

Headlines

The European Union's ability to protect democracy and the rule of law in its member states is being tested by a power-grab in Romania, where the centre-left government has unseated the president and the speakers of both houses of parliament. Victor Ponta, Romania's prime minister, is to meet the EU's leadership today, having been summoned to Brussels by José Manuel Barroso, the president of the European Commission, to explain his government's sweeping legal changes. He is also scheduled to meet Herman Van Rompuy, the president of the European Council. (EUROPEANVOICE.COM)

Twenty big fund managers have warned that controversial rules proposed by Brussels threaten to sharply increase costs for ordinary investors and undermine the single market in the EU. The investment managers, who include Allianz, Axa, BlackRock and Fidelity, join a swelling chorus of critics of the technical standards that the EU has proposed as part of reforms of hedge fund regulation. (FT.COM)

Agenda

European Parliament

► 9:00 **Subcommittee on Human Rights**: On the agenda: **Public hearing on "the impact of the financial and economic crisis on human rights"**, Discussion on the role of Private Military and Security Companies in relation to the violation of human rights (ASP - 1G2).

► 9:00 **Committee on International Trade**. The agenda includes: Implementation of the bilateral safeguard clause and the stabilisation mechanism for bananas of the Association Agreement between the EU and Central America (vote on a regulation, report by **Jörg Leichtfried**, S&D), Implementation of the bilateral safeguard clause and the stabilisation mechanism for bananas of the Trade Agreement between the EU and Colombia and Peru (vote on a regulation, report by **Bernd Lange**, S&D), EU-Russia trade relations following Russia's accession to the WTO (vote on a motion for resolution), Protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European Community (vote on a regulation by **Vital Moreira**, S&D), EU Trade negotiations with Japan (vote on a motion for resolution), Financing EU SMEs' trade and investment: facilitated access to credit in support of internationalisation (first exchange of views, rapporteur **Jan Zahradil**, ECR) (PHS - 5B001).

► 9:00 **Committee on Budgets**. The agenda includes: MFF 2014-2020 / Own resources (discussion on the report by **Reimer Böge**, EPP, **Ivailo Kalfin**, S&D, **Jean-Luc Dehaene**, EPP and **Anne E. Jensen**, ALDE), Budget 2013 - General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2013 - all sections - (discussion on the report by **Giovanni La Via**, EPP, and **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), (JAN - 6Q2).

► 9:00 **Committee on Industry, Research and Energy**. The agenda includes: Energy efficiency, repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC (vote on a draft regulation, report by **Claude Turmes**, Greens/EFA), Trans-European energy infrastructure, and repeal of Decision No 1364/2006/EC (vote on amendments and on the negotiation mandate, report by **António Fernando Correia De Campos**, S&D), Visit of **Stavros Malas**, Cyprus Minister of Health responsible for the Research portfolio (JAN-4Q1).

► 9:00 **Committee on Regional Development**. The agenda includes: Exchange of views with **Andreas Mavroyiannis**, Cypriot Deputy Minister for European Affairs, on the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency of the

Council (PHS - 3C050).

► 9:00 **Committee on Fisheries**: The agenda includes: The EU 2011 Report on Policy Coherence for Development (consideration of draft opinion by **João Ferreira**, GUE/NGL) (ASP - 1G3).

► 9:00 **Special committee on organised crime, corruption and money laundering**. On the agenda: **Hearing on Organised crime in the EU: fields of activity and instruments - prevention, investigation and repression** (JAN - 4Q2).



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► 9:00 **Committee on Constitutional Affairs**. The agenda includes: Priorities of the Cypriot presidency of the Council - discussion with **Andreas D. Mavroyiannis**, Cypriot Deputy Minister for European Affairs, **Application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU to the Czech Republic. Protocol amendment** (vote on an EP consultation, rapporteur **Andrew Duff**, ALDE), Application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU to the Czech Republic. Protocol amendment (vote on consent to not to convene a Convention, rapporteur **Andrew Duff**, ALDE), EP Rules of Procedure, Rule 70: interinstitutional negotiations in legislative procedures (vote on Rules, rapporteur **Enrique Guerrero Salom**, S&D), Interinstitutional Agreement between the EP and the Council concerning the forwarding to and handling by the EP of classified information held by the Council on matters other than those in the area of the CFSP (vote on inter-institutional agreement, rapporteur **Gerald Häfner**, Greens/EFA) (ASP-3E-2).

► 9:00 **Committee on Petitions**. The agenda includes: Annual report on the activities of the Committee on Petitions (vote on a resolution, rapporteur **Giles Chichester**, ECR), Application of the EU Charter of Fundamental rights - opinion on the European Commission 2011 Report (vote on a resolution, rapporteur **Adina-Ioana Vălean**, ALDE) (PHS - 4B1).

Council of the EU

► The **Informal meeting of Ministers of Employment and Social Policy** takes place in Nikosia today.

European Commission

► The Commission yesterday published a **proposal to limit average car fleet emissions to 95 grams of carbon dioxide per kilometre by 2020**. The proposal contains changes from an earlier draft, following objections from the German car industry, but the changes only partly address these concerns. (EUROPEANVOICE.COM)

► The Commission has revived attempts to change the way that **music rights** are managed in the EU. But it has stopped short of proposing a single pan-EU licensing system. **Michel Barnier**, Commissioner for the internal market, proposed legislation yesterday that he said would make it easier for online music providers to obtain licences for more than one EU country. It would also force collecting societies – the companies that manage the rights on behalf of performers – to raise their standards. (EUROPEANVOICE.COM)

► The Commission has opened an in-depth investigation to **examine whether regional aid in favour of German car maker Porsche in Saxony is in line with EU state aid rules**.

Member States News

► **Spain's government has announced sweeping new austerity measures**, amid clashes between protesters and police. Prime Minister **Mariano Rajoy** said sales tax would rise from 18% to 21%, and local authorities would have their budgets slashed. He is aiming to save €65bn as part of a deal with eurozone leaders to help rescue Spain's banks. The move coincided with a miners' rally in Madrid, where police fired rubber bullets at crowds of protesters. (BBC.CO.UK)

► **William Hague** will launch a **complete review of European Union law and its impact on Britain** today, an exhaustive Whitehall exercise which could provide Eurosceptic ammunition for the next Conservative manifesto. The foreign secretary will tell MPs that the "comprehensive audit" will look at every aspect of European legislation – including its impact on business – and possible overlaps with British law. (FT.COM)

► **Dublin** is to unveil a **multibillion euro stimulus package later this month in an effort to kickstart its flagging economy** and curb unemployment as it presses the eurozone to take over a large chunk of bank-related debts to aid its recovery. **Michael Noonan**, Ireland's finance minister, said yesterday that the troika of international lenders – the ECB, European Commission and the IMF – had approved the stimulus measures as long as Dublin does not breach its spending limits. (FT.COM)

► Thousands of doctors and nurses have gone on **strike in Portugal** to protest against cuts in the health budget. The health ministry has warned that as many as 4,500 operations and 400,000 appointments may be cancelled. The government has promised to reduce its budget deficit as part of the €78bn EU-IMF bailout deal agreed in May last year. (BBC.CO.UK)

► **At least one of the coal plants** for which **Poland** is requesting €7 billion of free carbon allowances under the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS)'s little-known '10c derogation' **does not exist**, a EurActiv investigation has found. (EURACTIV.COM)

TODAY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Eider GARDIAZÁBAL RUBIAL - MEP (S&D)
Emil STOYANOV (53) - MEP (EPP)
Leonardo DOMENICI (57) - MEP (S&D)
Jaime MAYOR OREJA (61) - MEP (EPP)

13. 7. CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Nadja HIRSCH - MEP (ALDE)

14. 7. CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Manfred WEBER (40) - MEP (EPP)

15. 7. CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Fiona HALL - MEP (ALDE)