

Agenda of the European Commission

1– 7 December 2014

**Background notes from the Spokespersons' service for journalists.
The European Commission reserves the right to make changes.**

Monday 1st December:

First Vice-President Timmermans attends the COSAC plenary session

Monday 1st – Friday 12 December:

The EU at the UN climate talks in Lima

Wednesday 3 December:

The European Commission welcomes the Latvian government ahead of the presidency

Monday 1st December:

First Vice-President Timmermans attends the COSAC plenary session

The news:

European Commission First Vice-President Frans Timmermans will attend the Conference of European Affairs Committees (COSAC) plenary session in Rome on 1 December, and participate in a debate with representatives of national Parliaments from across the European Union.

The background:

Deepening the relationships between national Parliaments and the European Commission is a priority of the Juncker Commission. This meeting is a good opportunity to share views with Parliamentarians on how best to achieve this goal.

In the Mission Letter addressed to Mr Timmermans by President Juncker, he is charged with "coordinating and strengthening the interaction of all Commissioners with national Parliaments as a way of bringing the European Union closer to citizens and forging a new partnership with national Parliaments."

COSAC was established in May 1989 at a meeting in Madrid, where the Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU Member States agreed to strengthen the role of national Parliaments in relation to the Community matters by bringing together their Committees on European Affairs. The first meeting of COSAC took place on 16-17 November 1989 in Paris.

COSAC was formally recognised in a Protocol on the Role of National Parliaments in the European Union of the Treaty of Amsterdam that was concluded by the Heads of State or Government in June 1997. The Protocol came into force 1 May 1999.

The event:

Monday 1 December, 11:30-13:30: participation of First Vice-President Timmermans in the COSAC plenary session, Senate of the Republic, Palazzo Madama, Rome. The meeting will be broadcast live on Senate satellite channel and web TV.

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Monday 1st – Friday 12 December:

The EU at the UN climate talks in Lima

The news:

The EU expects the upcoming climate conference in Lima to define the contours of a new, legally-binding global climate change agreement due to be adopted in Paris next year.

The background:

UN negotiations are under way to develop a new, legally-binding international climate change agreement with commitments for emissions reductions from all countries. These must be in line with science and consistent with the objective of limiting global temperature increase to below 2°C compared to the pre-industrial temperature.

The Agreement is due to be adopted at the climate conference in Paris in December 2015.

The event:

The annual climate conference, known as the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, will take place in Lima, Peru. The 20th session of the Conference of the Parties and the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will be held from 1 to 12 December.

Thursday 4 December at 12:00 (tbc): Statement on the Lima climate talks by Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, at the beginning of the Midday Briefing of the European Commission, in the Berlaymont Press Room.

The sources:

- http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/index_en.htm
- http://unfccc.int/meetings/lima_dec_2014/meeting/8141.php

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Wednesday 3 December:

The European Commission welcomes the Latvian government ahead of the presidency

The news:

Latvia's Prime Minister Laimdota Straujuma and members of the Latvian government will visit the European Commission on Wednesday 3 December. During the plenary meeting of the College and the following working lunch, Commission Members and the Latvian ministers will have the opportunity to discuss Latvia's upcoming Presidency of the Council of the EU, the key priorities of the Commission Work Program 2015, the Investment Plan for Europe, economic, financial and social matters, as well as foreign policy issues. The joint working session will be followed by a bilateral meeting between European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and the Prime Minister of Latvia, Laimdota Straujuma.

The background:

Twice a year, the European Commission invites the government of the Member State that will hold the next presidency of the Council of the EU to participate a plenary College meeting, in order to discuss the EU's priorities of the next six-month period. Italy is currently holding the presidency of the Council of the EU, and will be followed by Latvia (January-June 2015), Luxembourg (July-December 2015), Netherlands (January-June 2016) and Slovakia (July-December 2016).

The event:

- Wednesday 3 December: plenary meeting of the College of Commissioners with members of the Latvian government, followed by a working lunch. A press point with Commission President Juncker and Latvian Prime Minister Straujuma will be held after the meeting at the VIP-corner in the Berlaymont building (time to be confirmed).
- Available on EBS

The sources:

Website of the Latvian presidency of the Council of the EU: <http://www.es2015.lv/en/>

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