The Week Ahead 02 – 08 March 2020

Committee and political group meetings, Brussels

*Climate change/Greta Thunberg.* During an extraordinary meeting of the Environment and Public Health Committee open to all MEPs, members will discuss, with climate activist Greta Thunberg, the EU climate law and targets due to be announced the same day. Before the meeting, at 12:30, EP President David Sassoli will meet Ms Thunberg (Wednesday).

*EU response to COVID-19 outbreak.* Members of the Environment and Public Health Committee will discuss with the Commission how the EU is confronting, together with member states, the coronavirus Covid-19 (Thursday).

*EU Civil Protection Mechanism.* The Environment and Public Health Committee will vote on the financing of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) for 2021-2027. The UCPM, designed to help member states deal with crises, including those that are health-related, has been recently mobilised to co-finance the repatriation of EU citizens from the Diamond Princess cruise ship docked in Yokohama, Japan, following the outbreak of the COVID-19 (Thursday).

*International Women's Day (IWD).* In the run-up to the 2020 IWD, the Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Committee is organising an inter-parliamentary meeting on "The 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration". EP President Sassoli and Commission Vice-President Jourová will deliver opening speeches, followed by two panel discussions on women in economy and women’s role in the fight against climate change. A press point with Committee Chair Evelyn Regner and Equality Commissioner Dalli will be held at 12.30, outside the meeting room 2Q2 (ANTALL building) (Thursday).

*Climate change/2020 Covenant of Mayors.* The ‘2020 Ceremony of the Covenant of Mayors & European Climate Pact’ will take place in the EP to debate measures towards climate-neutral cities. EP President David Sassoli will open the afternoon session. A number of mayors from cities across the EU will be among the guest speakers. The mayors of three cities, winners of the Covenant 2020 Awards, will be announced during the event (Wednesday).

*Plenary preparations.* Political groups will prepare for a debate with Council President Charles Michel on the failure of member states to agree on the long-term budget and to discuss the agenda of the next European Council meeting. Furthermore, they will discuss their expectations regarding upcoming Commission proposals on the climate law and the Circular Economy plan. MEPs will also draw their conclusions from the findings of the recent delegation to Czechia to fine-tune the draft resolution that is scheduled for a vote. The “European Semester” Growth Survey, in particular its social aspects, and reports on the Banking Union and EU competition policy will be finalised.

*President’s diary.* EP President David Sassoli will meet Norway’s Prime Minister Erna Solberg, on Tuesday. President Sassoli will meet Polish Sejm’s Deputy Speaker Włodzimierz Czarzasty and Committee of the Regions’ President Apostolos Tzitzikostas, on Wednesday.
Pre-session press briefing. The EP Press Service will hold a press briefing with the EP's political group spokespersons at 11.00 on Friday (Anna Politkovskaya room, press centre, Brussels).

EP Press service contacts
THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

The President's agenda
Tuesday 03/03/2020
15:00 Meeting with the Prime Minister of Norway, Mrs Erna Solberg (Protocol entry SPAAK building)

The President's agenda
Wednesday 04/03/2020
12:30 Meeting with environmental activist, Ms G. Thunberg
13:50 Opening remarks European Covenant of Mayors 2020 Ceremony & Climate Pact
15:15 Meeting with the Deputy Speaker of Polish Sejm, Mr Włodzimierz Czarzasty
16:30 Meeting with the President of the European Committee of the Regions, Mr Tzitzikostas

The President’s agenda
Thursday 05/03/2020
09:00 Opening International Women's Day - 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
PRESS CONFERENCES

"The petition against expansion of the Turów Brown Coal Mine and related negative environmental impacts in the Czech Republic"
Thursday 05/03/2020 13:00-13:30 Brussels, Paul-Henri Spaak, 0A050
Tatjana ŽDANOKA (Greens/EFA, LV), Vice-Chair of the Committee on Petitions, Stanislav POLČÁK (EPP, CZ), Martin HOJSÍK (Renew Europe, SK), Jiří LÖFFELMANN, Petra URBANOVÁ, Nikol KREJČOVÁ, Milan STAREC, Daniel GABRYŠ, and Michal MARTIN

Pre-session briefing
Friday 06/03/2020 11:00-11:30 Brussels, Paul-Henri Spaak, 0A050
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality
Thursday 05/03/2020 09:00-12:30 Brussels, József Antall, 2Q2
International Women’s Day 2020 on "The 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action“, in collaboration with the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments

Ahead of International Women’s Day (8 March), an inter-parliamentary committee meeting will be held in the EP. Members of the Women’s Rights and Gender Equality committee as well as national MPs will examine the progress achieved on gender equality over the past 25 years, as well as the remaining and future challenges. The draft programme is available here.

Committee on Budgets
Monday 02/03/2020 16:00-18:00 Brussels, József Antall, 6Q-2
• Financial activities of the European Investment Bank - annual report 2019 - Rapporteur :David CORMAND (Greens/EFA, FR) - Adoption of draft report

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
(extraordinary meeting open to all MEPs)
Wednesday 04/03/2020
Debates
• Debate with climate activist Greta Thunberg on EU climate law and targets

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
Thursday 05/03/2020 09:30-12:30 Brussels, József Antall, 4Q2
Debates
• Update by the Commission on the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation

Votes
• Amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism - Adoption of draft report - Rapporteur: Nikos ANDROULAKIS (S&D, EL)
• Strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment - Adoption of motion for a resolution - Co-rapporteurs: Cristian-Silviu BUŞOI (EPP, RO), Günther SIDL (S&D, AT), Jan HUITEMA (Renew, NL), Michèle RIVASI (Greens/EFA, FR), Simona BALDASSARRE (ID, IT), Joanna KOPCIŃSKA (ECR, PL), Kateřina KONEČNÁ (GUE/NGL, CZ)