

The Week Ahead 21 – 27 September 2020

Committee meetings - Brussels

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Belarus. MEPs in the Foreign Affairs Committee will meet with exiled Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who will be physically present, to discuss the latest developments in the country. They will also adopt recommendations on how the EU should reassess its relations with Belarus following the fraudulent presidential elections, subsequent popular uprising and brutal crackdown by the authorities (*Monday*).

Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights. The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs will vote on a legislative initiative that envisages a permanent EU mechanism to monitor and prevent backsliding on EU values in all member states through country-specific recommendations, with timelines and targets for implementation (*Tuesday*).

The New Pact on Asylum and Migration. Following the formal presentation on Wednesday of the proposals for a new EU policy on asylum and migration, Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas and Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson will present and hold a first debate on the initiatives with MEPs in the Civil Liberties Committee (*Thursday*).

EU-China relations. The ongoing negotiations on an investment deal between the EU and China, disinformation, the situation in Hong Kong, human rights, climate change and how to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to be among the issues raised in a meeting between MEPs in the Foreign Affairs Committee and China's EU ambassador Ming Zhang (*Monday*).

Youth Guarantee. The youth unemployment rate stood at 17% in the EU in July 2020 (up from 14.9 % before the COVID-19 crisis) and is expected to rise sharply. In light of this, the Employment and Social Affairs Committee will vote on a resolution calling for a swift reinforcement of the Youth Guarantee and a substantial increase in its financing (*Monday*).

COVID-19 vaccines. MEPs from the Public Health and the Industry Committees will hold a public hearing with researchers and representatives from pharmaceutical companies and civil society organisations on how to secure access to COVID-19 vaccines for all, including challenges linked to clinical trials, production and distribution (*Tuesday*).

New Committees. The Special Committees on foreign interference in all democratic processes in the EU, on artificial intelligence and the digital transformation, on beating cancer as well as the Subcommittee on taxation and the Committee of inquiry on animal transport will hold their constitutive meetings and elect their chairs and vice-chairs (*Wednesday*).

President's diary. On Monday at noon, President Sassoli will meet with Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, leader of the opposition in Belarus. In the afternoon, he will have a video meeting with Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to discuss the EU's long-term budget and on Tuesday he will meet the Alternate Minister of Migration and Asylum for Greece, Georgios Koumoutsakos, also via video conference. On Wednesday, the

Agenda

President will meet with Parliament's Multiannual Financial Framework-Own Resources Contact Group before taking part in the debate on "Will Europe be the engine of a green and socially fair transformation?", with Gunter Pauli and Beppe Grillo. On Thursday at 15.00, President Sassoli will address the EU summit and hold a press conference at 15.30.

[EP Press service contacts](#)

Monday 21/09/2020

THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

The President's agenda

12:00 Meeting with Ms Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, leader of Belarus opposition

16:00 Video meeting on Article 324 with the European Commission President, Ms Ursula von der Leyen

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

09:00-18:45 *Brussels, József Antall, 4Q2*

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Votes

- Proposal for a Recommendation to the Council, the Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on relations with Belarus (INI), adoption of amendments - rapporteur: Petras AUŠTREVICĪUS (Renew, LT)
- Report on the implementation of the EU Association Agreement with the Republic of Moldova (INI), adoption of amendments - rapporteur Dragoș TUDORACHE (Renew, RO)
- Recommendation to the Council and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy concerning the Implementation and governance of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) (INI), adoption of amendments - rapporteur Radosław SIKORSKI (EPP, PL)

(9.15 – 11.00)

- Exchange of views on the outcome of the Special European Council of 17-21 July on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-27
- Foreign policy consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak (INI), consideration of draft report - rapporteur Hilde VAUTMANS (Renew, BE)

(13.45 – 15.45)

Jointly with the Subcommittee on Human Rights, and in association with the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly and the Delegation for relations with Belarus

- Exchange of views on the situation in Belarus with Sviatlana TSIKHANOUSKAYA and further members of the Belarus opposition

(17.00)

In association with the Delegation for Relations with the People's Republic of China (D-CN)

- EU-China relations: State of play and future prospects, exchange of views with Ming ZHANG, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the EU and Gunnar WIEGAND, Managing Director for Asia and Pacific at the EEAS

13:45-15:45 Brussels, József Antall, 2Q2

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Votes (13.45 – 13.50)

- Establishing a Technical Support Instrument - Adoption of draft opinion - Rapporteur for the opinion: Dragoş PÎSLARU (Renew)
- Youth Guarantee - Adoption of questions for oral answer/Adoption of motion for a resolution further to a question for oral answer - Co- rapporteurs: Lucia ĎURIŠ NICHOLSONOVÁ (ECR), Brando BENIFEI (S&D) , Elżbieta RAFALSKA (ECR), Elena LIZZI (ID) Monica SEMEDO (Renew), Leila CHAIBI (GUE/NGL), Cindy FRANSSSEN (PPE), Kira Marie PETER-HANSEN (Greens/EFA)
- General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021 - all sections - Adoption of budget amendments - Rapporteur for the opinion: Lucia ĎURIŠ NICHOLSONOVÁ (ECR)

Debates

- Amending Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 as regards the introduction of specific measures for addressing the COVID-19 crisis - Consideration of amendments - Rapporteur: Lucia ĎURIŠ NICHOLSONOVÁ (ECR) **(13.50 – 14.15)**
- Reducing inequalities with a special focus on in-work poverty - Consideration of amendments - Rapporteur: Özlem DEMIREL (GUE/NGL) **(14.15 – 14.50)**

In camera Coordinators meeting (14.50 - 15.45)

15:00-15:45 Brussels, József Antall, 6Q2

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Debate

- The effects of climate change on human rights and the role of environmental defenders on this matter (INI), consideration of draft opinion Rapporteur for the opinion Simona BALDASSARRE (ID, IT)

Vote

- General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021 - all sections (BUD), adoption of budget amendments app[^]- rapporteur for the opinion: Pascal CANFIN (Renew, FR)

16:45-18:45 Brussels, József Antall, 6Q2

Committee on Culture and Education

Debates

- Artificial intelligence in education, culture and the audiovisual sector, (INI), consideration of draft report - rapporteur Sabine VERHEYEN (EPP, DE)
- Exchange of views with the Commission on the European Heritage Label

Votes

- Strengthening Media Freedom: the Protection of Journalists in Europe, Hate Speech, Disinformation and the Role of Platforms (INI), adoption of draft opinion - rapporteur for the opinion Diana RIBA I GINER (Greens/EFA, ES)
- The future of European education in the context of Covid-19 (RSP), adoption of motion for a resolution further to a question for oral answer - rapporteur Sabine

VERHEYEN (EPP, DE)

14:00-15:45 Brussels, József Antall, 4Q1

Joint meeting

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Legal Affairs and Women's Rights and Gender Equality committees

Joint hearing of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Women on Boards

With the participation of Juliane SEIFERT, Permanent State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, on behalf of the German Presidency of the Council and Helena DALLI, Commissioner for Equality and contributions from various guest speakers.

More information and draft programme is available [here](#).

16:45-18:45 Brussels, József Antall, 2Q2

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Voting will be open from 16:50 to 18:00

- The Establishment of an EU Mechanism on Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights (INL), adoption of amendments - rapporteur Michal ŠIMEČKA (Renew,)
- Digital Services Act and fundamental rights issues posed (INI), adoption of amendments - rapporteur:Kris PEETERS (EPP, BE)

Debates

Joint debate (16.55 – 17.45)

- Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the review of Directive 2016/681 on the use of passenger name record (PNR) data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime
- Presentation on the state of play on PNR international agreements - presentation by Olivier ONIDI, Deputy Director-General, DG HOME, European Commission

Debate (17.45 – 18.45)

- The Implementation of the European Arrest Warrant and the Surrender Procedures between Member States (INI) rapporteur Javier ZARZALEJOS (EPP, ES) - presentation of the implementation report by Didier REYNDERS, Commissioner for Justice - consideration of draft report

13:45-15:45 Brussels, József Antall, 4Q1

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

[Draft agenda](#)

Tuesday 22/09/2020

THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

The President's agenda

12:00 Video meeting with the Director General of the International Organization for Migration, Mr António Vitorino

15:30 Video meeting with the Alternate Minister of Citizen Protection for Greece, Mr Georg Koumoutsakos

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

09:00-11:30 *Brussels, József Antall, 6Q-1*

Committee on Budgets

- General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021 - all sections (BUD) - Co- rapporteurs: Pierre LARROUTUROU (S&D, FR) et Olivier CHASTEL (Renew, BE) - Presentation of the Working document on Council's position
- Exchange of views with Professor Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON, President ad interim of the European Research Council (ERC)

Opening of the remote voting procedure - Voting will be open from 11.00 to 12.00

- Draft amending budget No 7 to the general budget 2020 Update of revenue (own resources) (BUD) - Rapporteur: Monika HOHLMEIER (EPP, DE) - Adoption of amendments and draft report

09:00-12:30 *Brussels, József Antall, 4Q2*

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Joint hearing with the **Committee on Industry; Research and Energy** on "How to secure access to COVID-19 vaccines for EU citizens: clinical trials, production and distribution challenges"

[Draft programme and further information.](#)

09:00-12:30 *Brussels, Altiero Spinelli, 1G3*

Committee on Fisheries

Voting will be opened from 9.05 to 10.05.

All Members taking part in the vote either present in committee meeting room or via remote participation will vote by e-mail using printed ballot papers-voting lists.

- General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021 - all sections - adoption of budget amendments, rapporteur for the opinion Pierre KARLESKIND (Renew, FR)

Debates

Agenda

- Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2021 - presentation by the Commission
- First report on the implementation of the Multiannual Plan for the stocks of cod, herring and sprat in the Baltic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks - presentation by the Commission

09:00-18:45 Brussels, József Antall, 6Q2

Committee on Culture and Education

Debates (09.00-11.00)

- Exchange of views with Commission Vice-President Margaritis SCHINAS
- European Day of Languages - exchange of views with ALTE (Association of Language Testers in Europe) and the Council of Europe

09:00-11:00 Brussels, József Antall, 2Q2

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Voting will be open from 09:50 to 10:30 FINAL TEXTS

- The Establishment of an EU Mechanism on Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights (INL), adoption of draft report - rapporteur Michal ŠIMEČKA (Renew,)
- Digital Services Act and fundamental rights issues posed (INI), adoption of draft report - rapporteur:Kris PEETERS (EPP, BE)
- The impact of Covid-19 measures on democracy, fundamental rights and rule of law (RSP), adoption of question for oral answer

Debate (9.50 – 11.00)

- Security Dialogue on police information exchange and in particular the future developments regarding Prüm and the API Council Directive – experts meeting - presentation of a Policy Department study by Dr Niovi VAVOULA, Queen Mary University of London and presentations by the following:
 1. Filip VAN LANGENDONCK, Deputy Head of the Single Point of Operational Contact Interpol - Europol - LO - Schengen (CGI- SPOC), Belgian Federal Police
 2. Dr. Rafaela GRANJA, Communication and Society Research Centre (CECS), University of Minho, Portugal
 3. Chloé BERTHÉLÉMY, Policy Advisor, European Digital Rights
 4. Matthias MONROY, Knowledge worker, activist

16:45-18:45 Brussels, Altiero Spinelli, 1G3

Joint meeting: Subcommittee on Human Rights and Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee

In association with the Delegation for relations with the US (D-US), with the United States Congress and United States Helsinki Commission

- Racial equity, equality and justice with the goal of reinforcing US-EU parliamentary coordination to combat racism and systemic discrimination

16:45-18:45 Brussels, József Antall, 2Q2

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Draft agenda

-18:45 *Brussels, Altiero Spinelli, 1G3*

Committee on Petitions

Petitions for discussion

- Petitions from Romanian citizens on alleged violation of labour rights in Iceland
- Petition from British citizen on the situation of foreign-language lecturers in Italy
- Petition from Irish citizen on the need to take account of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and EU legislation in national court proceedings

16.45

- Petition from Bulgarian citizen on implementing EU subsidised COVID-19 testing for individuals arriving in EU member states for leisure and tourism purposes
- Petition from French citizen on the impact of the use of SDHI fungicides on human health and the eco-systems
- Petition from Spanish citizen on the implementation of dissuasive measures for driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs

Wednesday 23/09/2020

THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

The President's agenda

10:00 Meeting with the *Multiannual Financial Framework-Own Resources* Contact Group

16:00 Video Debate *Ideas for a new world* with Gunter Pauli and Beppe Grillo

18:00 Meeting with the Prime Minister of Spain, Mr Pedro Sanchez, protocol entry PHS and roundtable at 9th floor

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

09:00-19:45 *Brussels, József Antall, 2Q2*

Committee on Transport and Tourism

Debates

- Tourism Task Force meeting with travel and tourism umbrella organisations to discuss the situation of the European tourism sector in the Covid-19 crisis (09.10-11.00)
- Presentation of the study on sustainable and smart urban transport “COVID-19 and urban mobility: impacts and perspectives” **(14:30-15:45)**

Thursday 24/09/2020

THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

The President's agenda

15:00 European Summit

15:30 Press Conference

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

09:00-11:00 *Brussels, József Antall, 2Q2*

Committee on Transport and Tourism

Votes

- General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021 - Adoption of draft opinion - Rapporteur for the opinion: Marian-Jean MARINESCU (EPP, RO)
- Establishing the InvestEU Programme - Adoption of draft opinion - Rapporteur for the opinion: Tom BERENDSEN (EPP, NL)

Debates

- European Commission presentation of the transport infrastructure projects selected for funding under recent CEF transport calls. **(9:00-10:30)**

13:45-15:45 *Brussels, József Antall, 4Q1*

Committee on Regional Development

The vote on the amendments will open at 13.45 and close at 14.45.

The final vote will open at 15.15 and close at 16.15.

Votes

- Public sector loan facility under the Just Transition Mechanism (COD), adoption of draft opinion - rapporteur for the opinion Cristina MAESTRE MARTÍN DE ALMAGRO (S&D, ES)
- General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021 - all sections (BUD), adoption of draft opinion - rapporteur for the opinion Andżelika Anna MOŹDŹANOWSKA (ECR, PL)
- Establishing a Recovery and Resilience Facility (COD), adoption of draft opinion - rapporteur for the opinion Corina CREŢU (S&D, RO)

16:45-17:45 *Brussels, József Antall, 2Q2*

Committee on Legal Affairs

09:00-11:00 *Brussels, József Antall, 6Q2*

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Agenda

Debate

- The New Pact on Asylum and Migration - presentations by Margaritis SCHINAS, Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life and Ylva JOHANSSON, Commissioner for Home Affairs **(09.00-10.30)**

13:45-18:45 Brussels, József Antall, 6Q2

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

Debates

- Amendments to the Rules of Procedure in order to ensure the functioning of Parliament in extraordinary circumstances (REG), rapporteur Gabriele BISCHOFF (S&D, DE) - consideration of amendments
- Presentation of EPRS research on transnational lists: "Transnational lists: a way to further Europeanise European elections?" presentation and exchange of views

Hearing

- Hearing on "Transnational lists and the Spitzenkandidaten principle" presentation by experts - exchange of views with Members **(16.45 – 18.45)**. Draft programme will be available [here](#).