

Weekly schedule of President Donald Tusk

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EU monitoring mission evaluates progress on human rights and labour rights in Myanmar

A previous monitoring mission from the European Commission and the European External Action Service [visited Myanmar from 28 to 31 October](#) 2018, following deeply worrying developments highlighted in various United Nations reports, in particular as regards human rights violations in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States and concerns about labour rights.

This EU mission focused on several issues such as:

- accountability for crimes under international law;
- cooperation with United Nations special procedures and mandates;
- unrestricted humanitarian access to conflict-affected communities;
- situation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and conditions for safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return of refugees;
- discrimination, hate speech, media freedom and labour rights.

The mission held constructive discussions with the government of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw, through an inter-ministerial working session led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and several bilateral meetings including with the Minister of International Cooperation and the Minister of Information. The mission visited Rakhine State, and met with the Chief Minister and State Government, and the Speaker of the Rakhine State Assembly. It also visited a Rohingya IDP camp and met with local Rakhine and Hindu communities.

The mission provided an opportunity for discussions with representatives of United Nations agencies including United National High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Development Programme and the International Labour Organisation, as well as with humanitarian organisations. Moreover, the EU delegation met with the Myanmar Press Council, civil society, labour rights activists, trade unions and business organisations.

The European Commission and the European External Action Service will now analyse the findings from the mission. The EU will continue to engage with Myanmar and looks forward to seeing sustained and concrete progress in all areas of concern in the near future.

Background

Myanmar benefits significantly from its preferential access to the EU market under the EBA. Its duty free exports increased from €535 million in 2015 to an expected €2.3 billion in 2018. Main exports (2018 estimates) to the EU are textiles (over € 1.7 billion), rice (over €140 million), precious stones (€130 million) and footwear (€120 million).

To continue to benefit from the duty-free, quota-free access to the EU market under the EBA trade preferences scheme, Myanmar must uphold and respect the fundamental principles enshrined in the relevant 15 fundamental United Nations and International Labour Organisation conventions. In case of evidence of serious and systematic violations of human rights, the beneficiary country can have its trade preferences withdrawn temporarily.

The EU has stepped up its engagement with Myanmar (see the EU biennial [GSP report of January 2018](#)) in response to serious concerns about the deterioration of respect for human rights and the rule of law.

The EU has put in place since June 2018 targeted restricted measures against senior officers of Myanmar security forces involved in serious and systematic human rights abuses in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States.

The latest [Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions](#) adopted in December 2018 reiterated concerns about the situation in the country and invited Myanmar authorities to cooperate with the European Commission in the framework of the Everything But Arms (EBA) scheme.

Ensuring safe flying after Brexit

The EU is taking the steps needed to continue to ensure a high level of aviation safety in its airspace in the event the UK leaves the EU without a negotiated agreement. Member states' representatives meeting in the Council's Permanent Representatives Committee today approved an agreement with the European Parliament on a draft regulation aimed at ensuring the continued validity of certain aviation safety certificates.

The regulation covers aviation safety certificates for certain aeronautical products, parts and appliances issued to natural and legal persons having their principal place of business in the UK, as well as certificates issued by providers of aviation training.

The regulation extends the validity of such certificates for a period of nine months from the date of application of the regulation. If necessary, the Commission will be entitled to prolong this period further. The extension will allow the operators concerned and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) sufficient time so that EASA can continue to issue the necessary certificates under article 68 of the regulation on common rules in the field of civil aviation, taking account of the UK's status as a third country.

EASA is responsible for the issuance of type certificates and organisation approvals in the EU. After its withdrawal, the UK will resume these tasks under its obligations as 'State of design' under the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation.

The regulation shall apply from the day following that on which the Treaties cease to apply to the United Kingdom pursuant to Article 50(3) of the Treaty on European Union, unless a withdrawal agreement concluded with the UK has entered into force by that date. However, in order to allow for the necessary administrative procedures to be carried out as early as possible, certain provisions will apply as from the regulation's entry into force (the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union).

The text will now be formally approved by the European Parliament and the Council.

[Download as pdf](#)

Online shopping: Commission and

consumer protection authorities call for clear information on prices and discounts

Today, the European Commission and national consumer protection authorities are publishing the results of an EU-wide screening of 560 e-commerce sites offering a variety of goods, services and digital content, such as clothing or footwear, computer software or entertainment tickets. Around 60% of these websites showed irregularities regarding the respect of EU consumer rules, predominately in relation to how prices and special offers are presented.

Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, said: *“Online shopping provides many opportunities for consumers. However, more than half of the websites show irregularities, in particular on how prices and discounts are advertised. This must stop as the consumers are often led to confusion and higher price than intended. I am appalled by the high number of the websites that have these problems – I hope they are unintended. Online traders need to fully respect EU consumer rules. National consumer authorities, with the assistance of the Commission, will now take the necessary steps to stop such unfair business practices”*.

For more than 31% of the websites offering discounts, consumer authorities suspected that the special offers are not authentic or they found the way the discounted price was calculated unclear.

On 211 websites the final price at payment was higher than the initial price offered. 39% of those traders did not include proper information on extra unavoidable fees on delivery, payment methods, booking fees and other similar surcharges. EU consumer law obliges traders to present prices inclusive of all mandatory costs, and where such costs cannot be calculated in advance, their existence at least needs to be clearly presented to the consumer.

Further irregularities in respect to information requirements:

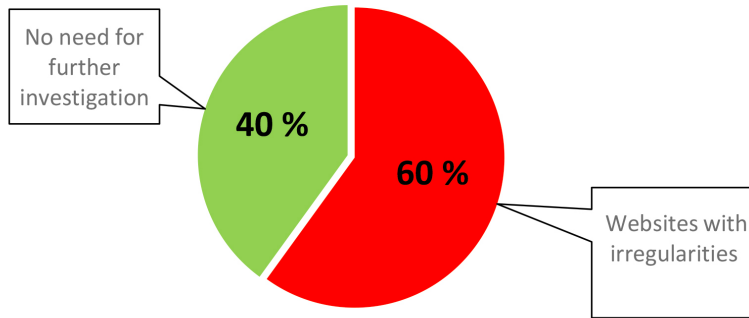
- In 59% of the 560 websites checked, traders failed the obligation to provide an easily accessible link to the [Online Dispute Resolution \(ODR\) platform](#), which is obligatory under EU law. The ODR Platform allows consumers and traders to resolve disputes without going to court.
- In almost 30% of the websites, irregularities were found in relation to how information was presented about consumers' right to withdrawal. According to EU law, consumers must be clearly informed about their right to withdrawal when they buy online.

Next steps

Consumer protection (CPC) authorities will ensure full compliance of the traders concerned by activating their national enforcement procedures where necessary.

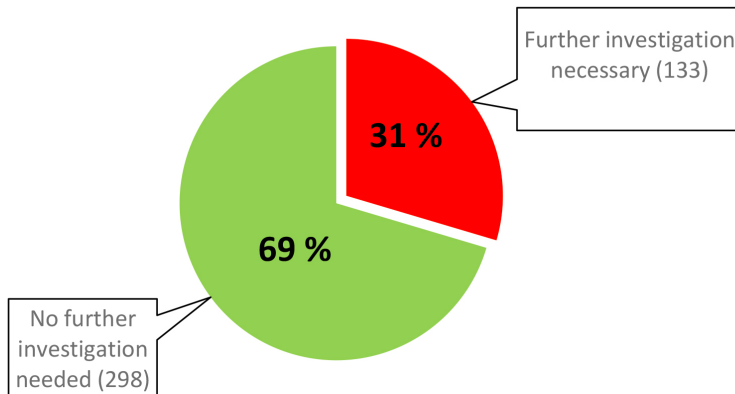
Websites with irregularities

Out of 560 websites checked



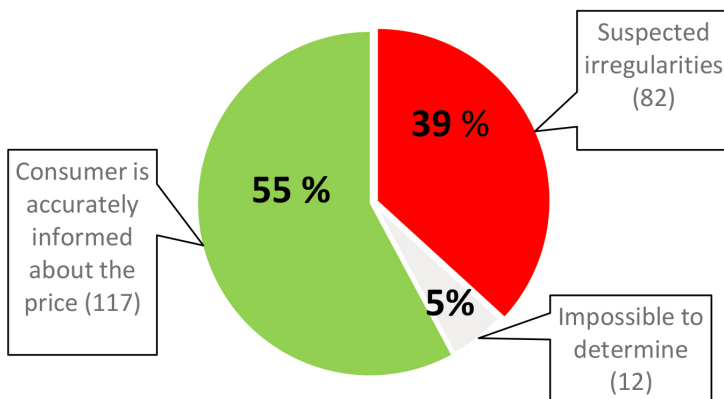
Websites with irregularities regarding special offers

Out of 431 websites offering discounts



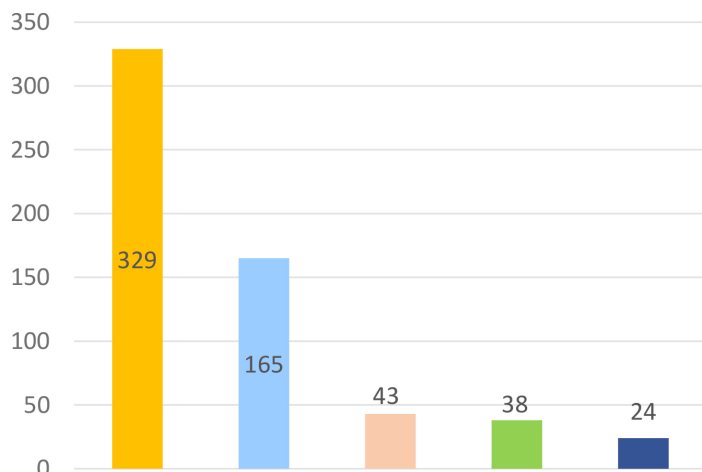
Websites with suspected irregularities on information about unavoidable extra fees

Out of 211 websites where the final price was higher than the initial price



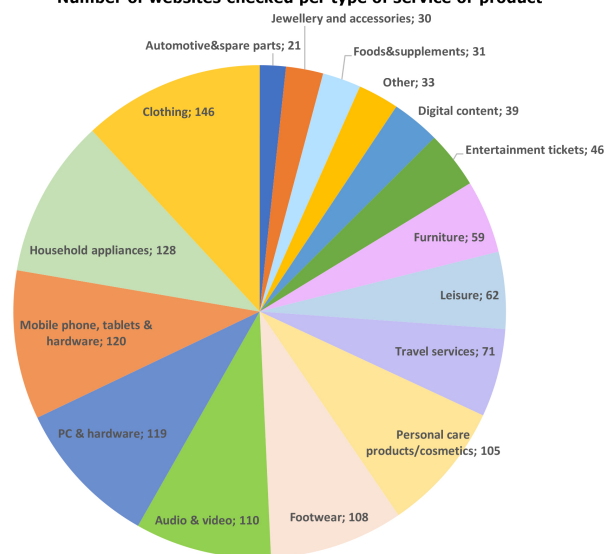
Other issues found in the sweep

Out of 560 websites checked



- ODR platform is not easily accessible
- Irregularities with information on right of withdrawal
- Contact details (phone, email) are unclear
- Address of the trader's business is unclear
- Identity of the trader is unclear

Number of websites checked per type of service or product



- Automotive&spare parts
- Jewellery and accessories
- Foods&supplements
- Other
- Digital content
- Entertainment tickets
- Furniture
- Leisure
- Travel services
- Personal care products/cosmetics
- Footwear
- Audio & video
- PC & hardware
- Mobile phone, tablets & hardware
- Household appliances
- Clothing

Background

Thanks to EU law, every consumer in the EU has the right to receive clear, correct and **comprehensible key information** from a trader about the good or service **before making an online purchase**. This information must include aspects such as the characteristics of the product, the price inclusive of taxes, delivery costs and the existence of a right of withdrawal or cancellation.

Every year the Commission coordinates the screening of websites, with the help of the Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) network. This network brings together the national consumer authorities of 30 countries (28 EU countries, Norway and Iceland), which are responsible for enforcing EU consumer protection laws in the EU.

This screening was carried out last November by consumer protection authorities in 24 EU Member States as well as Norway and Iceland.

An EU-wide screening of websites (“Sweep”) is a set of checks that are carried out simultaneously by consumer protection authorities in different countries. These checks show whether traders respect EU consumer protection laws. Where the checks reveal potential breaches of EU consumer law, the consumer protection authorities contact the responsible companies and ask them to make corrections. [Previous “Sweeps”](#) have focused on: airlines (2007), mobile content (2008), electronic goods (2009), online tickets (2010), consumer credit (2011), digital contents (2012), travel services (2013), guarantees on electronic goods (2014), consumer rights directive (2015), comparison tools in the travel sector (2016) and telecommunication- and other digital services (2017).

For More Information

[EU-wide screening of websites \(Sweeps\)](#)

[Consumer Protection Cooperation](#)

CALENDRIER du 25 février au 3 mars 2019

(Susceptible de modifications en cours de semaine)

Déplacements et visites

Lundi 25 février 2019

EU-League of Arab States summit

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** participates in the EU – League of Arab States Summit.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt: participates in the [EU-League of Arab States Summit](#).

Ms Federica **Mogherini** on official visit to Beirut, Lebanon (until 25/02).

Mr Andrus **Ansip** in Tallinn, Estonia: meets Mr Toomas Tamsar, Managing Director of Estonian Employers' Confederation; meets Mr Oliver Väärtnõu, CEO of Cybernetica AS; meets Mr Valdur Laid, Director General of Estonian Tax and Customs Board.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** in Kuopio, Finland: participates in a [Citizens' Dialogue](#) on the Future of Europe and in a discussion on Circular Economy; meets representatives of the city of Kuopio and the regional council of Pohjois-Savo; and visits several companies having received EU funding: Kuopion Woodi, Kuopio Center for Gene and Cell Therapy and Kuopion Saana.

Mr Günther H. **Oettinger** in Barcelona, Spain: delivers a speech on "Visions of digital leadership"; and attends a roundtable discussion with members of the GSM Association (association of mobile operators worldwide).

Mr Johannes **Hahn** in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt: participates in the [EU-League of Arab States Summit](#).

Mr Neven **Mimica** in Apia, Samoa Islands (until 27/02): on official mission.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** receives Mr Bertrand Piccard, founder of Solar Impulse.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** in Vienna, Austria: participates in the launch of the "[EU saves Lives](#)" roadshow in Vienna; and meets Mr Herbert Kickl, Federal Minister of the Interior of Austria.

Mr Phil **Hogan** receives Ms Marlene Mortler, Member of the German Bundestag.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** in Delhi, India: meets with Mr Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources; meets with Mr Suresh Prabhu, Minister for Commerce and Industry; meets with representatives of the European Business Group (EBG) on "Ease of Doing Business in India – main obstacles"; and meets with SMEs representatives from India and EU.

Ms Věra **Jourová** in Prague, Czech Republic: meets Mr Jiří Dušek, Senator of the Czech Parliament; delivers a speech at a Conference on Artificial Intelligence, organised by the Senate of the Czech Parliament; and meets Representatives of the Czech Confederation of Commerce and Retail.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Budapest, Hungary: participates in and speaks at the Conference on 'Juristocracy or Democracy at European Level' organised by the Faculty of Law of Elte University.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Brussels: meets with Csaba Borboly, President of the Harghita County Council.

Ms Corina **Crețu** in Făgăraș, Romania: meets the Presidents of Brașov and Sibiu County Councils and the Mayors from Făgăraș County (Romania).

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** in Ljubljana, Slovenia: meets Mr Zdravko Pocivalsek,

Minister for Economic Development and Technology of Slovenia; meets Mr Andrej Bertoncelj, Minister for Finance of Slovenia; meets Mr Vojmir Urlep, State Secretary in the Slovenian Prime Minister's office; meets Mr Andrej Matvoz, Director of the Slovenian Competition Protection Agency; visits the National Assembly for the meeting with the Presidents of the Parliamentary Committee on the European Union Affairs, Parliamentary Committee on Finance and Parliamentary Committee on the Economy.

Mr Julian **King** in Bucharest, Romania: delivers a keynote speech at the [Fourth Meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol](#) (JPSG).

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Barcelona, Madrid: participates in the 2019 World Mobile Congress in Barcelona; delivers [keynote address "AI Innovation, Ethics and Diversity"](#); visits the congress grounds and exhibits; meets with a delegation of Members of the European Parliament; and meets with Mrs Nadia Calvino, the Spanish Economy Minister.

Mardi 26 février 2019

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** delivers a keynote speech at the [3rd Annual FinTech Conference](#), in Brussels.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** receives Mr Thomas Lillelund, CEO of AIG Europe.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives several State Secretaries from Norway.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** meets representatives of several regional offices of Spanish regions, in Brussels.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** receives representatives of the Senate of Berlin.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** receives Mr Hennadii Zubko, Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** receives Mr Karl-Josef Lauman, Minister for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of North-Rhine-Westphalia (Germany).

M. Pierre **Moscovici** à Luxembourg, au Luxembourg: échange avec la Commission des Finances et du Budget du Parlement Luxembourgeois.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** in Geneva, Switzerland: participates in the third [High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen](#).

Mr Phil **Hogan** receives a group of visiting young farmers from the Dutch province of Zeeland.

Mr Phil **Hogan** delivers a speech at the official opening of the "European Smart Villages Exhibition", in Brussels.

Mr Phil **Hogan** receives Mr Michael D'Arcy, Minister of State at the Department of Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform with special responsibility for

Financial Services and Insurance, of Ireland.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** participates in the High Level Conference: "[Multimodal transport – towards the future](#)", in Brussels.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** in Delhi, India: speaks at the launch event of the project "Business Support to EU-India Policy Dialogues"; and meets with EU Member States' Heads of Mission.

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives Mr Mohamed Aujjar, Minister for Justice of Morocco.

Ms Věra **Jourová** delivers a speech at a [conference](#) organised by the Brussels-Binder (free database consisting of profiles of female experts based in Europe).

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** participates in a working lunch with secondary school teachers from Hungary.

Ms Corina **Crețu** receives Mr Stephan Holthoff-Pförtner, Minister for Federal, European and International Affairs of North-Rhine Westphalia (Germany); and receives Ms Edit Herczog, Managing Director of GEANT, National Research and Education Networks.

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** receives Ms Elke König, Chair of the Single Resolution Board.

Mr Julian **King** delivers the opening and a closing speech at the Conference 'EU Cities against Radicalisation', in Brussels

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Kyustendil, Bulgaria: visits the Dr. Petar Beron Language School and participates in a [Citizens' Dialogue](#) with students on the topic of young people in the digital world.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel**, in Sofia, Bulgaria: delivers a keynote speech at the [International Conference "Artificial Intelligence: implications for policymakers"](#).

Mercredi 27 février 2019

College meeting

Ms Federica **Mogherini** delivers a speech at the 7th World Congress Against Death Penalty, in Brussels.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** receives Mr Pekka Ala-Pietilä, chair of the High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence set up by the European Commission.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Juho Romakkaniemi, CEO of Finland Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Johannes **Hahn** receives Mr Hennadii Zubko, Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine, Minister of Regional Development, Building and Housing and Communal Services

of Ukraine.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** receives Mr Gordon Sondland, U.S. Ambassador to the European Union.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** rencontre les directeurs exécutifs du Fonds monétaire international (FMI), à Bruxelles.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** in Bengaluru, India (until 28/02): meets with representatives of the EBG Bengaluru Chapter; visits the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO); and visits the Phillips Innovation Centre.

Mr Julian **King** delivers a speech at the [Confederation of British Industry's](#) (CBI) Leadership Programme, in Brussels.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Plovdiv, Bulgaria: visits the Agricultural University and participates, together with MEP Vladimir Urutchev, in the [Citizens' Dialogue](#) on the topic of "Digitalisation of the Agricultural sector".

Jeudi 28 février 2019

Ms Federica **Mogherini** in London, United Kingdom: participates in the conference "[Jordan: Growth and Opportunity – the London Initiative 2019](#)".

Mr Andrus **Ansip** in Bucharest, Hungary: attends the 3rd Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting on the Digital Economy; meets Mr Stepan Kubiv, First Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine and Minister for Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** in Istanbul, Turkey: co-chairs the EU-Turkey High Level Economic Dialogue (HLED).

Mr Johannes **Hahn** in London, United Kingdom: participates in the conference "[Jordan: Growth and Opportunity – the London Initiative 2019](#)".

Mr Neven **Mimica** in Papete, French Polynesia (until 01/04): on official mission.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** à Athènes, Grèce : rencontre M. Alexis Tsipras, Premier Ministre de la Grèce; participe à un dialogue citoyen à l'Institut français de Grèce ; et rencontre des partenaires sociaux et des représentants du milieu académique.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** in Athens, Greece: visits an EU-funded project for refugees and asylum seekers.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** in Delphi, Greece (until 01/03): participates in the [Delphi Economic Forum IV](#).

Ms Violeta **Bulc** in Istanbul Turkey (until 01/03): attends the EU-Turkey High Level Economic Dialogue (HLED).

Ms Věra **Jourová** in Slovakia: in Krompachy: visits a Roma special school; in Chminianske Jakubovany: visits an elementary school; participates in a Roundtable discussion with stakeholders and Slovak authorities on Roma inclusion; and meets Mr Rastislav Trnka, President of the Košice Region.

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** in Berlin, Germany: meets Ms Angela Merkel, chancellor of Germany; meets Mr Peter Altmaier, Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany; and meets Mr Olaf Scholz, Minister for Finance.

Mr Julian **King** in Bucharest Romania: delivers a speech at the "[Addressing Hybrid Threats through Sustainable Resilience and Strategic Communication](#)" conference organised by the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Sofia, Bulgaria: meets with Mr Ivan Kristoff, Founder of [Highrise Emergency Aerial Response Team \(H.E.A.R.T.\)](#)

Vendredi 1 mars 2019

Mr Andrus **Ansip** in Bucharest, Hungary: attends an Informal meeting with telecommunications ministers.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** in Helsinki, Finland: addresses the Grand Committee of the Finnish Parliament; meets Mr Matti Alahuhta, Chairman of DevCo; and visits the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Paris, France: attends the Salon d'Agriculture.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** in Athens, Greece: holds bilateral meetings in the margins of the [Delphi Economic Forum IV](#).

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Poland (until 02/03): in Kraków: meets students and employees of the University of Agriculture; meets representatives of producer groups, cooperatives, agricultural advisors and researchers; in Jasionka: meets Mr Mateusz Morawiecki, Prime Minister of Poland; and participates in the 2nd [European Agricultural Forum](#).

Ms Věra **Jourová** in Slovakia: meets Mr Andrej Kiska, President of Slovakia; and visits the Roma Community Centres in Rankovce and Košice.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Budapest, Hungary: meets with Mr Hegedüs Zoltán, President of the Hungarian National Youth Council, and representatives from the Hungarian Students' Union.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Delphi, Greece: participates in the [Delphi Economic Forum IV](#); and delivers a keynote speech in a panel discussion about "European Elections, Fake news and Democracy".

Samedi 2 mars 2019

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Jasionka, Poland: participates in a [Citizens' Dialogue](#), with Mr Mateusz Morawiecki, Prime Minister of Poland.

Prévisions du mois de mars 2019 :

01/03 Informal meeting of telecommunications ministers

04/03 Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Energy)

05/03 EU-Georgia Association Council; Environment Council

07/03 Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Transport)

07-08/03 Justice and Home Affairs Council

11/03 Eurogroup

12/03 Economic and Financial Affairs Council

12-14/03 Supporting the future of Syria and the region – Brussels conference

15/03 Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

18/03 Agriculture and Fisheries Council; Foreign Affairs Council

19/03 General Affairs Council

21-22/03 European Council

26-27/03 Informal meeting of transport ministers

Permanence DG COMM le WE du 2 et 3 mars 2019:

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