

Oireachtas Digest on Europe

Week: 2 to 8 September 2024 | Ref: 30-24



European Parliament Coming Week Highlights Committee Meetings

President's diary. The President will preside over the Conference of Presidents meeting on Wednesday, in the presence of Mario Draghi who will present his report on the future of Europe's competitiveness. From Thursday to Saturday, the president will attend the G7 Speakers' Conference in Verona, Italy, where she will give the opening address on Friday morning.

Parliament's priorities for the EU 2025 budget. All parliamentary committees meeting next week will vote on their respective input to the Budget Committee's draft report for 2025's EU budget. MEPs want to secure robust funding of EU programmes and for sufficient money to be set aside for internal and external security and unforeseen challenges. Parliament will adopt its negotiating position in an October plenary, with the aim of reaching an agreement with member states before the end of 2024.

Driving licences and trucks. The Transport Committee will vote on mandates to enter into interinstitutional negotiations to improve EU road safety by updating driving licence rules and by reviewing weight and dimension limits for trucks. (Wednesday)

Toy safety. Internal Market Committee MEPs will vote on a mandate to start negotiations with member states on revising EU toy safety rules. Parliament adopted its position in the previous legislature, seeking to introduce tougher rules on the chemicals used in the manufacturing of toys and compelling retailers including online sellers to make sure that toys sold in the EU are safe. (Thursday)

Scrutinising EU justice and home affairs agencies. The Civil Liberties Committee will meet Frontex Director Hans Leijtens, Europol Director Catherine De Bolle, EU Asylum Agency Director Nina Gregori, and EU-LISA interim Director Marili Männik, to discuss the work and future priorities of their respective agencies. MEPs will also meet Jean-Philippe Lecouffe to discuss the extension of his term of office as Deputy Executive Director of Europol. (Wednesday)

Fraud affecting EU funds – OLAF annual report. Budgetary Control Committee MEPs will discuss EU fraud and corruption investigations, with Ville Itälä, Director-General of EU's Anti-Fraud watchdog OLAF. The main fraud schemes detected in 2023 dealt with collusion, the manipulation of procurement procedures, conflicts of interest, inflated invoices, the evasion of customs duties, and the illicit tobacco product trade by criminal networks. (Thursday)

Mpox outbreak. The committee in charge of environment, public health and food safety will discuss the EU's emergency response actions to the outbreak of mpox with the Commission and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). (Wednesday)

Protecting children from sexual abuse. Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee MEPs will discuss with Commissioner Ylva Johansson revised provisions to combat sexual abuse and the sexual exploitation of children and child sexual abuse material. (Wednesday)

Link to all committee meetings here



European Commission

Coming Week Highlights

Link to Commission's weekly calendar <u>here</u>

European Council and Council of the European Union Coming Week Highlights

2-3 September <u>Informal meeting of the General Affairs Council</u>

5-6 September Informal meeting of ministers responsible for cohesion policy

Link to Council Meeting Calendar here

Link to CORPER Meeting Calendar here

Link to European Committee of the Regions Home Page <u>here</u>
Link to European Committee of the Regions News Page <u>here</u>

Inter-parliamentary meetings and conferences during the Parliamentary Dimension of the Hungarian Presidency 2nd Semester - 1st July - 31 December June 2024

Date	Meeting	Host	Location
9-10 September	Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy. (IPC on CFSP/CSDP)		Budapest
3-4 October	Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU (IPC on SECG)		Budapest
27-29 October	LXXII. COSAC Plenary		Budapest
11-12 November	Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol (JPSG on Europol)		EP/Brussels
4 - 5 December	Conference on the topic of cultural heritage and the identity of national communities (Budapest)		Budapest
9 - 10 February	Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments (EUSG)		Budapest
11 - 13 May 2025	Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments (EUSC)		Budapest
European Parliament events will be added when Parliament convenes after June elections.			

Sources: Websites of: European Parliament European Commission, European Council and Council of the European Union Council, European Court of Auditors and European Ombudsman.