



Oireachtas Digest on Europe

Week : 7 to 11 October 2024 | Ref: 35-24



Seirbhís Thithe an Oireachtais
Houses of the Oireachtas Service

European Parliament Coming Week Highlights Plenary session in Strasbourg

7 Oct 2024	Middle East/Lebanon/Hamas attacks. At the opening of the plenary session, EP President Metsola will make a statement on the anniversary of the Hamas attack on 7 October 2023 and triggered the war in Gaza. The session will then start with a debate on the anniversary. On following morning, 8 October, MEPs will debate the escalating violence in the Middle East and the situation in Lebanon with EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell.
7 Oct 2024	Border controls/Schengen area/Frontex. MEPs will discuss with the Commission the implications for the future of the Schengen area of the reintroduction of border controls by Germany. On 9 October, MEPs will discuss the management of Europe’s external borders and the role of the EU Border and Coast Guard Agency.
7 Oct 2024	Gender-based violence. With high-profile trials ongoing in Italy and France on cases of women murdered and repeatedly assaulted by their partners, MEPs will discuss with the Commission the need to fight the systemic problem of gender-based violence in Europe.
8 Oct 2024	October EU summit. In a debate with Council and Commission, MEPs will outline their priorities for the 17/18 October European Council, which is set to focus on the war in Ukraine, improving the competitiveness of the European economy, the EU’s response to the latest events in the Middle East and migration management.
8 Oct 2024	Georgia/Moldova/Sudan. Parliament will debate the state of Georgia’s democracy, Russian attempts to interfere in Moldova’s presidential elections and the situation in Sudan with EU foreign policy chief Borrell. Resolutions on Georgia and Moldova will be put to a vote on 9 October.
8 Oct 2024	Challenges in the EU’s automotive industry. MEPs will debate the challenges faced by the automotive sector in the EU, and how to restore the competitiveness of European manufacturers. A resolution will be put to a vote at a later session.
9 Oct 2024	Viktor Orbán/Hungary’s EU Council Presidency. MEPs will discuss with Prime Minister Viktor Orbán the programme for Hungary’s six-month Council Presidency that started on 1 July 2024.
9 Oct 2024	Affordable housing. MEPs will discuss with the Commission how to encourage public and private investment in decent and affordable housing in Europe.
10 Oct 2024	Commission hearings/timetable. The Conference of Presidents (EP President Metsola and political group leaders) is expected to decide on the detailed schedule (dates and times) for the Commissioner-designate hearings.

President's diary. On 8 October, EP President Metsola will meet French Minister for European Affairs, Benjamin Haddad, and address an event marking the first anniversary of the October 7th attacks in Israel. On 9 October, she will meet European Court of Auditors President, Tony Murphy.

Link to all committee meetings [here](#)

European Commission Coming Week Highlights

7 October 2024	First anniversary of Hamas attack. President von der Leyen participates in the memorial ceremony commemorating the one-year anniversary of the October 7th act of terror.
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Link to Commission's weekly calendar detailing the Commissioners' schedule is [here](#)

European Council and Council of the European Union Coming Fortnight Highlights

8 October 2024	Economic and Financial Affairs Council. Agenda here .
10/11 Oct 2024	Justice and Home Affairs Council. Agenda 10 Oct here , 11 Oct here .
14 October 2024	Environment Council. Agenda here .
14 October 2024	Foreign Affairs Council. Agenda here .
15 October 2024	General Affairs Council. Agenda here .
15 October 2024	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council. Agenda here .
17/18 Oct 2024	European Council. (agenda yet to be advised.)

Link to Council Meeting Calendar [here](#)

Link to CORPER Meeting Calendar [here](#)



Highlights Week 30 Sept to 4 October 2024

European Parliament.

Highlights Week 30 September to 4 October 2024

Timetable for Commissioners-designate hearings. 2 October 2024. , The Conference of Presidents (EP President and leaders of political groups) agreed on the calendar for the hearings of the Commissioners-designate.

Link to EP report [here](#)

Cost of living survey. 3 October 2024. The European Parliament released the “EU Post-Electoral Survey 2024” looking at voting behaviour and the main priorities of EU citizens. Rising prices and the cost of living (42%) and the economic situation (41%) were the main topics that motivated European citizens to vote in the last European elections in June this year. A third of voters (34%) say that the international situation was a topic that encouraged them to vote, while a similar proportion mentions defending democracy and the rule of law (32%). Those who did not vote also say the cost of living (46%) and the economic situation (36%) could have motivated them to participate in the elections

Link to EP report [here](#)

Full details of the survey are contained [here](#).



European Commission.

Highlights Week 30 September to 4 October 2024.

Applications for Free travel for young people. 2 October 2024. Starting in Spring 2025, thousands of 18-year-olds will have the opportunity to explore Europe at no cost. The Commission has just opened the application process for 35,500 free travel passes available in the latest round of the DiscoverEU initiative.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

Deforestation guidelines. 2 October 2024. The Commission published additional guidance documentation and international cooperation framework to support Member States and third parties in their preparations for the implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)


Additional humanitarian aid to Lebanon. 3 October 2024. As the escalation of hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel continues, the European Commission has announced a further €30 million in humanitarian aid to help those most in need in Lebanon. This comes in addition to the €10 million already announced on 29 September and brings total EU humanitarian assistance to the country to over €104 million this year.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

Infringement decisions October 2024. 3 October 2024. In its regular package of infringement decisions, the European Commission pursues legal action against Member States for failing to comply with their obligations under EU law. These decisions, covering various sectors and EU policy areas, aim to ensure the proper application of EU law for the benefit of citizens and businesses. Ireland is referenced in relation to the transposition of EU law combating racism and xenophobia.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

Consumer Protection/Digital Fairness Fitness Check evaluation.. 3 October 2024. The Commission published the findings of the Digital Fairness Fitness Check, which evaluates whether the current EU consumer protection laws are fit for purpose to ensure a high level of protection in the digital environment. The Fitness Check covered three core Directives: the Unfair



Commercial Practices Directive, the Consumer Rights Directive, and the Unfair Contract Terms Directive. The results show that these rules remain both relevant and necessary to ensure a high level of consumer protection and effective functioning of the Digital Single Market. However, it also shows that consumers behave differently online than offline.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

Annual Report on trade policy. 3 October 2024. The value of EU trade covered by the vast network of 42 agreements with 74 partners in place in 2023 was more than €2.3 trillion, having risen by over 30% over the past five years, according to the Annual Report on the implementation and enforcement of EU trade policy.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)

Trade tariffs on electric vehicles from China. . 5 October 2024. The European Commission's proposal to impose definitive countervailing duties on imports of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) from China has obtained the necessary support from EU Member States for the adoption of tariffs, another step in the Commission's anti-subsidy investigation.

Link to Commission statement [here](#)



European Council and Council of the European Union Highlights Week 30 September to 4 October 2024.

Appointments of judges to the Court of Justice of the EU 2 October 2024. The representatives of the governments of the Member States appointed nine judges and an advocate-general to the Court of Justice of the European Union. Two of the appointments were Judges Suzanne Kingston and Colm Mac Eochaidh, both for a new term from September 2025 to August 2031.

Link to Council report [here](#)

European Court of Auditors Highlights Week 30 September to 4 October 2024

Greener agricultural plans do not match targets. 30 September 2024. A report published by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) indicates that there is a noticeable gap between the EU's environmental and climate targets and the agricultural plans drawn up by Member States. . The 2023-2027 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) gave member states the flexibility to reflect the EU's ambitious green objectives in their plans. All made use of exemptions to agricultural and environmental conditions, while some reduced or delayed the application of the green measures that are required for obtaining EU money. Overall, the auditors conclude that the CAP plans do not show a substantial increase in green ambition

Details of the report are attached [here](#)..

Review of EU's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. 1 October 2024. A new report acknowledges the challenges integrating migrants to host societies, and the EU Court of Auditors have examined how the EU's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) has supported the integration of third-country nationals into the EU.

Full details are attached [here](#).

Review of EU health care funding to partner countries. 2 October 2024. The method for allocating EU aid to partner countries' health systems has shortcomings, and the effectiveness of funded projects can be hampered by poor coordination and sustainability risks. This is the conclusion of a report published today by the European Court of Auditors. Details of the study are attached [here](#).



More coordination of European Defence Industry Programme. 3 October 2024. The European Court of Auditors has called for a more robust design of the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP) and a better balance between the policy objectives, proposed budget and timeline. The auditors highlight the risk that the suggested €1.5 billion in spending along with the 2-year implementation period may not square with the ambitious objectives of strengthening the EU's defence industry readiness and contributing to the industrial base for the defence of Ukraine.

Further details of the Auditors' report are attached [here](#).

European Committee of the Regions (CoR)

Link to European Committee of the Regions Home Page [here](#)

Link to European Committee of the Regions News Page [here](#)

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

Version 10 May 24

Date	Meeting	Host	Location
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.