

July 2025

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EKTG for eTechnology



Dear Colleague,

EKTG 35th Late Spring Newsletter - July 2025 -

Introduction

Special message from EKTG Main Board Chairman, Somen Bannerjee and the members of the EKTG Main Board:

Due to the most efficient management by the EKTG Webmaster, we have now achieved some of the changes many of you have been requesting.

These include:

- The simplification of the web name
- Some of the details below the main headings
- A revision of the EKTG mission statement

We have been checking our links with many nations in the world and the EKTG International Ambassadors have identified the following list:

Review nations represented in our international ambassadors (IA), ADD YOUR NEW SUGGESTIONS for nations where we have no representative(s) or where we need additional IA's. PLEASE can you suggest names and details of people you know for these or other nations:

Denmark, Switzerland, Holland, Germany, Ireland, Estonia, Japan, UK, USA, Austria, Finland, Singapore, Spain.

The 3 Levels of EKTG Main Board Tasks

All the tiers of the EKTG structure have been reviewed and with the hard work, especially by Doran Doeh, one of the EKTG trustees, we now have a list of tasks for each tier to ensure they are managed every year. Of course, the EKTG Main Board has overall responsibility for the total range of tasks but that requires each tier to accept responsibility for their section, whilst reporting upwards.

- Prepare and keep records of EKTG main board, EKTG trustees and EKTG international ambassadors meetings
- Maintain a record of the EKTG bank account
- Ensure the overseeing of the EKTG bank account by an accountant for the Charity Commission
- Oversee the management of the EKTG website
- Organise EKTG events and lectures
- Ensure that the webmaster and other employees are paid
- Organise quarterly EKTG newsletters with the webmaster and all sections of EKTG
- Encourage changes and additions of international ambassadors
- Ensure the organisation of regular meetings with international ambassadors and speakers
- Ensure payment of WIX contract
- Ensure organisation of secure box all contracts and all other listed items on records
- Ensure payment of Zoom and other accounts
- Fundraise for any relevant section of EKTG activity
- Employ assistance as required
- Make proposals for new EKTG activity

EKTG Trustees Tasks:

- Prepare and keep records of EKTG trustees meetings and meetings of international ambassadors
- Ensure a record of the EKTG bank account
- Ensure the Overseeing of the EKTG bank account by an accountant for the Charity Commission
- Help oversee the management of the EKTG website
- Help organise EKTG events and lectures
- Ensure that the webmaster and other employees are paid
- Assist in organising quarterly EKTG newsletters with the webmaster and all sections of EKTG
- Encourage changes and additions of international ambassadors
- Ensure the organisation of regular meetings with international ambassadors and speakers
- Ensure payment of WIX contract
- Ensure organisation of secure box all contracts and all other listed Items on records
- Ensure payment of Zoom and other accounts
- Fundraise for any relevant section of EKTG activity

EKTG International Ambassadors Tasks:

- Prepare and keep records of meetings of EKTG international ambassadors
 - Help oversee the management of the EKTG website
 - Help organise EKTG events and lectures
 - Assist in organising quarterly EKTG newsletters with the webmaster and all sections of EKTG
 - Encourage changes and additions of international ambassadors
 - Help raising the profile of EKTG in each country. This may include organising events in that country or their own country
 - Ensure the organisation of regular meetings with international ambassadors and speakers
 - Assist with fundraising for any relevant section of EKTG activity
-

Lord Hamilton's Revised EKTG Mission Statement

Lord Hamilton was a Member of the EKTG Main Board when this was originally written. Lord Hamilton was the Last Law Lord for the whole of Scotland and has extensive experience now with International Appeals Courts in other countries.

[Read the entire statement here](#)

Features

Public Libraries

My local library

The library is a small library in a residential area and is a hub of the local community. There is always a friendly welcome from the staff for individuals dropping in and friends meet up there to chat.

Every library is different. The users of mine tend to be avid readers and the librarians are continually changing the stock of about 20,000 books to suit us. For example, they are currently expanding the non-fiction collections at the expense of Crime and Thrillers, which are not as popular in our library as they are in most libraries. There are literacy-related group activities: Stories and Rhymes for the under-5s, Chatterbooks book discussions and games for teenagers and, for adults, a book discussion club and a creative writing club. Also, there are bridge and chess clubs.

Most other small local libraries will be broadly similar but larger libraries in Town Centres inevitably offer less of a sense of community.

Digital

Most people nowadays seem to have smartphones but there are obviously limits to what can conveniently be done with these. Libraries offer a step up in the form of Wi-Fi and tablet computers for use in the library, together with printing. There are also desktop computers, and these have a text-to-voice program for the blind and partially sighted.

Staff are competent computer users and trained in assisting adult learners. They are available to give brief help when we run into problems and can be booked for an hour by those wanting to make a start in using computers or expand their skills. Most library authorities provide a Home Visit Service for housebound residents. This is mainly concerned with helping its users to choose books, which are then delivered to them. But help with making the most of computers and the internet is also available.

Groups training in the use of computers used to be quite common in libraries. At my library we had a Silver Surfers for older people wanting digital skills, and the participants clearly enjoyed a combination of education and socialising. There seem to be few digital-related groups in libraries now. These and individual help are offered at other venues. If I understand rightly, the reason for the change is that the group activities are not provided by the libraries but by separate organisations with more generous funding than libraries. In the current and declining state of local authority finances, librarians feel obliged to charge those outside bodies for the use of the library and the other venues are a free or cheaper alternative.

Libraries offer a wide range of services online. There are reference materials from Oxford and other publishers, ebooks, magazines, comics and audio books, a newspaper archive, foreign language courses and much more. My

tutorials. With few exceptions, these online services are available to library card holders anywhere with an internet connection 24/7. The exceptions are services confined to use in libraries because of the cost. An example is Ancestry, used for family history research.

Libraries continue to expand their online offer. Lambeth's latest is an app which enables one to browse the library shelves remotely in virtual reality and, by photographing its ISBN number, to see whether a book one has come across is available in a Lambeth library.

The Value of Libraries

Academic research suggests that public libraries return total value equal to five times what they cost, with digital inclusion, health benefits and education all being closely connected. (<https://tinyurl.com/3mfjsw7>)

The largest item by far in local authority budgets is social care. Contrary to what most people seem to think, the cost of libraries is comparatively trivial. One of the worst things for anyone's health is to be lonely and it is a problem for many older people. They then deteriorate faster than they should, needing domiciliary and subsequently residential care much sooner than should be necessary. Welcoming libraries combat social isolation very effectively. This benefit of libraries is alone enough to save a local authority more than the cost of providing libraries.

I have never got to the bottom of why Councils want to close libraries. It is certainly not economics. Lambeth closed most of its libraries when local government's finances were healthy and by the late 1990s only ten were left. The Council then made repeated attempts to close five of these but were defeated each time by determined campaigning. Happily, Lambeth do now appear to value libraries and there is no threat of closures. Persistence paid.

Stephen Carlill, 2025

The EHDS. Some relevant issues.

The regulation of the European Health Data Space (EHDS) has been officially published and come into force 2025 03 26 (starting the transition), 2029 06 26 (for primary data exchange) and 2031 06 26 (for secondary data exchange). It emerges from the European Strategy for Data and will not be a central data bank. The deadline for the EC to adopt several key implementing acts, providing detailed rules for the regulation operationalization, is 2027 03 26.

For primary use, patients "will be able to restrict access to their data. In addition, there will be a possibility for Member States to provide for a full opt-out, enabling people who do not want to take part in the exchanges under the EHDS to revert to the previous style of exchanging medical records. This would mean for example having to manually provide earlier laboratory reports to the respective physician.

"The EHDS also establishes a strong legal framework for the re-use of health data for research, innovation, public health and policy making purposes in full compliance with strict EU data security and access criteria, fundamental rights and cybersecurity rules.

Patients will also have a right to opt-out specifically from secondary use, in an easy and reversible way. However, for certain important public interests and under strict safeguards, including transparency requirements, patient's data may still be used."

Despite the critical importance of cybersecurity (3), hospitals and healthcare

implement holistic, risk-based cybersecurity measures. Additionally, fragmented information-sharing practices within and across Member States exacerbate vulnerabilities, leaving healthcare systems ill-prepared to respond to emerging threats. Strengthening healthcare cybersecurity requires focus on implementation, rather than on setting up new legislation.

Manufacturers of electronic health record systems will need to certify compliance with interoperability and cybersecurity standards. To ensure that citizens' rights are safeguarded, all Member States have to appoint digital health authorities. These authorities will participate in the cross-border digital infrastructure (MyHealth@EU) that will support patients to share their data across borders.

“To make the EHDS a reality, further digitalization is needed at national level and at the same time, to set up interoperable EU-wide infrastructures to enable the cross-border use of health data in the EU. The level of preparation of the Member States for it varies a lot. In order to reinforce trust, four elements are crucial:

- a) “demonstrating how health data is used for better outcomes for all,
- b) “how data infrastructure ensures privacy and security”,
- c) “building on existing successes,
- d) “and rolling out patient-centric e-health services”.

EC have carried out 3 webinars (Primary Use, 2025 02 18; Secondary Use, 2025 02 27; and Implementation and Governance, 2025 03 06) and the EC jointly the Polish 1st semester 2025 Presidency have carried out another one (Unlocking Europe’s Health Data Future Together, 2025 03 18) to explain the regulation and the incoming pending process of legislation.

- (1) Ensuring the full potential of EHDS: Stakeholders’ recommendations on how to make the digital transformation a success across Europe, 2022.
- (2) DIGITALEUROPE, 22 December 2023.
- (3) ENISA threat landscape: health sector (January 2021- March 2023), July 2023.
- (4) Questions and Answers on the European Health Data Space Brussels, 24 April 2024

Rafael De Andrés, EKTG International Ambassador

Build bridges

This week is once again marked by political manoeuvring, infighting, and conflict. Ursula von der Laedke dodged a bullet, while Trump continues to back Ukraine but pushes to reshape Europe to his liking. Amidst all this, the Brazilian president offers a refreshing and constructive way forward.

[Read more](#)

The way forward

In a thought-provoking opinion piece published by German media outlet Der Spiegel, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva warns that 2025 — the year in which the United Nations marks its 80th anniversary — may not be remembered as a moment of multilateral achievement, but rather as the point at which the post-1945 international order began to unravel. He underscores the erosion of trust in global institutions, driven by illegal wars, widening economic inequality, inaction on climate change, and diplomatic failure. The unlawful use of force by permanent members of the Security Council, indifference to the crisis in Gaza, and escalating tensions in the Middle East all

trade Organisation is effectively paralysed, and the Doha Development Agenda has been cast aside. Lula emphasises that the 2008 financial crisis laid bare the shortcomings of neoliberal globalisation, yet the world has remained shackled to austerity, further entrenching inequality. With 700 million people still lacking access to food, electricity and clean water, he argues this is not merely a matter of charity, but a moral imperative to address the structural injustices rooted in centuries of exploitation. Climate change is also accelerating faster than global responses can match, with wealthier nations failing to honour their commitments to climate finance. Lula's solution, with which we strongly concur, is not to discard multilateralism, but to reform it: to create a new, fairer and more inclusive global system that reflects contemporary realities. This entails reforming international institutions to include emerging powers and voices from the Global South, strengthening diplomacy, and prioritising cooperation over confrontation. Only a renewed and equitable multilateral order can prevent further conflict.

[Read more](#)

She dodged a bullet there, kind of

Ursula von der Leyen comfortably survived a no-confidence vote in the European Parliament (360 to 175), but the challenge highlighted growing tensions within her political support base and forced her to make key political concessions to maintain their backing. The Times of Malta has the details. The motion, led by Romanian far-right MEP Gheorghe Piperea, centred on von der Leyen's alleged lack of transparency in the negotiations for the purchase of the Pfizer vaccine; specifically, her refusal to release text messages exchanged with the company's CEO. While the motion was initiated by the far right, it also gained support from critics across the political spectrum, including her traditional allies on the centre and left. These allies have expressed concerns about her increasingly centralised and opaque leadership style, and to secure continued support, von der Leyen has had to address the mounting frustration of mainstream lawmakers, particularly regarding her Commission's recent shift to the right. Critics have pointed to her collaboration with far-right parties on rolling back environmental legislation, a move that has alienated centre-left and green groups. While centrist and centre-left groups ultimately voted against the motion, many made it clear that their support is now conditional. Centrist Renew Europe leader Valérie Hayer stated that, although the censure motion was rejected, von der Leyen's leadership cannot continue unchecked. Although von der Leyen remains in office, this episode has weakened her position and exposed divisions within her coalition, forcing her to tread more carefully between competing demands across the political spectrum.

[Read more](#)

USA's favourite pastime

A newly revealed US State Department document dated May 27 argues that Washington is working toward "regime change" across Europe, not as a conspiracy theory but as a deliberate strategy of targeting far-right governments seen as more aligned with its agenda, writes Romanian outlet Digi24. The memo, authored by senior adviser Samuel Samson, frames European democratic backsliding as a growing threat to American security, economic interests, and free speech, warning that Europe has become "a hotbed of digital censorship, mass migration" and anti-religious restrictions. It urges the US to support and empower far-right leaders, such as Hungary's Viktor Orbán, Poland's PiS figures, Germany's AfD, Romania's George Simion, and the Netherlands' Geert Wilders, under the banner of forging a "civilisational alliance" of "Christian nations like Hungary". The document contrasts this vision

Washington in a strategic bid to counter China. It condemns liberal democracy on the continent for discarding spiritual and cultural roots, citing Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas and British common law while notably ignoring Enlightenment ideals foundational to Western constitutional systems. The memo also highlights that European nations resisting this pivot through trade tensions, digital regulation disputes, or NATO funding demands are being treated more harshly by Washington than authoritarian regimes in Russia or Turkey. It concludes with a warning: Europe must recognise and resist American interference in its democratic processes, shifting focus from “wokeism” to preventing the continent from becoming a US colony.

[Read more](#)

Middle (mis)management

Slovakia's Pravda reports that a newly publicised episode has sparked confusion within the Trump administration after US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth twice halted weapon shipments to Ukraine, apparently without informing President Trump, who appeared genuinely unaware when questioned, asking reporters, “I don’t know. Why don’t you tell me?” The situation, attributed to Hegseth’s unilateral review of military stockpiles and possible overreach, highlights a fragmented policymaking process in the Pentagon; CNN sources suggest the pause blindsided senior national security officials. White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt quickly stepped in to affirm that Trump continues to support Ukraine’s defence efforts, stating that the Pentagon conducted an inventory assessment to ensure foreign aid aligns with US interests, and that the president remains committed to supplying arms to help “stop the killing in this brutal war.” Despite this reassurance, critics warn Hegseth may be the first defence chief in a second Trump term to lose his post, with concerns raised about his qualifications, having risen only to the rank of major and with a background in conservative media. Strategist Phillips O’Brien from the University of St Andrews argues Europe must learn from this breakdown, urging continental leaders to bolster Ukraine’s resilience without relying solely on American support, and to build independent defence structures. The episode further complicates ongoing discussions over sending additional Patriot missile systems; US officials are reportedly considering redeploying batteries from Germany and Greece. Meanwhile, Trump’s recent sharp criticism of Vladimir Putin, whom he accused of being “a pile of nonsense,” underlines growing frustration amid power struggles within his own administration over foreign policy direction.

[Read more](#)

We! Foundation for Family Carers

Brigitte Bührlen, who is an EKTG International Ambassador, has set up the “We! Foundation for Family Carers”. Among other things, she encourages and supports developers of digital services in home care to create their products together with the users, the family carers. She believes that only services that are really useful to users in their everyday lives will be used.

[Read more](#)

AI Detects Early Signs of Osteoporosis from X-Ray Images

Investigators have developed an artificial intelligence-assisted diagnostic

study published in the Journal of Orthopaedic Research.

[Read more](#)

AI could Help Pathologists Match Cancer Patients to the Right Treatments

A new study by researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and collaborators, suggests that artificial intelligence (AI) could significantly improve how doctors determine the best treatment for cancer patients - by enhancing how tumor samples are analyzed in the lab.

[Read more](#)

AI Tool Detects Surgical Site Infections from Patient-Submitted Photos

A team of Mayo Clinic researchers has developed an artificial intelligence (AI) system that can detect surgical site infections (SSIs) with high accuracy from patient-submitted postoperative wound photos, potentially transforming how postoperative care is delivered.

[Read more](#)

AI Sharpens Pathologists' Interpretation of Tissue Samples

Pathologists' examinations of tissue samples from skin cancer tumours improved when they were assisted by an AI tool. The assessments became more consistent and patients' prognoses were described more accurately. This is shown by a study led by Karolinska Institutet, conducted in collaboration with researchers from Yale University.

[Read more](#)

Equipment Examples and News

RAZ Züm Chair

The RAZ Züm Chair is a folding mobile shower commode chair designed for individuals with mobility challenges. It's part of the RAZ Design line of high-quality hygiene chairs used in both home and clinical settings.

[Find out more](#)



DHWS 2025

Missed the Digital Health & Wellness Summit 2025 at 4YFN Barcelona? Watch the full sessions now on our YouTube channel!

[Watch Now](#)

HLTH Europe 2025

HLTH Europe is just around the corner, check out our Partner Programme agenda. HE25_ECHALLIANCE250 for €250 off!

[Register now](#)

Strategic Partnership

We are delighted to announce our new strategic partnership with LEX GlobalMinds to accelerate global health innovation in Asia.

[Read more](#)

[Read here](#)

Transforming access to affordable primary healthcare in West Africa (Fastcare Clinics).

[Read here](#)

Integrating AI in your health solution, compliantly (Naq).

[Read here](#)

Introducing an innovative BHRT platform with a unique hormonal dosage calculator.

[Read here](#)

How innovation procurement can help us procure AI for Healthcare?

[Read here](#)

Artificial intelligence and the environment against neurodegenerative diseases.

[Read here](#)

BeWell pilot training courses: Upskilling healthcare for a digital and green future.

[Read here](#)

Investigating burnout in healthcare: join the KEEPCARING Survey to drive change.

[Read here](#)

Health Ecosystem of Bretagne is ECHAlliance ecosystem of the month.

[Read here](#)

Join the Digital Den Pre-Acceleration Program (Montenegro Ecosystem).

[Read here](#)

[Read here](#)

AI in healthcare programme nears completion: Driving Innovation Ireland.

[Read here](#)

New digitalisation section on our website

Explore the new digitalisation section on the EU CAP Network's website. Find key topics such as AI, robotics, drones, precision farming and digital innovation hubs.

[Read more](#)

Discover the power of networking!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new webpages dedicated to networking for the CAP! Networking plays a crucial role in fostering collaboration, knowledge-sharing and innovation, and these new resources help you unlock the full potential of these connections. Explore the pages and discover the power of networking!

[Read more](#)

Young farmers, do not miss the opportunity to have your say!

Until 31 March, if you are a young or aspiring new farmer, you can participate in a survey on challenges in accessing the agriculture sector. Your insights will be analysed within a study on the 'Assessment of generational renewal strategies across EU Member States' to better align policies with the realities of young farmers.

[Read more](#)

A look back at the EU CAP Network seminar 'Robotics & AI in farming and forestry'

The EU CAP Network recently organised a seminar on 'Robotics & AI in Farming and Forestry' in Utrecht, The Netherlands. It highlighted practical technologies to boost productivity and sustainability, shared the latest advancements, and fostered collaboration among stakeholders. You can access the flash report and other relevant documents online.

[Read more](#)

Setting the scene for the future of EU agriculture

A series of recent strategic announcements and actions from the European Commission set the scene for the future of agriculture. Read how the Vision for

competitiveness and attractiveness.

[Read more](#)

Have your say on the next EU long-term budget

The Commission has launched a Europe-wide outreach campaign aimed at all stakeholders, institutions and citizens to encourage people to have their say on the next Multiannual Financial Framework, ahead of its official proposal in July 2025. You are encouraged to contribute through seven public consultations and a Citizens' Panel.

[Read more](#)

Highlighting good practices in Poland and Lithuania

Good practice competitions organised at the national level can turn the collection and dissemination of CAP-funded projects - a key task of the National Networks (NNs) - into festive events for a wider audience. In this article (the first of a short series on this topic) the Polish and the Lithuanian CAP Networks share their experience.

[Read more](#)

EU Organic Awards 2025

Apply before 27 April 2025 for the EU Organic Awards 2025 celebrating inspiring projects along the organic value chain.

[Read more](#)

Report of the 7th Meeting of the Subgroup on Innovation and Knowledge Exchange (SolKE)

The seventh meeting of the Subgroup on Innovation and Knowledge Exchange (SolKE) was held online on Tuesday, 12 November 2024. SolKE fosters peer learning, networking, and knowledge exchange on training, advice, and innovation in agriculture and forestry. You can now read the report of the meeting online.

[Read more](#)

A new Thematic Report for the assessment of sectoral support

Understanding the impact of sectoral support is vital for assessing how well the CAP achieves its broader objectives. Experts gathered in a Thematic Working Group to explore effective approaches to assess the support to specific sectors, including the fruits and vegetables production, wine sector, and beekeeping.

[Read more](#)

Through LEADER Transnational Cooperation (TNC), rural areas in different countries can jointly develop and share new solutions to common issues. The EU CAP Network has developed a series of tools to support TNC, including this practical guide, which provides advice and tips for planning and step-by-step implementation of TNC projects.

[Read more](#)

Roots in nature: local projects bringing hope and change

Discover how three environmental projects shortlisted for the 2019 Rural Inspiration Awards (the very first edition of the current ARIA) have continued to evolve, gradually transforming rural landscapes and achieving a lasting impact on local communities and ecosystems.

[Read more](#)

3rd meeting of the EU CAP Network's Assembly – report

The third meeting of this key governance body of the EU CAP Network offered Assembly members important updates on policy and national and EU-level activities. The participants engaged in an interactive session to discuss high-priority themes under each CAP General Objective, crucial for national and EU-level CAP networking activities.

[Read more](#)

Economic Vulnerability of Farming - 1st Thematic Group report

The first meeting of this new Thematic Group (TG) discussed ways to overcome the challenges associated with farming's vulnerability and the effectiveness of current Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) interventions. The report captures key insights from the discussion and outlines the TG's next steps.

[Read more](#)

Can AI Help Detect Cognitive Impairment?

Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) can be an early indicator of Alzheimer's disease or dementia, so identifying those with cognitive issues early could lead to interventions and better outcomes. But diagnosing MCI can be a long and difficult process, especially in rural areas where access to licensed neuropsychologists is limited.

To increase accessibility to cognitive assessments, a team of researchers at the University of Missouri created a portable system to efficiently measure multiple aspects of motor function.

[Read more](#)

Patients' Affinity for AI Messages Drops if they Know the Technology was

In a Duke Health-led survey, patients who were shown messages written either by artificial intelligence (AI) or human clinicians indicated a preference for responses drafted by AI over a human. That preference was diminished, though not erased, when told AI was involved.

The study, publishing March 11 in JAMA Network Open, showed high overall satisfaction with communications written both by AI and humans, despite their preference for AI.

[Read more](#)

How to solve the SEND crisis?

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision has been spiralling into crisis for the past decade, and despite numerous reports and government consultations on the issues, there have not been many effective solutions. In Focus editor, Alison Bloomer reports on how to solve the SEND crisis in this SEND issue.

[Read more](#)

MFF | REPowerEU | EU-US relations

This week, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) will gather in Strasbourg for plenary debates and votes on several issues, including the EU's next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). On Tuesday, EU Commissioners will gather in Strasbourg to present the REPowerEU Roadmap. On Wednesday and Thursday, the Polish Presidency will host an Informal Meeting of Foreign Ministers. The focus will be on the EU's relations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, EU-US relations and Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

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European Parliament

On Monday, MEPs will be briefed on preparations for the EU-UK summit. On Tuesday, they will debate a unified EU response to unjustified US trade measures and global trade opportunities for the EU. On Wednesday, MEPs will debate a just, sustainable and comprehensive peace in Ukraine and vote on the report by the Committee on Budgets on the Union's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). On Friday, MEPs will hold a debate on the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

[Read more](#)

European Commission

On Monday, Commissioner Christophe Hansen will meet with Tadahiro Matsubara, Ambassador of Japan, in Luxembourg. On Tuesday, the College of Commissioners will gather in Strasbourg to unveil the REPowerEU Roadmap. On Wednesday, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will participate in the EP plenary debate on EU support for a just, sustainable and comprehensive peace in Ukraine in Strasbourg.

Council of the European Union

On Wednesday and Thursday, the Polish Presidency will gather EU foreign ministers for an informal meeting. They will discuss, among other things, the EU's relations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, EU-US relations and Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

[Read more](#)

Trade | MFF | EU-US relations

This week, multiple European Parliament's committee meetings will take place in Brussels to debate and vote on several issues. On Wednesday, EU Commissioners will gather in Brussels to hold an orientation debate on the MFF and to unveil the third Omnibus on agriculture. On Friday, the Foreign Affairs Council will gather ministers to discuss EU-US trade relations.

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European Parliament

On Monday, the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) will have an exchange of views with the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine and Minister of Justice of Ukraine, Olha Stefanishyna. On Tuesday, the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and Committee on International Trade (INTA) will discuss the implementation of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement. On Tuesday, the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) will have an exchange of views on EU Funding to the Palestinian Authority with Henrike Trautmann, Director for Middle East in DG MENA, European Commission.

[Read more](#)

European Commission

On Monday, Commissioner Andrius Kubilius will participate in the EU-Ukraine Defence Forum, in Brussels. On Tuesday, Commissioner Jessika Roswall will give an address at the 2025 Global Water Summit, in Paris. On Friday, Commissioner Hadja Lahbib will give introductory remarks to the event organised by the LGBTIQ+ Intergroup of the European Parliament, titled: "Freedom of assembly at stake – How to protect civic space for LGBTIQ+ People in the EU", in Brussels.

[Read more](#)

Council of the European Union

On Monday and Tuesday, the Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council will gather ministers to discuss the impact of disinformation, manipulation and threats in cyberspace on the lives of young people. On Tuesday, ministers in the Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be invited to reach a general approach on the directive on VAT rules for distance sales of imported goods

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EU-UK relations | Ukraine | Single Market

This week, multiple European Parliament's committee meetings will take place in Brussels along with a two-day plenary session, which will be held on Wednesday and Thursday. On Monday, the first EU-UK summit since the UK's withdrawal from the EU will take place in London. On Tuesday, the Foreign Affairs Council will gather ministers to discuss EU military support for Ukraine, after an informal exchange of views with the Minister of Defence of Ukraine Rustem Umerov, via videoconference, and in the presence of the NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte. On Wednesday, EU Commissioners will gather in Brussels to unveil the Single Market Strategy and the Fourth Omnibus on small mid-caps. On Friday, the Foreign Affairs Council will gather ministers to discuss EU-US trade relations.

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European Parliament

On Monday, the Special committee on the European Democracy Shield (EUDS) will receive a presentation by Sauli Niinistö, former President of the Republic of Finland, Special Adviser to the President of the European Commission, of the report: Safer Together – Strengthening Europe's Civilian and Military Preparedness and Readiness. On Tuesday, the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and Committee on International Trade (INTA) will hold a debriefing of the EU-UK Summit of 19 May 2025 in association with the Delegation to the EU-UK Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (D-UK). On Thursday, MEPS will discuss the EU's response to the Israeli government's plan to seize the Gaza Strip, ensuring effective humanitarian support and the liberation of hostages.

[Read more](#)

European Commission

On Monday, Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič will participate in the EU-UK Summit, in London. On Tuesday, President Ursula von der Leyen will receive Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in Brussels. On Friday, Commissioner Andrius Kubilius will receive Dorothee Bär, Federal Minister for Research, Technology and Space of Germany, in Brussels.

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Council of the European Union

On Thursday, ministers in the Competitiveness Council will hold a policy debate on how to make tailor made industrial policies for traditionally strong industries. On Friday, they will discuss the mid-term evaluation of 'Horizon Europe: lessons learned and looking forward to the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP 10)' which was adopted on 30 April 2025. Ministers are also expected to approve Council conclusions on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in science that calls for a comprehensive strategy to boost the uptake of AI in

[Read more](#)

Dear Reader,

We hope that you have found the EKTG Late Spring Newsletter interesting to you. We are welcoming new items and would be glad to have a contribution from you for the next newsletter. Please send any comments or suggestions you have to us well before that date and we can make sure they are included.

If you have suggestions for any New International Ambassador, especially from any nation where we do not have an International Ambassador at present, that would be really excellent.

Send any of these points to the EKTG Webmaster (ektgwebmaster@gmail.com) and Maggie Ellis, EKTG Main Board Member (westsqas@mac.com).

About EKTG

To find out more about us, please download a document that outlines [the background and history of EKTG](#).

If you have any questions about EKTG activities please send these to: Margaret Ellis, EKTG Main Board Member, westsqas@mac.com

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