

The Week Ahead 24 February – 01 March 2020

Delegations

No parliamentary meetings are foreseen in Brussels, as the week is set aside for committee delegations/missions in relation to topics falling under their responsibility.

US Tariffs/USA. A delegation of MEPs from the International Trade Committee will go to Washington D.C. to meet their Congress counterparts, State and Treasury Department officials, NGOs, trade unions and business organisations to address trade irritants between the EU and its biggest trading partner, the US. MEPs are set to review the progress on talks to eliminate tariffs on industrial goods and advocate fair and rules-based trade (*Monday to Thursday*).

EU-Turkey relations. A Foreign Affairs Committee delegation will go to Ankara and Mardin for meetings with Turkish government representatives, including Foreign Affairs Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, parliamentarians, think tanks, academics and civil society representatives. MEPs will discuss the latest developments on EU-Turkey relations, regional challenges such as the conflicts in Syria and Libya, the Kurdish conflict and the situation of Syrian refugees (*Monday to Thursday*).

EU budget/Czechia. A delegation of the Budgetary Control Committee will go on a fact-finding mission to Prague, to meet with farmers, NGOs, members of the judiciary and government and ask questions on how EU funds are distributed and accessed. Alerted by reports of a possible conflict of interest of Czechia's Prime Minister, MEPs want to make sure that Czech taxpayers' money benefits the public good and not only a few privileged individuals. The mission's findings will be communicated in a press conference on Friday 15.00 in Prague's EP Office (*Wednesday to Friday*).

Data protection, counter-terrorism/USA. A Civil Liberties Committee delegation will travel to Washington D.C. and Boston to discuss EU-US cooperation on data protection, including the EU-US Privacy Shield, and law enforcement, including the use of Artificial Intelligence, as well as counter-terrorism. MEPs will meet, among several others, US Congress representatives, the Department of State and the Treasury, the Internet Society (ISOC), FBI experts as well as MIT and Harvard University representatives, consumers' organisations and start-ups (*Monday to Friday*).

President's diary. EP President David Sassoli will deliver a speech at a symposium on "The Europe we want: a reflection on the future that awaits us", at the University of Turin, on Monday. On Wednesday, the EP President will speak at a presentation by the European Environment Agency on "European environment: state and outlook 2020", at the Chamber of Deputies, in Rome. On Sunday, President Sassoli will participate in a ceremony in memory of the printers and journalists who were victims of the raid of the Rome ghetto on 16 October 1943.

[EP Press service contacts](#)

Monday 24/02/2020

THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

The President's agenda

13:00 Visit to the community Sermig, Arsenale per la pace (Torino, Piazza Borgo Dora, 61)

16:30 Speech in the Symposium "L'Europa che vogliamo: una riflessione sul futuro che ci attende", Fondazione CRT, Università degli Studi di Torino (Torino, Sala Duomo, Corso Castelfidardo, 22)

DELEGATIONS

IMCO delegation to Rome, Italy

From 24 to 26 February 2020, nine members of the **Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee** will visit Rome to meet with government representatives and local producers. They will examine the market in goods and discuss policy needs resulting from unfair competition from third country producers, whose products may not comply with all applicable regulations. The aim of the mission is to acquire further indications on how to ensure the safety of products circulating in the EU and provide correct information to the consumers about them. The evidence gathered may assist with any future proposal addressing manufactured goods in the internal market.

The members going in this mission are:

Petra De Sutter (Greens/EFA, BE, Chair)

Salvatore De Meo (EPP, IT)

Maria Leitão Marques (S&D, PT)

Brando Benifei (S&D, IT)

Vlad-Marius Botoș (Renew Europe, RO)

Alessandra Basso (ID, IT)

Carlo Fidanza (ECR, IT)

Stelios Kouloglou (GUE/NGL, EL)

Marco Zullo (NI, IT)

09:00-19:00

LIBE mission to Frontex in Warsaw

24-25 February 2020

Warsaw, Poland

Three MEPs from the **Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee** will travel to Warsaw, Poland, to visit Frontex, discuss its operational response and the implementation

Agenda

of the new European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) Regulation including the establishment of the Standing Corps.

Contacts

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09:00-19:00

LIBE mission to Washington D.C. and Boston

23-28 February 2020

Washington D.C and Boston, United States of America

A **Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee** delegation of eight MEPs is visiting Washington D.C and Boston to discuss law enforcement, counter terrorism, visa waivers and data protection with US authorities, experts and companies.

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PETI mission to Bulgaria

24-26 February 2020

Sofia, Bulgaria

A delegation of MEPs from the **Committee on Petitions** will visit Bulgaria on a fact-finding visit. Members of the delegation will meet petitioners in Sofia along with the responsible state authorities, professional associations, consumer protection organisations and the Bulgarian Ombudsman to discuss issues related to the banking system and private enforcement agents.

Contacts

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Tuesday 25/02/2020

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Wednesday 26/02/2020

THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

The President's agenda

10:00 Speech at the presentation of the Soer 2020: European environment State and outlook (Roma, Camera dei deputati)

17:00 Speech in the Conference "La Legge di Bilancio 2020 e lo sviluppo sostenibile", (Roma, Auditorium del Parco della Musica)

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

09:00 *Prague, Prague*

Mission to Prague

Protecting the EU budget: MEPs will head on a fact-finding mission to Prague.

From 26 to 28 February, a delegation of six Members of European Parliament, led by Budgetary control committee chair Monika Hohlmeier (EPP,DE) will travel to Prague to assess the distribution of EU funds. In order to follow up on reports on possible systemic deficiencies in distribution of the EU funds in Czech Republic, MEPs from the EP Budgetary Control committee assess how the legality, regularity and transparency of EU spending is ensured in the country.

They have planned to meet with farmers, NGOs, members of Czech government, including the Prime Minister Andrej Babiš, as well as the paying agency and members of the Czech Parliament. They will also hold a roundtable with investigative journalists.

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Thursday 27/02/2020

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The President's agenda

16:30 Meeting with Pina Picerno, Member of the European Parliament, Napoli, (Convegno Onlus)

17:00 Speech in the Meeting “2020 Venti d’Europa”, Napoli, Sala Onlus Figli in Famiglia (Via Ferrante Imparato, 111, San Giovanni e Teduccio)

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Friday 28/02/2020

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09:00 Debate at the symposium “The *Good* Algorithm? Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, Law, Health” (Roma, Pontifica Academia Pro Vita, Via della Conciliazione, 1)

DELEGATIONS

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Sunday 01/03/2020

THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

The President's agenda

10:30 Ceremony in memory of the printers and journalists victims of the raking of the Rome ghetto on 16 October 1943