

The Week Ahead 30 March – 05 April 2020

In an effort to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Parliament is reducing the need for physical meetings on its premises, without compromising its role of democratic scrutiny nor its ability to approve the necessary legislative measures to combat the virus and support the public, consumers, businesses and emergency services.

The required social distancing of 1.5 m will be respected on EP premises at all times. Any parliamentary activities, like committee and plenary meetings, which are still taking place will be web-streamed and can be followed by the media without requiring their physical presence on EP premises. MEPs, Commissioners and Council representatives will be able to participate remotely.

Conference of Presidents. EP President Sassoli and the leaders of the political groups (Conference of Presidents) will discuss Parliament's activities for the next days, including legislative and budgetary files linked to the EU response to the pandemic (*Thursday*).

EU response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Internal Market Committee will discuss with Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton EU measures to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and how member states are cooperating with each other. Green lanes to ensure that essential goods, such as medical supplies and food reach those who need them the most, as well as the joint purchase of medical supplies, are likely to be addressed in the debate (*Thursday*).

Refugee situation in Greece. The Civil Liberties Committee MEPs will assess the situation at the Greek external borders with Greek Minister for Migration and Asylum Notis Mitarachi and Minister for Citizen Protection Michalis Chrisochoidis, Croatia's State Secretary for European and International Affairs Terezija Gras, Commission Vice-President for Promoting the European way of life Margaritis Schinas, Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson as well as representatives of Frontex and the Fundamental Rights Agency (*Thursday*). [EP Press service contacts](#)

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

Thursday 02/04/2020 10:30-12:30 Brussels, József Antall, 4Q2

Debates

- Exchange of views with Thierry BRETON, Commissioner for Internal Market, on the EU response to the COVID-19 outbreak

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Thursday 02/04/2020 10:00-12:00 Brussels, József Antall, 4Q1

Votes by paper ballot (10.00 - 11.15) - Announcement of the results of the votes (11.55 - 12.00)

- Conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Belarus on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation (NLE) - rapporteur Petar VITANOV (S&D, BG) - adoption of draft recommendation (consent)
- Conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Belarus on the facilitation of the issuance of visas (NLE) - rapporteur Ondřej KOVAŘÍK (Renew, CZ) - adoption of draft recommendation (consent)

The situation at the Union's external borders in Greece - Exchange of views (10.05 - 11.55)

Presentations by

- Notis Mitarachi, Minister of Migration and Asylum, Greece
- Michalis Chrisochoidis, Minister of Citizen protection, Greece (tbc)
- Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President for Promoting the European way of life, European Commission (tbc)
- Ylva Johansson, Commissioner for Home Affairs, European Commission (tbc)
- Terezija Gras, Council Presidency, State Secretary for European and International Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Croatia
- Fabrice Leggeri, Executive Director, European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) (tbc)
- Michael O'Flaherty, Director, Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

The draft agenda will be available [here](#).