

## The Week Ahead 20 – 26 February 2017

### Delegations

**Trade agreements/Mexico.** An International Trade Committee delegation will be in Mexico City as the EU and Mexico are set to update a 17-year-old trade agreement. MEPs will meet governmental, parliamentary, civil society and industry representatives to discuss the scope and the potential of a new trade deal. Trade negotiations with Mexico were launched in May 2016. *(Monday to Wednesday)*

**Panama papers inquiry/Malta.** Members of the Inquiry Committee into Money Laundering, Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion (PANA) will visit Malta, further to the Panama Papers revelations that some Maltese politicians and 45 intermediaries located in the island had links to Mossack Fonseca, the law firm at the heart of the scandal. The delegation will meet, among others, Malta's Finance Minister, members of the tax administration, journalists and intermediaries including law firms and banks. *(Monday)*

**Asylum/Canada.** Civil Liberties Committee MEPs will go to Canada to look into its resettlement program and integration policy for asylum seekers. They will also meet Members of the Citizenship and Immigration and Justice and Human Rights committees, as well as government and NGO representatives. Over 40,000 Syrian refugees have been resettled in Canada since November 2015. *(Monday to Friday)*

**Border controls/Frontex (Poland).** A Civil Liberties Committee delegation will go to Frontex headquarters in Warsaw to assess European Border and Coast Guard operations at EU external land, sea and air borders. MEPs will meet, among others, Frontex Executive Director Fabrice Leggeri and Fundamental Rights Officer Inmaculada Arnaez. *(Monday and Tuesday)*

**Peace process/Palestine.** The Delegation for relations with Palestine will travel there to discuss the Middle East peace process, particularly settlements, and look into EU-funded projects. MEPs will meet President Mahmoud Abbas as well as Palestinian and Israeli peace activists and visit communities at risk of forced displacement. If granted access, they will also go to Gaza to meet Labour Minister Abu Shahla and the Director of UNRWA operations Bo Schack. *(Monday to Friday)*

**EU relations with India.** MEPs from the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Delegation for relations with India will visit it to re-launch the stalled EU-India dialogue on counter-terrorism, cyber-security, piracy and human rights. The visit will feed into a draft resolution on EU-India relations to be voted by Parliament later this year. An Internal Market Committee delegation will also go to India to visit start-up incubators and explore new digital market opportunities. *(Monday to Friday)*

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**President's diary.** European Parliament President Antonio Tajani will go to Berlin on Friday to meet Germany's President Joachim Gauck and Chancellor Angela Merkel.

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## THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

### The President's agenda

Friday 24/02/2017

#### Berlin

11h00 Meeting with Chancellor Angela Merkel

12h15 Meeting with President of Germany Joachim Gauck

## DELEGATIONS

### AFET mission to India

Wednesday 22/02/2017

Thursday 23/02/2017

Friday 24/02/2017

New Delhi, India

22-24 February 2017

A seven-strong delegation from the Foreign Affairs committee, led by its Chair David McALLISTER (EPP, DE) will be in New Delhi, India, on 21-24 February to relaunch the stalled strategic EU - India dialogue in the areas of counter-terrorism, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyber-security, fight against piracy and promotion of human rights. Members travelling in the delegation are Cristian Dan PREDA (EPP, RO), Željana ZOVKO (EPP, HR), Neena GILL (S&D, UK), Jo LEINEN (S&D, DE) and Amjad BASHIR (ECR, UK).

MEPs will meet with India's Prime Minister Narendra MODI as well as with other members of the Indian government. They will also meet with representatives of the Lok Sabha, the lower chamber of the Indian Parliament, Indian media and journalists and will debate human rights related topics with NGOs representatives.

Six members from the **EP delegation for relations with India**, led by Geoffrey Van Orden (ECR, UK), will visit Delhi and Bangalore from 19 to 23 February. An Internal Market Committee delegation, headed by Vicky Ford (ECR, UK), will visit Delhi and Mumbai from 21 to 23 February.

### D-PAL mission to Palestine

Monday 20/02/2017

Tuesday 21/02/2017

Wednesday 22/02/2017

Thursday 23/02/2017

Friday 24/02/2017

Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, Palestine

20-24 February 2017

A five-strong delegation from the **EP delegation for relations with Palestine**, led by its new chair Neoklis Sylikiotis (GUE/NGL, CY), will visit Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, from 20 to 24 February to discuss the Middle East Peace Process and recent developments, particularly on settlements, and look into EU-funded projects. MEPs will have meetings at a high political level including with President Mahmoud Abbas, with communities at risk and civil society organisations as well as Palestinian and Israeli peace activists. The Delegation will aim to visit the Ofer Military Court for trial observation as well as visit the Ayda refugee camp. If granted access, MEPs will also go to Gaza where they will meet Labour Minister Abu Shahla, the Director of UNRWA operations Bo Schack and civil society representatives and visit the EU-funded desalination plant.

## **DROI mission to Vietnam**

**Monday 20/02/2017**

**Tuesday 21/02/2017**

**Wednesday 22/02/2017**

**Thursday 23/02/2017**

**Friday 24/02/2017**

**Hanoi, Vietnam**

**20-24 February 2017**

**A six-strong delegation from the Human Rights subcommittee, led by its Chair Antonio PANZERI (S&D, IT) will be in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 20-24 February to assess the human rights situation in the country.**

The delegation composed of Lars ADAKTUSSON (EPP, SE), Adam KOSA (EPP, HU), Soraya POST (S&D, SE), David MARTIN (S&D, UK) and Beatriz BECERRA BASTERRECHEA (ALDE, ES) will meet with National Assembly committees members, government ministries, UN agencies, and NGOs representatives and discuss the postponed application of the laws - Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Law on Custody and Detention and Law on investigative bodies - passed in 2015. The EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement and human rights impact assessment will be another issue to be raised with the Vietnamese authorities.

## **IMCO mission to India**

**Tuesday 21/02/2017**

**Wednesday 22/02/2017**

**Thursday 23/02/2017**

**A mission from the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee will go to India from 21 to 23 February 2017 to better understand how the country safeguards consumers' rights and combats counterfeiting. MEPs will look at the Indian customs policy, including port controls and IT systems in customs, visit start-up incubators and an Info-tech park, meet consumers' associations and share experiences about the standardisation process in India and in the EU.**

The fact-finding mission to India (Mumbai and New Delhi) will be composed of seven MEPs: Vicky Ford (ECR, UK), chair of the Internal Market Committee, Andreas Schwab (EPP, DE), Anna Maria Corazza Bildt (EPP, SE), Ivan Štefanec (EPP, SK), Evelyne Gebhardt (S&D, DE), Olga Sehnalová (S&D, CZ) and Marlene Mizzi (S&D, MT). MEPs will meet ministers, parliamentarians, standardisation authorities and consumer organisations, among others. On 23 February, the mission of the Internal Market Committee and a mission from the External Affairs Committee will have a joint meeting with the Speaker of the Indian Parliament (Lok Sabha), Ms Sumita Mahajan.

## **INTA mission to Mexico**

**Tuesday 21/02/2017**

**Wednesday 22/02/2017**

**Monday 20/02/2017**

**Mexico City, Mexico**

**20-22 February 2017**

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**A delegation of the International Trade Committee will be in Mexico City between 20 and 22 February as the EU and Mexico are set to modernize a 17-years-old trade agreement.**

The delegation is headed by Committee Chair Bernd LANGE (S&D, DE) and consists of Rapporteur Sorin MOISA (S&D, RO), Inmaculada RODRIGUEZ PINERO, (S&D ES), Santiago FISAS AYXELA (EPP, ES), Emma McCLARKIN (ECR, UK), Hannu TAKKULA (ALDE, FI) and Nicola DANTI (S&D, IT). Members will meet governmental, parliamentary, civil society and industry representatives to discuss the scope and the potential of a new trade deal.

## **ITRE mission to Germany and Poland**

**Tuesday 21/02/2017**

**Wednesday 22/02/2017**

**Monday 20/02/2017**

Five MEPs from the **committee on industry, research and energy**, Barbara KUDRYCKA (EPP, PL), Soledad CABEZON RUIZ (S&D, ES), Lieve WIERINCK (ALDE, BE), Marisa MATIAS (GUE, PT), Jakop DALUNDE (Greens, SE), will go on a delegation to Germany and Poland between 20 and 22 February 2017. They will visit a few research projects funded by the European Union and will debate with scientists the future of the EU research policy.

## **Civil Liberties Committee mission to FRONTEX**

**Monday 20/02/2017 09:00-19:00 Warsaw, Varsovie**

**Tuesday 21/02/2017 09:00-19:00 Warsaw, Varsovie**

**20-21 February**

### **Warsaw (Poland)**

A delegation from the **Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee** will visit the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) in Warsaw on 20-21 February 2017.

The objective of the mission is to better understand the challenges Frontex is facing in implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1624 on the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, as regards its operational activities as well as its resources.

The delegation will be composed of Artis PABRIKS (EPP, LV), Péter NIEDERMÜLLER (S&D, HU) and Brice HORTEFEUX (EPP, FR)

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## **Civil Liberties Committee visit to Canada**

**Monday 20/02/2017 09:00-19:00**

**Tuesday 21/02/2017 09:00-19:00**

**Wednesday 22/02/2017 09:00-19:00**

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Thursday 23/02/2017 09:00-19:00

Friday 24/02/2017 09:00-19:00

Canada (Ottawa and Toronto)

## 20-24 February

A delegation of eight MEPs from the **Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee** will visit Ottawa and Toronto from 20-24 February 2017. The focus of this visit will be the resettlement policy, best practices on asylum policies and aspects related to visa reciprocity.

Participants will have the opportunity to meet the representatives of the competent ministries, members of the corresponding Parliament committees as well as representatives from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), different NGOs and stakeholders involved in the resettlement of refugees.

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## Delegation to Pafos (Cyprus) - European Capital of Culture 2017

Monday 20/02/2017 09:00-19:00

Tuesday 21/02/2017 09:00-19:00

Wednesday 22/02/2017 09:00-19:00

A delegation from the **Committee on Culture and Education** will visit Paphos - European Capital of Culture 2017. MEPs will meet the President and other representatives of the *Pafos2017* organising committee. They will visit cultural venues and debate on activities organised in the framework of *Pafos2017*. Members will also meet the Mayor of Paphos and representatives of the government and national parliament of Cyprus.

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## Delegation to Vigo, Spain

Monday 20/02/2017 09:00-19:00

Tuesday 21/02/2017 09:00-19:00

Wednesday 22/02/2017 09:00-19:00

A delegation of 6 Members of the **Committee on Fisheries** will visit Vigo, Spain from 20 till 22 February. MEPs will visit the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) where they will meet and discuss with the EFCA operational staff and get briefed on the EFCA data management systems and its training undertakings. They will also discuss the new EU

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framework and the cooperation with Frontex and the European Maritime Safety Agency. Members of the delegation will also visit the port of Vigo and its control facilities.

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## **Petitions Committee fact-finding mission to Sweden**

**Monday 20/02/2017 09:00-19:00**

**Tuesday 21/02/2017 09:00-19:00**

**20-21 February**

### **Stockholm (Sweden)**

The **Committee on Petitions** are visiting Stockholm on a fact-finding mission after receiving several petitions on the difficulties experienced by EU citizens getting a personal identification number for persons wishing to live in Sweden for more than a few weeks. On Tuesday, 21 February, the delegation, composed of four members, will meet with representatives of the different ministerial services involved in the decisions contested by the petitioners.

The Chair of the delegation is Pál CSÁKY (EPP, SK) and other members include Michela GIUFFRIDA (S&D, IT), Kostadinka KUNEVA (GUE/NGL, EL) and Cecilia WIKSTRÖM (ALDE, SE).

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## **Delegation to Toulouse and Marseille, France**

**Tuesday 21/02/2017 09:00-19:00**

**Wednesday 22/02/2017 09:00-19:00**

**Thursday 23/02/2017 09:00-19:00**

A delegation of 11 Members of the **Committee on Transport and Tourism**, led by the committee Chair Karima Delli (Greens/EFA, FR) will visit Toulouse and Marseille on 21-23 February 2017. They will meet with representatives of the Port of Marseilles, Airbus, SNCF, regional authorities and urban transport projects to discuss development of TEN-T



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corridors, urban transport solutions, competitiveness of the aviation industry and aviation safety, ports and hinterland connections.

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