18.30 Opening of the East Poland House

**Tuesday 23/02/2010 12:30-18:30 Brussels**
- 9.00 Meeting with Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Audronius AZUBALIS
- 10.00 Meeting with President of Bulgaria Georgi PARVANOV followed by a press point at 10.30
- 14.00 Meeting with Aliaksandr MILINKEVICH 2006 EP Sakharov Prize Laureate and Angelika BORYS leader of the Union of Poles in Belarus, followed by a brief press point
- 18.30 Speech opening exhibition "Lublin City of Inspiration"
- 19.00 Meeting with President of the Palestinian National Authority Mahmoud ABBAS followed by a press point at 19.30
- 19.45 Meeting with Pascal LAMY Director-General of the World Trade Organisation

**Wednesday 24/02/2010 08:00-20:45 Brussels**
- 8.00 Meeting with the Permanent President of the European Council Herman VAN ROMPUY
- 9.30 Speech at 20th Winter University "European today, 20 years after - priorities for the youth"
- 10.00 Meeting with President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Gianfranco FINI
- 10.45 New Year Reception hosted by the King ALBERT II of Belgium
- 15.00 Opening of the Brussels EP plenary session
- 17.00 Opening speech at exhibition Pécs (Hungary) 2010 European Capital of Culture in EP
- 18.00 EP Bureau meeting
- 20.15 Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) Annual Conference, keynote speech on energy policy and energy security

**Thursday 25/02/2010 08:30-15:00 Brussels**
- 8.30 Meeting with the Minister-President of Lower Saxony Christian WULFF
- 9.30 Speech opening the conference "The meaning of Polish - German reconciliation for European integration" in the Committee of Regions
- 13.30 Speech opening the e-parliament project
- 14.30 Photo opportunity with 20 young professionals from emerging countries (Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan and South Africa)
PRESS CONFERENCES

Today’s press conferences

Monday 22/02/2010 11:00-11:30 **Brussels, PHS 0A050, Anna Politkovskaya’s room**
15:30 - Briefing on the parliamentary agenda

Tuesday 23/02/2010 12:30-18:00 **Brussels, PHS 0A050, Anna Politkovskaya’s room**
12:30 - EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee - outcome of the Brussels meeting - Hélène FLAUTRE (Greens/EFA, FR)
16:30 - Public hearing on European drug policy - Michail TREMOPOULOS (Greens/EFA, EL)
17:30 - Vote on the directive "health and safety of pregnant workers" - Edite ESTRELA (S&D, PT)

Wednesday 24/02/2010 10:00-18:00 **Brussels, PHS 0A050, Anna Politkovskaya’s room**
10:00 - Catalan MEPs presentation - Ramon TREMOSA I BALCELLS (ALDE, ES)
10:30 - Status of Catalan in the EU - Oriol JUNQUERAS VIES (Greens/EFA, ES)
11:00 - Presentation of MESEURO - Mario MAURO (EPP, IT) and Gianni PITTELLA (S&D, IT)
11:30 - Centre for Mediterranean Europe Foundations - Mario MAURO (EPP, IT) and Gianni PITTELLA (S&D, IT)
13:00 - The lack of a transparent process concerning the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) - Françoise CASTEX (S&D, FR), Zuzana ROITHOVÁ (EPP, CZ), Stavros LAMBRINIDIS (S&D, EL) and Alexander ALVARO (ALDE, DE)
14:00 - Violations of human rights and democratic standards in Belarus. Consequences for EU-Belarus relations - Jacek SARYUSZ-WOLSKI (EPP, PL), Jacek PROTASIEWICZ (EPP, PL), Angelika BORYS and Alexander MILINKIEVICH
16:30 - Global Progressive Financial Taxation! American and European Progressive leaders to join growing calls for financial transaction tax - Pervenche BERÈS (S&D, FR)
17:30 - Town Twinning Programme - The best practice experience of Scapoli - Aldo PATRICIELLO (EPP, IT), Radvilė MORKŪNAITĖ-MIKULĖNIE NĖ (EPP, LT), Renato SPARACINO, Mayor of Scapoli and Peppino DE ROSE, EC Fund Expert
Agenda

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)
Tuesday 23/02/2010 09:00-18:30 Brussels, JAN 2Q2

- Outcome of the 12th EP-Bosnia and Herzegovina Interparliamentary meeting (15-16 February, Sarajevo) - discussion on report by Eduard KUKAN (EPP, SK)
- Recommendation to the Council on the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
- EP Election Observation Delegation to Ukraine (7 February 2010) - discussion on report by Paweł Robert KOWAL (ECR, PL), chair of the delegation
- Public Hearing on "Union for the Mediterranean - assessment and prospects" (15:00-16:30)

Votes
16:30-18:00

- The implementation of the European Security Strategy and the Common Security and Defence Policy
- Report on the annual report from the Council to the European Parliament on the main aspects and basic choices of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) in 2008 by Arnaud DANJEAN (EPP, FR)

Committee on Development (DEVE)
Monday 22/02/2010 15:00-18:30 Brussels, ASP 1G2

- Priorities in EU development cooperation - discussion with Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for Development

Committee on International Trade (INTA)
Tuesday 23/02/2010 09:00-18:30 Brussels, ASP 1G2

- Corporate and social responsibility in international trade agreements (9:00)
- Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) - discussion with the Commission (11:30-12:30)
- Presentation by Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), on the state of play of the negotiations of the Doha Round - discussion (15:00-17:00)

Committee on Budgets (BUDG)
Tuesday 23/02/2010 15:00-18:30 Brussels, JAN 6Q2

- Discussion on the findings and recommendations on European Investment Bank's external mandate with representatives from the Steering Committee - Report by Ivailo KALFIN (S&D, BG)
- Presentation of working document for the 2011 budget (BUD) - Report by Sidonia Elżbieta JĘDRZEJEWSKA (EPP, PL) and László SURJÁN (EPP, HU)
• Votes on mobilisation of the globalisation adjustment fund (one German case, two Lithuanian cases) (BUD) - Report by Reimer BÖGE (EPP, DE)

• Vote on the allocation of financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) for the establishment of the gross national income (GNI) (CNS) - Report by Jean-Luc DEHAENE (EPP, BE)

• Votes on transfer requests - Report by László SURJÁN (EPP, HU)

Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT)
Monday 22/02/2010 15:00-18:30 Brussels, ASP 1G3

• 2008 Discharges : presentation of the Council recommendations by Carlos OCANA, Secretary of State for Finance of Spain

• Discussion with Algirdas ŠEMETA, Commissioner for Taxation and Customs Union, Audit and Anti-Fraud, and with representatives for the Court of Auditors

• Discussions with the Court of Auditors on special report on the management of pre-accession assistance to Turkey (no press release, it's more related to the Court of Auditors than to the Parliament)

Tuesday 23/02/2010 09:00-12:30 Brussels, ASP 1G3

• Vote : annual report on the protection of the Communities' financial interests and fight against fraud

• Discussions with representatives from the Court of Auditors: discharge 2008 for the European Parliament, the Council, the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors, the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, the European Ombudsman, the European Data Protection Supervisor and the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th European Development Funds

Tuesday 23/02/2010 15:00-18:30

• Discussion with Vítor da SILVA CALDEIRA, President of the Court of Auditors : Work programme 2010 of the European Court of Auditors

• Discussion with representative of the Court of Auditors : "Improving financial management"

• Discussions with representative of the Court of Auditors : 2008 Discharge of EU's agencies

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)
Tuesday 23/02/2010 09:00-18:30 Brussels, PHS 3C050

- Alternative investment fund managers directive - Consideration of amendments (COD) - Report by Jean-Paul GAUZÈS (EPP, FR) (9:00)

- Report on the 2009 Annual Statement on the Euro Area and Public Finances (INI) - Vote on draft report by Sven GIEGOLD (Greens/EFA, DE)

- Implementation of the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) - Vote on question for oral answer and motion for a resolution

- Financial transactions taxes - making them work - Vote on question for oral answer and motion for a resolution

- Discussion with Johnny ÅKERHOLM, Chairperson of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB) (11:30)

- Financial Supervisory Package - Presentation of draft reports for:
  - European Banking Authority (COD) - Report by José Manuel GARCÍA-MARGALLO Y MARFIL (EPP, ES)
  - European Securities and Markets Authority (COD) - Report by Sven GIEGOLD (Greens/EFA, DE)
  - European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (COD) - Report by Peter SKINNER (S&D, UK)
  - European Systemic Risk Board (COD) - Report by Sylvie GOULARD (ALDE, FR)
  - Tasks for the European Central Bank in ESRB (CNS) - Report by Ramon TREMOSA I BALCELLS (ALDE, ES)
  - Powers of the Micro Supervisory Authorities (COD) - Report by Antolín SÁNCHEZ PRESEDO (S&D, ES)

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)
Monday 22/02/2010 15:00-18:30 Brussels, JAN 4Q2

- Organisation of working time of persons performing mobile road transport activities (COD) - discussion on amendments to report by Edit BAUER (EPP, SK) (15.15-16.15)

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)
Tuesday 23/02/2010 09:00-18:30 Brussels, JAN 4Q2

- A list of third countries, or parts of third countries, and animal and public health and veterinary certification conditions for importation into the Community of certain live animals and their fresh meat (Codecison, first reading) - Vote on report by Jo Leinen (S&D)

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)
Monday 22/02/2010 15:00-17:00 Brussels, JAN 4Q1
• Mini hearing: Mid-term review of the European satellite navigation programmes: implementation assessment, future challenges and financing perspectives (INI) - Report by Vladimír REMEK (GUE/NGL, CZ)

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IM-CO)
Tuesday 23/02/2010 09:00-18:30 Brussels, ASP 3G2

• Consumer Protection (INI) - vote on report by Anna HEDH (S&D, SE)
• SOLVIT (INI) - vote on report by Cristian Silviu BUŞOI (ALDE, RO)

Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)
Tuesday 23/02/2010 09:00-12:30 Brussels, PHS 1A002

Committee on Regional Development (REGI)
Monday 22/02/2010 15:00-18:30 Brussels, Room: ASP A3G3
• Report on the first meeting of the Working party on the future of the Cohesion Policy (from 17:20 to 17:30 approximately)
• Discussion with Philippe MAYSTADT, President of the European Investment Bank on the activities of the Bank concerning Regional and Cohesion Policy (from 17:30 approximately)

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)
Monday 22/02/2010 15:00-18:30 Brussels, room ASP 3E-2

Tuesday 23/02/2010 09:00-12:30 Brussels, room ASP 3E-2, Listening room: ASP 5B001
• Agricultural product quality policy: what strategy to follow? (INI) - Vote on report by Giancarlo SCOTTA’ (EFD, IT) (at 9:30)
• Possibly: Adoption of an oral question on "Agriculture and the future EU Strategy 2020" (at 10:30 approximately)

Committee on Fisheries (PECH)
Tuesday 23/02/2010 09:00-18:30 Brussels, room ASP 5 G 3
• Exchange of views with the EP’s Legal Service on the legal opinion of 13 July 2009 concerning the fisheries agreement with Morocco (10:00)
• Public hearing on ‘A sustainable future for European aquaculture’ (please see “hearings”)

**Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)**
Monday 22/02/2010 15:00-18:30 Brussels, room PHS 5 B 001

• Europeana - the next steps (INI) - Vote on report by Helga TRÜPEL (GREENS/EFA, DE)

Tuesday 23/02/2010 15:00-18:30 Brussels, room PHS 1 A 002

• Public hearing on "Europe's Universities - Challenges and Responses" (please see "hearings")

**Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI)**
Tuesday 23/02/2010 11:50-17:00 Luxembourg, Court of Justice

• Visit to the Court of Justice, Luxembourg - round table meeting with members of the Civil Service Tribunal, the General Court and the Court of Justice

**Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)**
Monday 22/02/2010 15:00-18:30 Brussels, JAN 6Q2

• Reception of asylum seekers - system of burden sharing between Member States - presentation of study and discussion (15.45-16.45)
• Single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a Member State and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State - vote on report by Véronique MATHIEU (EPP, FR) (16.45-17.00)
• Fact-finding delegation to the South of Italy - Report back and oral presentation of the delegation (17.00 - 18.00)

Tuesday 23/02/2010 09:00-12:30 Brussels, JAN 6Q2

• Accession to the European Convention on Human Rights - presentation by representatives from the European Commission and the Spanish Presidency of the EU Council (09.00-9.45)
• Discussion with Jacob KOHNSTAMM, new Chairman of the art. 29 Working Party on their work programme (11.00 - 11.45)

**Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)**
Monday 22/02/2010 15:00-18:30 Brussels, JAN 2Q2

Joint debate - Composition of the European Parliament

• Transitional arrangements on composition of the European Parliament (18 MEPs) - revision of the Treaties (NLE) - discussion on report
• Decision not to convene a Convention for revision of the Treaties with regard to transitional measures concerning the composition of the European Parliament (NLE) - discussion on report
• Institutional aspects of EU accession to European Convention on Human Rights (INI) - discussion on report by Ramón JÁUREGUI ATONDO (S&D, ES)
Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)
Tuesday 23/02/2010 15:00-18:00 Brussels, ASP A3E-2

- Discussion with Virginija LANGBAKK, Executive Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality (15.00-16.00)
- Safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding (COD) - vote on report by Edite ESTRELA (S&D, PT) (16.00-17.15)

Committee on Petitions (PETI)
Tuesday 23/02/2010 09:00-18:30 Brussels, ASP 3G3
Petitions for discussion concerning Spain (09.00-12.30)
Afternoon 15.00
Petitions for discussion concerning Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy and the UK.

Special Committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis (CRIS)
Thursday 25/02/2010 15:00-18:30 Brussels, JAN 4Q1

- 4th Public Hearing on "Financial regulation and supervision":
  Panel 1: To what extent did financial regulation and supervision fail in preventing the crisis?
  Panel 2: Which future model for Europe?
DELEGATIONS

EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Assembly
Monday 22/02/2010 15:00-18:30 Brussels, ASP 1E2
Tuesday 23/02/2010 09:00-18:30 Brussels, ASP 1E2
MEPs and MPs from the Turkish Grand National Assembly will meet to discuss the state of play of the Accession Process in Brussels. Hélène Flautre (Greens/EFA, FR) and Lüfti Elvan will co-chair the 63rd EU-Turkey JPC.
Topics on the Agenda include the state of play of the Accession Process and the EU Court of Auditor's report on the pre-accession aid to Turkey (Monday afternoon), a discussion on the European Parliament's Resolution on the 2009 Progress Report (Tuesday morning), migration and illegal immigration, including the state of play on the ongoing negotiations of an EU-Turkey re-Admission Agreement (Tuesday afternoon).
The Co-Chairs will hold a Press conference Tuesday at 12.35 (Anna Politkovskaya Room).

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Fact-finding mission to Belarus
Friday 26/02/2010 09:00-19:00 Belarus
Saturday 27/02/2010 09:00-19:00 Belarus
Parliament is sending a fact-finding mission (26-27 February) to Belarus to evaluate how the Belarusian side could be represented at the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly. The fact-finding mission is chaired by Kristian VIGENIN (S&D, BG) and composed of Jacek PROTASIEWICZ (EPP, PL), Justas VINCAS PALECKIS (S&D, LT) and Heidi HAUTALA (Greens/EFA, FI).
The constitutive meeting of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly - which brings 60 MEPs and 60 MPs from 6 former Soviet Republics (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus) - is scheduled to take place 23 -24 March in Brussels.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

EU accession to UN Convention on Disabilities
Monday 22/02/2010 16:00-18:00 Brussels, room PHS 4B001

- The hearing will focus on three main aspects:
  - The Convention and its ratifications as well as signatures;
  - EU policy on disabilities and access of the EU to the UN Convention; and
  - The impact of the instrument on society.
Speakers will include Erzsébet Szöllősi, Vice President of the European Disability Forum, as well as representatives from the UN, the Commission and the Council.

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A sustainable Future for European aquaculture
Tuesday 23/02/2010 15:00-18:30 Brussels, room ASP 5G3
Committee on Fisheries

In a world where fishing resources are becoming scarce and where the world demand for fish and seafood products keeps growing, aquaculture is gaining more and more importance for the EU. Several guests have been invited to express their views about the sector.

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Europe's Universities - Challenges and responses
Tuesday 23/02/2010 15:00-18:00 Brussels, PHS 1A2
Committee on Culture and Education

Academic experts in the field of education and training will discuss with Members of the committee on culture and education on ways to improve the recently created EU Forum for University Business Dialogue and generally the cooperation between education and business at local, regional, national and transnational level. The hearing will serve to prepare the adoption of a report by Pál Schmitt (EPP, HU) on the same subject.
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OTHER EVENTS

Seminar: The impact of EU GMO regulation
Thursday 25/02/2010 14:30-18:30 Brussels, PHS 4B001
Committee for industry, research and energy

Seminar: The impact of EU GMO regulation on agricultural biotechnology research for the public good; discussion on the potential impact of current government and EU regulations and policies for public biotechnology research