

Agenda of the European Commission

2 – 8 February 2015

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

Monday 2 to Friday 6 February:

8th round of negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

Tuesday 3 February:

European Consultation of the World Humanitarian Summit starts in Budapest

Wednesday 4 February:

European Commission adopts proposal to increase pre-financing to promote youth employment

Thursday 5 February:

The Commission publishes Winter European Economic Forecast

February:

Commission adopts Communication on a Global Partnership to deliver the post-2015 development agenda

Monday 2 to Friday 6 February:

8th round of negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

The news:

On 2-6 February 2015, the eighth round of negotiations for a [Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership \(TTIP\)](#) between the EU and the US will take place in Brussels.

The background:

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a comprehensive free trade and investment treaty currently being negotiated between the European Union and the US. The main goal of TTIP is to remove regulatory tariff and non-tariff barriers leading to more growth and jobs on both sides of the Atlantic and global standards.

The event:

- **Friday 30 January, 10:15-11:00**
Technical briefing off-the-record by the EU chief negotiator Ignacio Garcia Bercero before the round, Berlaymont Press Room.
- **Monday 2 Feb, ca. 10:15**
Photo opportunity: Handshake between the chief negotiators (Berlaymont VIP corner)
- **Wednesday 4 Feb, 11:00**
Stakeholder event
- **Friday 6 Feb, 15:30 (tbc)**
Closing press conference by the chief negotiators

The sources:

<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/ttip/>

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Tuesday 3 February:

European Consultation of the World Humanitarian Summit starts in Budapest

The news:

Christos Stylianides, the EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, will join humanitarian stakeholders from 54 countries in Budapest for the "Europe and Others" consultation leading to the UN [World Humanitarian Summit \(WHS\)](#). This regional conference marks a major milestone in the two-year process, announced by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in 2012 and set to culminate in Istanbul in May 2016.

The background:

WHS will bring together all stakeholders – donors, relief organisations, private sector, aid beneficiaries and more – with a view to jointly reshape the global humanitarian system for the years to come. High-level participants include the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief, Valerie Amos; Director-General International Organization for Migration (IOM), Ambassador William Lacy Swing; Secretary-General International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Elhadj As SY, and many others.

The event

- Commissioner Stylianides delivers a speech at the opening of the European Consultation of the World Humanitarian Summit.
- Available on EBS

The sources:

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo/>

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Wednesday 4 February:

European Commission adopts proposal to increase pre-financing to promote youth employment

The news:

The European Commission will present a proposal to increase the amount of pre-funding made available to Member States to promote youth employment and provide support to young persons not in employment, education or training in the most affected regions. Currently, Member States are facing difficulties to provide the necessary payments for the implementation of operations under the Youth Employment Initiative. The situation is particularly acute in the Member States with the highest levels of youth unemployment since they are also the ones which are facing more budgetary constraints and lack of funding. Increasing the amount of pre-funding will contribute to the integration of young people into the labour market and support the efforts of providing an immediate and quick response to the unacceptably high level of youth unemployment in the EU.

The background:

The Youth Employment Initiative was adopted following a call from the European Council of February 2013 to address the unprecedented levels of youth unemployment in certain regions of the European Union. The purpose of the Youth Employment Initiative is to provide additional funding for promoting youth employment to the regions most affected by youth unemployment.

The event:

- Wednesday 4 February: press conference in the Commission's press room. Press release and memo will be available on the day in the Press Release Database: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>.
- Available on Ebs

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Thursday 5 February:

The Commission publishes Winter European Economic Forecast

The news:

On 5 February, the European Commission will publish its Winter European Economic Forecast. It will cover 2014, 2015 and 2016 and will include data on Gross Domestic Product (GDP), inflation, employment and public budget deficits and debt, amongst others. These forecasts focus on all 28 EU Member States, plus the candidate countries as well as some non-EU countries.

The background:

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Economic and Monetary Affairs produces short-term macroeconomic forecasts three times a year: in the spring, autumn and in the winter. They serve as a basis for various economic surveillance procedures, such as in the context of the European Semester.

The event

- Thursday 5 February: Press conference on the Winter European Economic Forecast (details to follow).
- Press release available on the day.
- Available on EBS

The sources:

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/eu/forecasts/index_en.htm

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February:

Commission adopts Communication on a Global Partnership to deliver the post-2015 development agenda

The news

In February the European Commission will present its Communication on a Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015. The post-2015 process has entered a new and decisive phase, with the launch of intergovernmental negotiations in New York in January 2015, which will continue in the coming months, along with the negotiations for the Financing for Development Conference in July 2015 in Addis Ababa. The talks are expected to lead to the adoption of a post-2015 agenda at a UN Summit in September. The Communication will present a vision for the new, universal global partnership, outlining a set of principles and proposing means of implementation (covering both financing and policy measures) to be pursued by all countries, according to their respective capabilities.

The background

The Millennium Development Goals, agreed in 2000, will expire this year. The debate on a post-2015 agenda is converging into a single framework for poverty eradication and sustainable development, which will notably include a new set of Sustainable Development Goals.

As the world's largest donor of development assistance and champion of sustainable development, the EU is committed to play a constructive and influential role in the upcoming negotiations. The EU needs a common approach for its engagement in the upcoming intergovernmental negotiations ahead of the Financing for Development (FfD) Conference and the UN Summit on the post-2015 development agenda, in order to provide coordinated and timely inputs.

The Communication which will be published in February is expected to lead to Council Conclusions later in spring.

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