

The Europe Diary

A long-term calendar of European events for journalists and broadcasters.



January 2019 onwards

Please check entries before broadcast or publication: see contacts at end of Diary.

January

- 1st EU. Austria hands over the six-month Presidency of the European Council to Romania who for the first time will organise conferences and chair ministerial council meetings, pushing forward a high-tech agenda. They will also be representing the 27 member states when/if Brexit happens at the end of March. Their Presidency website is www.romania2019.eu/en/ Twitter hashtag: RO2019.EU
- 2nd Brussels. Most of the European institutions return to work after the Christmas and New Year break.
- 7th London. The House of Commons will resume its debate on Theresa May's proposed Brexit 'deal' after a vote scheduled for December 11th was postponed at the last moment. The vote will now take place in the week of January 14th. www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-46586673
- 8th Brussels. EU Foreign Ministers meet in the General Affairs Council, which includes the Article 50 Group monitoring Brexit on behalf of the 27 member states. www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/gac/2019/01/08/
- 9th Frankfurt. European Central Bank Governing Council non-monetary policy meeting. www.ecb.eu
- 9th Brussels. The future of plant breeding. An afternoon seminar by the European Landowners Association who are unhappy about an EJC ruling that new gene editing techniques should fall under GMO legislation. www.eventbrite.com/e/innovation-conference-after-the-ecj-the-future-of-plant-breeding-in-europe-tickets-53435800919?mc_cid=3f5ac81d6e&mc_eid=5c6002a875
- 10th- 27th Denmark and Germany. The World Men's Handball Championships (held every two years). <http://www.handball19.com>
- 14th London. Downing Street has said that the House of Commons will hold its 'meaningful vote' on Theresa May's EU Withdrawal Agreement this week. The agreement was signed off by Michel Barnier the EU's Chief Negotiator and endorsed by the 27 members states, but a parliamentary vote on the deal before Christmas was postponed at the last moment because it was clearly going to be defeated. The Prime Minister says she will seek further clarification on the border between the UK and Ireland – the so called temporary backstop - but the EU says negotiations are over. The European Union (Withdrawal) Act that became UK

law in June makes future ratification of the withdrawal agreement as a treaty between the UK and EU “depend upon the prior enactment of another act of Parliament for approving the final terms of withdrawal when the current Brexit negotiations are completed”, and fixes 21st January 2019, at the latest, when the government must decide on how to proceed - if the negotiations have not reached agreement in principle on both the withdrawal arrangements and the framework for the future relationship between the UK and EU - for Parliamentary debate). [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union_\(Withdrawal\)_Act_2018](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union_(Withdrawal)_Act_2018). If Mrs. May's deal is rejected by the House of Commons this week, the government says we will leave the EU with no deal, leading to probable major disruption and economic damage. But Labour would seek to force a general election. Others in parliament support a House of Commons decision to hold another referendum which could vote to remain in the EU. Either way the departure date of March 29th under the Article 50 rules would have to be delayed. Frankly – no one knows what will happen.

- 14th- 17th Strasbourg. European Parliament plenary session. www.europarl.europa.eu
- 21st- 22nd Brussels. EU Foreign Ministers meet in the Foreign Affairs Council, preceded by a meeting of the representatives of the eurozone countries in the Eurogroup. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2019/01/21/>
- 21st- 27th Minsk. European Figure Skating Championships. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_European_Figure_Skating_Championships
- 22nd Brussels. EU Finance Ministers meet in the ECOFIN Council. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/ecofin/2019/01/22/>
- 24th Frankfurt. European Central Bank Governing Council Monetary Policy Meeting. www.ecb.eu
- 24th Brussels. From Pipes to Platforms – a conference about the future of Europe's electricity distribution. www.eurelectric.org/events/from-pipes-to-platform/
- 28th Brussels. EU Ministers for Agriculture and Fisheries meet. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/agrifish/2019/01/28/>
- 30th- 31st Brussels. European Parliament mini-plenary. www.europarl.europa.eu

February

- 5th Brussels. 'Private Landowners: What Role for Europe's Nature'. A seminar at the European Parliament organised by the European Landowners Association. www.elo.org
- 7th London. The Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee and Quarterly Inflation Report. Will the prospect of Brexit put the pound under more pressure? www.bankofengland.co.uk
- 11th- 14th Strasbourg. European Parliament plenary session. www.europarl.europa.eu
- 11th Brussels. The Eurogroup of Finance Ministers from the EU eurozone countries, held before the full Ecofin Council the following day.
- 12th Brussels. EU Finance Ministers meet in the ECOFIN Council. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/agrifish/2019/01/28/>

- 15th Brussels. EU Ministers for Youth, Education, Culture and Sport meet.
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eycs/2019/02/15/>
- 18th - 19th Brussels. EU Foreign Ministers meet in the Foreign Affairs and General Affairs Councils. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/gac/2019/02/19/>
- 24th Moldova. Parliamentary Election.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moldovan_parliamentary_election,_2019 ~
- 24th- 25th Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt. EU- League of Arab States Summit.
www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2019/02/24-25/
- 27th - 3rd March Pruszkow, Poland. World Track Cycling Championships.
<https://allsportdb.com/Events/2019-UCI-Track-Cycling-World-Championships-5384>

March

- 3rd Estonia. Parliamentary Elections. www.electionguide.org/elections/
- 4th Brussels. EU Ministers for Energy meet in the TTE Council.
www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/tte/2019/03/04/
- 5th Brussels. EU Environment Ministers meet.
www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/env/2019/03/05/
- 7th Frankfurt. European Central Bank Governing Council and Monetary Policy Meeting. www.ecb.eu
- 7th Brussels. EU Transport Ministers meet in the TTE Council.
www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/tte/2019/03/07/
- 7th- 8th Brussels. EU Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs meet.
www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/jha/2019/03/07-08/
- 9th Slovenia. Presidential Elections. Tbc. <http://www.electionguide.org/elections/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Slovak_presidential_election
- 11th Brussels. Finance Ministers from the EU eurozone countries meet in the Eurogroup before the full Ecofin meeting.
- 12th Brussels. Finance Ministers from all 28 EU members states meet in the ECOFIN Council. www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/ecofin/2019/03/12/
- 11th- 14th Strasbourg. European Parliament plenary session. www.europarl.europa.eu
- 15th Nyon, Switzerland. Draw for the semi-finals of the UEFA Champions league.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018-19_UEFA_Champions_League
- 15th Brussels. EU Ministers for Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs meet. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/epsco/2019/03/15/>
- 18th Brussels. EU Ministers for Agriculture and Fisheries meet.
www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/agrifish/2019/03/18/
- 19th Brussels. EU Foreign Ministers meet in the General Affairs Council with the Article 50 Group scrutinising the progress of Brexit.
www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/gac/2019/03/19/
- 21st London. The Bank of England Monetary Policy Meeting – the last before Britain's scheduled departure from the EU which might increase pressure on the pound.
www.bankofengland.co.uk

- 21st- 22nd Brussels. EU Summit – likely to be the last with the UK a member of the Union. www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2019/03/21-22/
- 25th - 28th Strasbourg. European Parliament plenary session. The second this month. www.europarl.europa.eu
- 29th EU/London. Under Article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union, the UK is expected to leave the European Union at 11pm UK time, either on the terms negotiated by the government (which may not be approved by the British parliament), or with No Deal. The date can be extended if all 28 EU members agree, but PM Theresa May has put it into British law so it would require an Act of Parliament to change the date. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Withdrawal_from_the_European_Union

April

- 3rd- 4th Brussels. European Parliament mini-plenary. www.europarl.europa.eu
- 8th- 9th Luxembourg. EU Foreign Ministers meet in the Foreign Affairs and General Affairs Councils. www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/gac/2019/04/09/
- 9th Brussels. The 2019 Forum for the Future of Agriculture. www.forumforagriculture.com
- 14th Finland. Parliamentary Elections. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Finnish_parliamentary_election
- 15th- 16th Luxembourg. EU Ministers for Agriculture and Fisheries meet. www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/agrifish/2019/04/15-16/
- 15th- 18th Strasbourg. The last session of the current European Parliament followed by campaigning for the EP elections in May. www.europarl.europa.eu
- 18th- 22nd Barcelona. World Dance Championships. www.barcelonadance.org

May

- 23rd- 26th Elections to the European Parliament. At the moment the Parliament has 751 seats, which is the maximum number allowed by the EU treaties. Following the Brexit vote in the UK's referendum, 27 of the UK's 73 seats will be redistributed to other countries, while the remaining 46 seats will be kept for future enlargements. This means the number of MEPs to be elected will be 705.

The T-Media Europe Diary, updated monthly, is available online at the Association of European Journalists British Section website www.aej-uk.org and at www.moderatorseurope.eu the conference facilitator network.

All information on the European Events Diary should be checked with the appropriate European department before publication, (see contacts below). T-Media cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided.

Contacts

The EU Calendar from the European Commission is at: <http://europa.eu/newsroom/calendar>

All EU press releases are posted at http://europa.eu/press_room/index_en.htm

European Commission:

Media information is handled by the Directorate-General for Communication.

Commission contacts can be found via http://ec.europa.eu/contact/index_en.htm

Also each Directorate-General (DG) has its own Information Unit.

Call the general number in Brussels, +322 299 1111, and ask for either the Spokesperson of the appropriate DG - for political matters and interview requests with the Commissioner - or the "Information Unit" of the directorate. (E.g. Agriculture DG or Environment DG).

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There is a "virtual press office" on the web, which carries news releases, background material and video-streaming. http://europa.eu/comm/press_room Press releases are at <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

TV coverage on Europe-by-Satellite <http://europa.eu/comm/ebs/schedule.cfm>

TV topical features are available free from ICF Mostra Communication at TVLink Europe www.tvlink.org

Email: media@mostra.com +322 537 4400.

The London Press Office of the Commission: 020 7973 1971 <http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom>

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www.europarl.ep.ec/dg3/audiouv/en/ftv.htm

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TV pix: <http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu>

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Austria's Presidency website: www.eu2018.at

EU News, information and contacts are also available on the Europa 'Europe Direct' site.

www.europa.eu/europedirect

Council of Europe: www.coe.int

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