

The Week Ahead 28 September – 04 October 2020

Agenda

Committee and political groups' meetings - Brussels

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Commissioner hearings. Following the changes in the Commission, MEPs will examine whether candidates McGuinness and Dombrovskis are qualified to carry out the particular duties assigned to them. Mairead McGuinness (Financial Services, Financial Stability and the Capital Markets Union) will be heard by the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee from 9.00 to 12.00 on Friday and Commission Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis (Trade) will be heard by the International Trade Committee from 13.00 to 16.00. Both hearings will be followed by meetings in which the Chairs and group representatives (coordinators) of the committees will evaluate the candidates' suitability.

ECB/Lagarde. European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde will meet MEPs of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee for the regular 'Monetary Dialogue'. MEPs are likely to discuss economic and monetary developments in the euro area, including how major central banks can be held accountable and possible avenues to improve the ECB's accountability as well as future perspectives for the ECB's asset purchase programmes (*Monday*).

Digital Services. New obligations for digital services and platforms, the risks faced by online users and how to regulate big tech will be among the issues addressed in two separate votes in the Internal Market and Legal Affairs committees. Both legislative initiatives aim to influence the content of the Commission's Digital Services Act package, due by the end of the year. Press conferences at 10:30 and at 15:00 (*Monday*).

Artificial Intelligence. The Legal Affairs Committee will adopt its recommendations for the upcoming legislation on ensuring safe and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence in the EU. These proposals contribute to shaping and clarifying common rules in the area of ethics, civil liability and intellectual property as well as addressing risks and opportunities of AI. Press conference at 14:30 (*Thursday*).

Climate Law. Frans Timmermans, Commission Executive Vice-President and Commissioner for the European Green Deal, will debate with the Environment Committee on the 2030 Climate Target Plan, which includes a Communication on "Stepping up Europe's 2030 Climate Ambition" and an Impact Assessment. The committee already adopted its position on the Climate Law Regulation, increasing the 2030 reduction target to 60%. Parliament will vote on the draft law in the 5-8 October plenary (*Monday*).

2020 Sakharov Prize. The nominees for this year's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought will be presented in a joint meeting with MEPs on the Foreign Affairs Committee, Development Committee and Subcommittee on Human Rights (*Monday*).

Plenarypreparations. Political groups will prepare for the 5-8 October plenary session, where MEPs will vote on the changes in the Commission, debate the conclusions of the special summit (1 - 2 October) and look at the upcoming European Council. They will also vote on the new Climate law, a new mechanism on democracy, rule of law and

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fundamental rights, on the European Forest Strategy and on financial services. MEPs will also discuss gender balance on company boards, the rule of law conditionality in the MFF negotiations as well as the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on long-term care facilities and on employment.

President's diary. EP President David Sassoli will meet with the Multiannual Financial Framework-Own Resources Contact Group, have a video meeting with ONE Youth Ambassadors as well as meet Georgia's Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia, on Tuesday. On Wednesday, President Sassoli will again meet with the Multiannual Financial Framework-Own Resources Contact Group, have a telephone call with Moroccan Parliament Speaker Habib El Malki, meet with Members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Željko Komšić and Šefik Džaferović as well as participate in a webinar on "Europe's challenges" by the Fondazione Balducci. On Thursday, the EP President will address the European Council, followed by a press conference.

[EP Press service contacts](#)

THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

The President's agenda

Tuesday 29/09/2020

09:00 Video Meeting with the Multiannual Financial Framework-Own Resources Contact Group

11:00 Video meeting with ONE Youth Ambassadors

15:30 Meeting with the Prime Minister of Georgia, Mr Giorgi Gakharia, SPAAK building protocol entry

The President's agenda

Wednesday 30/09/2020

10:30 Meeting with the Multiannual Financial Framework-Own Resources Contact Group

12:00 Meeting with Members of the Presidency of Bosnia Herzegovina

15:30 Telephone call with the Speaker of the Moroccan Parliament, Mr Habib El Malki

17:00 Webinar "Le sfide dell'Europa", Fondazione Balducci

The President's agenda

Thursday 01/10/2020

10:00 Conference of Presidents

13:00 Meeting with President of Belgian Parliament, Mr Patrick Dewael, 9th floor

15:00 European Council

15:30 Press conference, European Parliament

PRESS CONFERENCES

“Digital Services Act – presentation of the compromise package ahead of the vote in JURI”

Monday 28/09/2020 10:30-11:00 Brussels, Paul-Henri Spaak, 0A050

Timo WÖLKEN (S&D, DE), rapporteur

“the Digital Services Act: outcome of the vote in the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee”

Monday 28/09/2020 15:00-15:30 Brussels, Paul-Henri Spaak, 0A050

Alex AGIUS SALIBA (S&D, MT), rapporteur

“Making AI European - presentation of AI reports after final vote in JURI”

Thursday 01/10/2020 14:30-15:00 Brussels, Paul-Henri Spaak, 0A050

Ibán GARCÍA DEL BLANCO (S&D, ES), Axel VOSS (EPP, DE), Stéphane SÉJOURNÉ (Renew Europe, FR), rapporteurs

David SASSOLI, President of the European Parliament, on “the European Summit”

Thursday 01/10/2020 15:30-16:30 Brussels, Paul-Henri Spaak, 0A050

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Joint meeting: DEVE, AFET and DROI

Monday 28/09/2020 16:45-18:45 Brussels, József Antall, 4Q2

Committee on Development (DEVE), Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET), and Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI)

- Sakharov Prize 2020: Presentation of candidates

Subcommittee on Human Rights

Monday 28/09/2020 10:45-12:45 Brussels, József Antall, 4Q1 + ASP 1G3

Jointly with the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, in association with the Delegation for relations with Afghanistan (11.35-12.20) - Room ASP 1G3

- Exchange of views on the EU-Afghanistan Joint Way Forward on migration issues (JWF)

Committee on Budgets

Monday 28/09/2020 16:45-18:45 Brussels, József Antall, 4Q-1

- MFF, Own resources and Recovery plan: state-of-play of negotiations - Exchange of views - Feedback from the Negotiating team

Committee on Budgetary Control

Monday 28/09/2020 16:45-18:45 Brussels, József Antall, 6Q2

Debates

- Establishing a Recovery and Resilience Facility - Consideration of draft opinion - Rapporteur for the opinion: Monika HOHLMEIER (EPP, DE)
- Follow-up of the 2018 discharge to the European Parliament - Exchange of views with the Secretary-General of the European Parliament, Klaus WELLE

Joint meeting: Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

& Committee on Budgetary Control

Thursday 01/10/2020 09:00-11:00 Brussels, József Antall, 4Q2

Debates

- European Court of Auditors' Review 01/2020: Tracking climate spending in the EU budget -Presentation by Joëlle ELVINGER, reporting ECA Member
- Study on Documenting Climate Mainstreaming in the EU budget - Presentation by Martin NESBIT, Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)

Committee on Budgetary Control

Thursday 01/10/2020 09:00-18:45 Brussels, József Antall, 4Q1

Debates

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- Joint meeting with the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety in meeting room József Antall 4Q2

Votes

- 2018 discharge: General budget of the EU - Council and European Council - Adoption of draft report - Rapporteur: Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ (EPP, CZ)
- 2018 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Economic and Social Committee - Adoption of draft report - Rapporteur: Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ (EPP, CZ)
- 2019 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Commission - Exchange of views with Commission Directorates-General on the reservations issued in their annual activity reports: Mr Jean-Eric PAQUET, Director-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), Mr Joost KORTE, Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), Ms Monique PARIAT, Director-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) - Rapporteur: Joachim KUHS (ID, DE)
- 2019 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Commission - Exchange of views with Commission Directorates-General on the reservations issued in their annual activity reports: Mr Wolfgang BURTSCHER, Director-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), Mr Marc LEMAÎTRE, Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) and Mr Gert Jan KOOPMAN, Director-General for Budget (DG BUDG) - Rapporteur: Joachim KUHS (ID, DE)

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Thursday 01/10/2020

Votes (13.45 – 13.50)

- Amending Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 as regards the introduction of specific measures for addressing the COVID-19 crisis (FEAD)- Adoption of draft report - Rapporteur : Lucia ĎURIŠ NICHOLSONOVÁ (ECR, SK)
- Employment and social policies of the euro area 2020 - Adoption of draft report - Rapporteur: Klára DOBREV (S&D,HU)
- Strengthening the Single Market: the future of free movement of services - Adoption of draft opinion - Rapporteur for the opinion: Marc BOTENGA (GUE/NGL, BE)
- A new strategy for European SMEs - Adoption of draft opinion - Rapporteur for the opinion: Atidzhe ALIEVA-VELI (Renew, BG)
- General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021 - all sections - Adoption of draft opinion - Rapporteur for the opinion: Lucia ĎURIŠ NICHOLSONOVÁ (ECR, SK)
- Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund - EGF/2020/001 ES/Galicia shipbuilding ancillary sectors - Spain - Adoption

Debates (13:50 - 15:45)

- Enhanced cooperation between Public Employment Services (PES) - Reporting back to committee on the negotiations (Rule 74(3)) - Rapporteur: Manuel PIZARRO (S&D, PT) **(13.50 – 13.55)**
- Old continent growing older - possibilities and challenges related to ageing policy post 2020 - Consideration of draft report - Rapporteur: Beata SZYDŁO (ECR, PL) **(13.55 – 14.25)**
- Proposal for a Council Recommendation on vocational education and training (VET) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience - Consideration of question for oral answer and motion for a resolution **(14.25 –**

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14.55)

- Establishing a Recovery and Resilience Facility - Consideration of amendments - Rapporteur for the opinion: Dragoş PÎSLARU (Renew, RO) **(14.55 - 15:20)**
- Access to decent and affordable housing for all - Consideration of amendments - Rapporteur: Kim VAN SPARRENTAK (Greens/EFA, NL) **(15:20 - 15:45)**

Next meeting: 15 October 2020, 9.00 – 11.00 (Brussels)

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Thursday 01/10/2020 13:45-18:45 Brussels, József Antall, 4Q2

Debates

- Exchange of views with the EEAS on the situation in the Sahel region with a focus on Mali
- ***In association with the Delegation for relations with Afghanistan*** Exchange of views with Roland KOBIA, the EU Special Envoy for Afghanistan, on the launch of the intra-Afghan peace talks
- Exchange of views with Karen LONGARIC RODRIGUEZ, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia

Subcommittee on Security and Defence

Monday 28/09/2020 10:30-15:45 Brussels, Altiero Spinelli, 3G3

Debates

- 360 degrees exchange of views on CSDP topics with Charles FRIES, Deputy Secretary General for Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and crisis response, EEAS
- State of play of the Cyber Rapid Response Team (CRRT) PESCO project by Lithuania. Exchange of views with Jonas Skardinskas, Head of Cybersecurity and IT Policy Group at the Lithuanian Ministry of Defence.

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Monday 28/09/2020 13:45-15:45 Brussels, József Antall, 6Q2

Debates

- Objection pursuant to Rule 112(2) and (3) and (4)(c) : maximum levels of acrylamide in certain foodstuffs for infants and young children - Consideration of motion for a resolution - Co-rapporteurs: Jutta PAULUS (Greens/EFA, DE), Christel SCHALDEMOSE (S&D, DA), Martin HOJSÍK (Renew, SK), Eleonora EVI (NI, IT), Sirpa PIETIKÄINEN (EPP, FI), Mick WALLACE (GUE/NGL, IE)
- Exchange of views with Mr Frans TIMMERMANS, Executive Vice-President of the Commission, on "Stepping up Europe's 2030 climate ambition"

Votes

- Objection pursuant to Rule 112(2) and (3) and (4)(c) : maximum levels of acrylamide in certain foodstuffs for infants and young children - Adoption of motion for a resolution - Co-rapporteurs: Jutta PAULUS (Greens/EFA, DE), Christel SCHALDEMOSE (S&D, DA), Martin HOJSÍK (Renew, SK), Eleonora EVI (NI, IT), Sirpa PIETIKÄINEN (EPP, FI), Mick WALLACE (GUE/NGL, IE)
- An EU legal framework to halt and reverse EU-driven global deforestation - Adoption of amendments - Rapporteur: Delara BURKHARDT (S&D, DE)

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Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Thursday 01/10/2020 09:00-12:30 Brussels, József Antall, 4Q2

Debates

- Exchange of views with the Commission and the European Food Safety Authority on the content of the bee guidance
- Implementation session on air quality

Votes

The voting session will be opened at 12:30 and will be closed at 14:30

- An EU legal framework to halt and reverse EU-driven global deforestation (INL), adoption of draft report - rapporteur Delara BURKHARDT (S&D, DE)
- Establishing the InvestEU Programme (COD), adoption of amendments - rapporteur for the opinion Pascal CANFIN (Renew, FR)
- Public sector loan facility under the Just Transition Mechanism (COD), Adoption of amendments - rapporteur for the opinion Pascal CANFIN (Renew)

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

Monday 28/09/2020 10:00-15:45 Brussels, József Antall, 4Q2

Vote

- Digital Services Act: Improving the functioning of the Single Market (INL), adoption of draft report - rapporteur: Alex AGIUS SALIBA (S&D, MT)

Debates

- Exchange of views with Thierry BRETON, Commissioner for Internal Market, on addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis (10.10 – 11.10)
- Exchange of views with representative from German Presidency, State Secretary Ms Claudia DÖRR-VOß, on Member States' response to the COVID-19 crisis (11.10 – 12.00)

Committee on Fisheries

Monday 28/09/2020 17:45-18:45 Brussels, József Antall, 6Q1

Debates

- 2019 discharge: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) - Presentation by the commission - Rapporteur for the opinion: Pierre KARLESKIND (Renew, FR)
- Agreement between the European Union and the government of the People's Republic of China on cooperation on, and protection of, geographical indications - Consideration of draft recommendation (consent) - Rapporteur for the opinion: Nuno MELO (EPP, PT)

Votes

- The sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol (2020-2026) between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles - Adoption of amendments - Rapporteur: Caroline ROOSE (Greens/EFA, FR)
- Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Senegal and the European Union - Adoption of amendments - Rapporteur: Izaskun BILBAO BARANDICA (Renew, ES)

Committee on Fisheries

Thursday 01/10/2020 09:00-11:00 Brussels, Altiero Spinelli, 1G-3

Debates

- Fixing for 2021 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea, and amending Regulation (EU) 2020/123 as regards certain fishing opportunities in other waters - Presentation by the Commission
- A new approach to the Atlantic maritime strategy - Atlantic action plan 2.0 - Presentation by the Commission

Votes

- The sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol (2020-2026) between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles - Adoption of draft recommendation (consent) - Rapporteur: Caroline ROOSE (Greens/EFA, FR)
- Protocol on the implementation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Senegal and the European Union - Adoption of draft recommendation (consent) - Rapporteur: Izaskun BILBAO BARANDICA (Renew, ES)

Committee on Culture and Education

Thursday 01/10/2020 09:00-18:45 Brussels, József Antall, 6Q1

Debates (09.00-11.00)

- Presentation of the Special report “EU investments in cultural sites: a topic that deserves more focus and coordination” by the European Court of Auditors
- Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 (COD), exchange of views - rapporteur Željana ZOVKO (EPP, HR)

Votes

- General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021 (BUD), - all sections - adoption of draft opinion - rapporteur for the opinion Romeo FRANZ (Greens/EFA, DE)
- A new strategy for European SMEs (INI), adoption of draft opinion - rapporteur for the opinion Victor NEGRESCU (S&D)

Committee on Legal Affairs

Monday 28/09/2020 13:45-15:45 Brussels, József Antall, 6Q1

Votes on AI package

Adoption of three draft reports/vote on amendments

- Framework of ethical aspects of artificial intelligence, robotics and related technologies (INL), rapporteur:Ibán GARCÍA DEL BLANCO (S&D, ES)
- Civil liability regime for artificial intelligence (INL), rapporteur:Axel VOSS (EPP, DE)
- Intellectual property rights for the development of artificial intelligence technologies (INI), rapporteur:Stéphane SÉJOURNÉ (Renew, FR)

Other votes

- Digital Services Act: adapting commercial and civil law rules for commercial entities operating online (INL), adoption of draft report/vote on amendments,

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rapporteur:Tiemo WÖLKEN (S&D, DE)

- Rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (COD), adoption of draft report/vote on amendments, rapporteur:József SZÁJER (EPP, HU)

Final votes on the above will take place on 1 October - see draft agenda

Presentation of studies (14.00-14.45)

- Presentation of the study commissioned by Policy Department C: Corporate social responsibility (CSR) and its implementation into EU Company law
- Presentation by the European Parliament Research Service of their upcoming European Added Value Assessment on corporate due diligence and corporate accountability

Debate (14.45-15.45)

- Sustainable corporate governance (INI), rapporteur Pascal DURAND (Renew, FR) and corporate due diligence and corporate accountability (INL), rapporteur Lara WOLTERS (S&D, NL), consideration of two draft reports

Committee on Legal Affairs

Thursday 01/10/2020 12:00-13:05 Brussels, József Antall, 6Q1

Votes on AI package

Adoption of three draft reports - FINAL vote

- Framework of ethical aspects of artificial intelligence, robotics and related technologies (INL), rapporteur:Ibán GARCÍA DEL BLANCO (S&D, ES)
- Civil liability regime for artificial intelligence (INL), rapporteur:Axel VOSS (EPP, DE)
- Intellectual property rights for the development of artificial intelligence technologies (INI), rapporteur:Stéphane SÉJOURNÉ (Renew, FR)

Other votes - FINAL

- Digital Services Act: adapting commercial and civil law rules for commercial entities operating online (INL), adoption of draft report, rapporteur:Tiemo WÖLKEN (S&D, DE)
- Rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (COD), adoption of draft report, rapporteur:József SZÁJER (EPP, HU)

Debates

- Challenges of sports events' organisers in the digital environment (INL), exchange of views, rapporteur Angel DZHAMBAZKI (ECR, BG)

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Thursday 01/10/2020 16:45-18:45 Brussels, József Antall, 2Q2

Debates

- European Commission Annual Rule of Law Report - presentation by Didier REYNDEERS, Commissioner for Justice (**17.45 – 18.35**)
- Exchange of views on the need for a conditionality clause in the next Multiannual Financial Framework on Democracy, Rule of Law and fundamental rights - presentation by Didier REYNDEERS, Commissioner for Justice (*further*)

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speakers to be confirmed (16.50 – 17.45)

Vote

- The rule of law and fundamental rights in Bulgaria (RSP), adoption of motion for a resolution - rapporteur Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR (S&D, ES)