The Week Ahead 16 – 22 February 2015

External Parliamentary Activities Week

The coming week is set aside for MEPs to work in their constituencies or to make delegation visits.

WTO Parliamentary Conference. A delegation of 14 MEPs, led by EP Vice-President Olli Rehn will take part in the annual session of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Parliamentary Conference in the WTO premises in Geneva, Switzerland. This conference is co-organised by the European Parliament to enhance the democratic legitimacy of WTO deals and hold it accountable to legislators. This year MEPs and MPs will look at trade as an enabler of peace and prosperity and how to better convey the benefits of the WTO to a wider public. (Monday and Tuesday)

Mission to Frontex. MEPs Barbara Kudrycka, Juan Fernando López Aguilar and Jeroen Lenaers from the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee will visit the headquarters of the EU border agency Frontex, in Warsaw (Poland). The delegation will meet Frontex's Executive Director, Fabrice Leggeri, and other staff to discuss the EU agency’s tasks, budget and organisation, possible changes to the Frontex regulation, the role of Frontex in Eurosur, plans for a European System of Border Guards, fundamental rights and recent developments, including the Triton operation in the Mediterranean. (Monday and Tuesday)

President’s diary. On Friday, President Schulz will pay a visit to Vienna where he will meet, among others, the President of the Austrian Parliament Doris Bures.
DELEGATIONS

09:00-19:00

**Civil Liberties delegation to visit Frontex in Warsaw**

Warsaw (Poland)

16-17 February 2015

MEPs from the **Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee** will visit the headquarters of the EU border agency, Frontex, in Warsaw (Poland) on 16 and 17 February. Barbara KUDRYCKA (EPP, PL), Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR (S&D, ES) and Jeroen LENAERS (EPP, NL) will meet Frontex's Executive Director, Fabrice LEGGERI, and other staff to discuss the EU agency tasks, budget and organisation, possible changes to the Frontex regulation, plans for a European System of Border Guards and operation Triton in the Mediterranean, among other issues.

Contact

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09:00-19:00

**Delegation to Paraguay and Uruguay**

Paraguay, Uruguay

Francisco ASSIS (S&D, PT) will be leading a delegation of 3 MEPs to Paraguay and Uruguay from 16 to 20 February. Carlos ZORRINHO (S&D, PT) and David BORRELLI (EFDD, IT) will also represent the EP Delegation for relations with Mercosur there.

The delegation is scheduled to meet the top political leaders of both Paraguay and Uruguay. In Paraguay, MEPs are also set to discuss with representatives of the civil society and entrepreneurs and visit a project on the EU assistance to the public policies in the field of social protection. In Uruguay, they will also visit a project funded by the EU on the support to scientific, technology and innovation policies and meet with representatives of the private sector.

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09:00-19:00

**European Parliament's delegation to the WTO Parliamentary Conference, Geneva, Switzerland**

Geneva, Switzerland
16-17 February 2015

A delegation of 14 MEPs, led by EP Vice-President Olli Rehn (FI, ALDE) will take part in the annual session of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Parliamentary Conference in the WTO premises in Geneva, Switzerland. This conference, to be attended by some 300 MPs from over 60 countries, is co-organised by the European Parliament and this year will look at trade as an enabler of peace and prosperity and how to better convey the benefits of the WTO to a wider public. Vice-President Olli Rehn will deliver the opening speech of the conference.

Other MEPs going to Geneva are Chairman of Committee on International Trade Bernd Lange (S&D, DE), Pablo ZALBA BIDEGAIN (ES, EPP), Paul RÜBIG (AT, EPP), Reimer BÖGE (DE, EPP), Viviane REDING (LU, EPP), Jörg LEICHTFRIED (AT, S&D), Pedro SILVA PEREIRA (PT, S&D), Inmaculada RODRIGUEZ-PINERO (ES, S&D), Emma MCCLARKIN (UK, ECR), Helmut SCHOLZ (DE, GUE/NGL), Klaus BUCHNER (DE, Greens/EFA), William DARTMOUTH (UK, EFDD), and Aymeric CHAUPRADE (FR, NI).

The Parliamentary Conference is the de facto a parliamentary body of the WTO, co-organized by European Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union and serving to boost its transparency and to enhance dialogue between legislators and trade negotiators.

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09:00-19:00

Foreign Affairs Committee's Ad hoc delegation to Jordan and Lebanon
Amman (Jordan) and Beirut (Lebanon)
16 - 18 February 2015

Elmar BROK (EPP, DE), Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, will head the committee's ad hoc delegation to Jordan and Lebanon from 16 to 18 February. He will be joined by Ramona Nicole MANESCU (EPP, RO), Ana GOMES (S&D, PT), Afzal KHAN (S&D, UK) and Marek JUREK (ECR, PL).

The regional situation, humanitarian crisis resulting from conflicts in Iraq and Syria and the so-called Islamic State, the fight against terrorism and the dire situation of Syrian refugees are set to top the exchanges of the MEPs and the political leaders of Jordan and Lebanon.

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09:00-19:00
Women's Rights delegation to Latvia
Riga (Latvia)
16-18 February 2015

MEPs from the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee will travel to Riga (Latvia) from 16-18 February to learn about the priorities of the Latvian presidency and to examine any difficulties Latvia is experiencing in the area of protection of women's rights and gender equality. The delegation will also visit a Latvian crisis centre for women and children.

The delegation, led by Committee Chair, Eratxe GARCÍA PÉREZ (S&D, ES), also includes Marijana PETIR (EPP, HR) and Maria NOICHL (S&D, DE).

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09:00-19:00
Working group visit to Guatemala and Honduras
Guatemala, Honduras

Sofia SAKORAFÁ (GUE/NGL, EL) will lead a working group of the Delegation for relations with the countries of Central America to Guatemala and Honduras from 16 to 20 February. She will be joined by Caterina CHINNICI (S&D, IT) and Miroslav MIKOLÁŠIK (EPP, SK).

The working group is set to meet the political leaders in both Guatemala and Honduras, including the President of Parlacen. MEPs will also meet the indigenous leaders, civil society and private sector representatives in Guatemala, visit the Center for female victims of violence and a forestry project supported by the EU and meet human rights defenders in Honduras.

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09:00-19:00
Subcommittee on Human Rights delegation to Dhaka, Bangladesh
Dhaka, Bangladesh
17-19 February 2015

Cristian Dan PREDA (EPP, RO), Vice-Chair of Subcommittee on Human Rights, Josef WEIDENHOLZER (S&D, AT) and Karol KARSKI (ECR, PL)

The human rights (extra judicial killings, women rights, child rights, freedom of expression, Rohingya), political freedoms and a call for a political dialogue and business and human rights (visit in ready-made garment factory) will be the main issues covered by the
delegation.

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Women's Rights delegation to Latvia
Riga (Latvia)

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**Subcommittee on Human Rights delegation to Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**17-19 February 2015**

Cristian Dan PREDA (EPP, RO), Vice-Chair of Subcommittee on Human Rights, Josef WEIDENHOLZER (S&D, AT) and Karol KARSKI (ECR, PL)

The human rights (extra judicial killings, women rights, child rights, freedom of expression, Rohingya), political freedoms and a call for a political dialogue and business and human rights (visit in ready-made garment factory) will be the main issues covered by the delegation.

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**09:00-19:00**

**18th Meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)**

**México DF**

Teresa Jiménez-Becerril (EPP, ES) will lead a delegation of 11 MEPs participating in the 18th European Union-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee from 18 to 20 February in Mexico DF. European Parliament will also be represented by Pina Piccione (S&D, IT), Verónica López Fontagné (EPP, ES), Thomas Mann (EPP, DE), Gesine Meissner (ALDE, DE), Agustín Díaz de Mera (EPP, ES), Danuta Jazłowiecka (EPP, PL), Franziska Keller (Greens, DE), Giulia Moi (EFDD, IT), Kosma Złotowski (ECR, PL) and Sorin Moisa (S&D, RO).

Transnational organised crime such as drug, arms and human trafficking, climate change and the achievement of Millennium Development Goals, the respect for human rights and the prospects for the modernisation of the Global Agreement EU-Mexico will top MEPs' debates with their counterparts from the Congress of the United States of Mexico. The MEPs will also meet the Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Carlos de Icaza, the President of the Investigation Committee on the 'Iguala Case', Senator Omar Fayad, and high representatives of the Minister of Home Affairs. They will also meet with human rights defenders and NGOs, visit projects financed by the EU and meet UNESCO representatives in Mexico.

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A two-member delegation of MEPs from the **Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee** will visit the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) - the agency for which the Women's Rights Committee is primarily responsible - in Vilnius from 18-20 February 2015.

The delegation is led by Vilija BLINKEVIČIŪTĖ (S&D, LT), Vice-Chair of the committee, and she will be accompanied by Sirpa PIETIKÄINEN (EPP, FI).

**Contact**

Robertas POGORELIS  
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Thursday 19/02/2015

DELEGATIONS

09:00-19:00

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Paraguay, Uruguay

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Working group visit to Guatemala and Honduras
Guatemala, Honduras

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Subcommittee on Human Rights delegation to Dhaka, Bangladesh

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17-19 February 2015

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THE PRESIDENT’S DIARY

The President’s diary
Vienna

• Meeting with Doris BURES, President of the Austrian Parliament

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