



Dear Speaker, Dear Madam Speaker:

During the second half of 2023, Spain shall hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the fifth time. We in the Parliament are convinced that the momentum and the deepening of the European construction shall only be possible through a closer link between the peoples, represented in the parliamentary Chambers of each European Union Member State and in the European Parliament.

In this context, the Cortes Generales (Congress of Deputies and Senate) shall work taking as reference point the priorities of the Spanish Presidency, which shall be focused on the strategic autonomy of the European Union, the energy crisis and the environment, the economic recovery, European values, the Social Pillar of the European Union and the institutional challenges faced by the Union and by each of its Member States.

According to this, the parliamentary dimension of the Spanish Presidency shall host several meetings of the Committees of the Parliaments of the European Union, which shall be held both at the Congress of Deputies and at the Senate, as laid down in the attached calendar.

The said meetings shall include the five permanent international Conferences and three sectoral Conferences focused on the three main axes of the parliamentary dimension of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union:

- The defence of European values and democratic institutions in the face of the new challenges and threats to Democracy;
- Ecological transition and energy crisis, as priority issues which must addressed jointly;
- Progresses made in equality policies in the 21st century and existing challenges.

It is a pleasure for us to invite the members of the Chamber you preside over to participate in these meetings, whose specific announcement, together with the practical information, shall be forwarded in good time, although all relevant details can be found in the official web page (www.parleu2023.es) that the Cortes Generales have set up for the Spanish Presidency of the European Union.

Trusting that you will find these meetings of interest for the institution you preside over, please accept the assurances of our highest consideration and esteem.

Meritxell Batet Lamaña Speaker of the Congress of Deputies

Speaker of the Senate