



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters at the Capitol in Washington. Schumer warned his Democratic colleagues that June will "test our resolve" as senators return Monday to consider infrastructure, voting rights and other priorities. (AP)

## Brexit

### Bid to keep trade flowing after Brexit

## EU to act firmly if UK fails to honor its deal

LONDON, June 8, (AP) — The European Union's chief Brexit negotiator says the bloc is ready to act "firmly and resolutely" if the U.K. fails to honor its commitments under the divorce deal that was supposed to keep trade flowing after Britain left the EU.

Maros Sefcovic's comments, on Tuesday in the Daily Telegraph newspaper, came a day before he holds talks with U.K. Brexit Minister David Frost on implementing the agreement.

The relationship between the two sides has grown tense amid concerns over the so-called Northern Ireland protocol, part of the deal that is designed to protect the peace process in Northern Ireland by keeping an open border with the Republic of Ireland, an EU member state.

The protocol has sparked anger in Northern Ireland because it creates a customs border between the region and the rest of the U.K., creating new

red tape for businesses. Pro-British unionists also fear it will weaken the ties between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K.

The EU says the provisions — agreed upon by the U.K. and the EU as part of Britain's exit terms from the 27-nation bloc — are needed to protect the EU single market.

The U.K. angered Brussels earlier this year when it unilaterally extended a grace period delaying the inspection of many supermarket items shipped to Northern Ireland from England, Scotland and Wales.

The Telegraph reported that the U.K. may extend this action to include chilled meats such as sausages and ground beef, which won't be allowed into Northern Ireland from July 1 unless the two sides strike a deal.

Sefcovic cautioned against such action, saying negotiators should strive to achieve "mutually agreed compliance paths."

WASHINGTON, June 8, (AP) — Hopes for a big infrastructure investment are teetering. An ambitious elections and voting bill is all but dead. Legislation on police brutality, gun control and immigration has stalled out.

Nearly six months of Democratic control in Washington, the party's progressive wing is growing increasingly restless as campaign promises go undone — blocked not only by Republican obstruction, but also by Democrats' own inability to unite fully around priorities.

The time ahead is pivotal for President Joe Biden and his allies in Congress to seize what some view as a transformative moment to rebuild the economy and reshape the country.

"There's a lot of anxiety," said Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., who had been a co-chair of Bernie Sanders' presidential bid. "It's a question really for President Biden: What kind of president does he want to be?"

### Sharpened

The summer work period is traditionally among the busiest for Congress, but especially sharpened this year as Democrats strain to deliver on Biden's agenda. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer warned colleagues that June will "test our resolve." Infrastructure talks are dragging, though Biden is expected to talk again Tuesday with Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, the lead Republican negotiator. But the limits of bipartisanship in the 50-50 Senate are increasingly clear.

The party suffered a debilitating blow over the weekend when Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., announced his opposition to the voting bill, titled S.1 because it is a top party priority. Many Democrats view it as crucial to protecting democracy and a direct response to restrictive new voting laws being passed in Republican-led states edged on by Donald Trump, the former president.

"Do I feel discouraged? Yes," said Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., chairwoman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, warning of a failure to deliver on the promises. "We will lose voters for a generation."

Schumer, in setting the agenda, is challenging senators to prepare to make tough choices. But he is also facing a test of his own ability to lead the

### 'We need to move the ball'

## 'A lot of anxiety' for Dems as agenda stalls

Trump gone, but leaves long shadow

## Biden to get warm welcome from wary allies

LONDON, June 8, (AP) — When U.S. President Joe Biden flies to Europe this week, he will find his hosts welcoming but wary. His predecessor Donald Trump may be gone, but he leaves a long shadow.

Biden's first foreign trip as president starts Wednesday and includes a gathering of the Group of Seven wealthy nations by the seaside in southwest England, a NATO summit, a meeting with European Union chiefs, and then a tete-a-tete in Geneva with his Russian counterpart and adversary, Vladimir Putin.

For most of America's allies, Biden is a relief. Trump often sowed chaos, accusing the NATO military alliance of leeching off the United States, insulting the European Union and storming out of a G-7 summit in Canada in 2018. In contrast, Biden has stressed his support for international diplomacy and emphasized "America's renewed commitment to our allies and partners" in a recent Washington Post article.

"I think we can expect to see lots of rhetoric and lots of good-will messages in this first visit of Biden to Europe," said Renata Dwan, deputy director of international affairs think tank Chatham House.

But she added that five months into Biden's term, "it's time to be more

than 'not Donald Trump.'"

Biden has already mended some fences with America's allies. The U.S. has rejoined the Paris climate accord that Trump renounced, ended a minor trade war with the EU over aviation rivalry and is backing attempts to revive a deal meant to limit Iran's nuclear ambitions that Trump abandoned.

"America is back. And we are happy you are back," European Council President Charles Michel told Biden in March, when the president joined a video summit of EU leaders. Yet it's not all smooth sailing, especially for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is hosting the first G-7 summit in two years this weekend at the Carbis Bay resort in Cornwall.

Johnson wants to use the U.K.'s G-7 presidency to inject new purpose into the wealthy nations' club — undermined by Trump's unilateralism and side-swiped by the coronavirus pandemic — and to burnish the international image of a post-Brexit "Global Britain."

He's happy with Biden's commitment to fighting climate change that should help give momentum to November's COP26 global climate summit in Scotland. And Biden's promise to start sharing coronavirus vaccines with poorer countries — something aid

agencies say should have happened sooner — chimes with Johnson's call for G-7 leaders to ensure the whole world is vaccinated by the end of 2022.

Closer to home, the British leader hopes Biden will agree to a trans-Atlantic travel corridor to help business and tourism recover from the pandemic. And he is seeking a U.K.-U.S. trade deal, touted by the British government as a plum post-Brexit economic prize.

But he has hurdles to overcome. A trade deal is not a Biden priority, and Johnson will have to work hard to charm a president who once called the prime minister a "physical and emotional clone" of Trump.

Biden has criticized Brexit, and is particularly concerned about its impact on Northern Ireland. Because of its land border with EU member Ireland, Northern Ireland has been given a special economic status that is causing friction between the U.K. and the bloc and heightening political tensions within Northern Ireland.

Biden, keenly aware of the key role the U.S. played in bringing about the Good Friday peace accord that ended decades of violence in Northern Ireland, has warned there will be no trade deal with Britain if Brexit undermines the peace deal.

big-tent party through a volatile period of shifting priorities and tactics in the aftermath of the Trump era and the Capitol insurrection.

While Democratic senators have been generating goodwill by considering bipartisan bills in the evenly split Senate, they face mounting pressure from voters who put them in office to fight harder for legislation that Republicans are determined to block with the filibuster. Democrats hold the edge in the Senate because Vice President Kamala Harris can break a voting tie.

Fed up by the delays, some senators are ready to change the rules to eliminate the filibuster, which they blame for the inaction. The long-running Senate filibuster rules require 60 votes to

advance most legislation, meaning as many as 10 Republicans would need to cross party lines to help Democrats achieve their priorities. Some senators propose reducing the voting threshold to 51.

But Manchin, in announcing his opposition to the voting rights bill Sunday as the "wrong piece of legislation to bring our country together," also restated his refusal to end the filibuster — for now, denying his party a crucial vote needed to make the rules change that could help advance its agenda.

### Scheduled

On Tuesday, leading civil rights figures including Rev. Al Sharpton and Marc Morial are scheduled to meet with Manchin in Washington.

Biden urged them to visit the senator to discuss the voting bill and the legislative agenda. He encouraged them to keep the conversation constructive and not put pressure the senator — at least not yet, according to a person familiar with the discussion but not authorized to speak about private conversations.

Failing to deliver on campaign promises that are popular with voters could exacerbate party divisions and expose Democrats to criticism from their own ranks as well as from Republicans eager to show that Biden's party cannot govern.

"We need to move the ball," said Yvette Simpson, CEO of Democracy for America, a liberal advocacy organization.

An Audi such as the world has never seen before: The Audi e-tron GT, now available in Kuwait

## "Audi Alghanim" revealed its new fleet of electric cars e-tron GT Audi



Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company "Audi Alghanim" unveiled its new fleet of electric vehicles, the e-tron GT Audi, through which it will write a new chapter in the success story of Audi, as it is a superlative Gran Turismo, and the RS model is characterized by superior dynamic handling. The car combines bold design language, great wattage, high efficiency and versatile everyday use, making it the leading car that shapes the future of the brand. The e-tron GT truly applies the principle of "progress through technology" and embodies the old Audi standards: it is sporty, electric and avant-garde.

The e-tron GT is specifically targeted at tech-savvy car enthusiasts who seek high performance with great importance to sustainability, design and cutting-edge technology. Most of these people are usually middle-aged and well educated, so they have a high monthly income and can buy multiple cars. They are known for

their passion for powerful acceleration and their love of detail, as well as for the precision and high quality of Audi cars.

### Electric, sporty, and progressive: The Audi e-tron GT

With the e-tron GT (combined electric power consumption in kWh/100 km (62.1 mi)\*: 19.6–18.8 (NEDC), combined CO2 emissions in g/km (g/mi)\*: 0), Audi is demonstrating how fascinating electric mobility will be. The four-door coupé combines emotive design with a powerful drive and dynamic handling. This is the start of a new era, the gran turismo of the future. The Audi e-tron GT is now available to be ordered at Audi Kuwait, represented by Fouad Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company.

It is an Audi such as the world has never seen before: With the e-tron GT\*\*, the brand is demonstrating its plans for shaping an emotive and fascinating future of

mobility. Presales of two models of the gran turismo with fully electric drive will start simultaneously in February 2021: the e-tron GT quattro\*\* and the RS e-tron GT (combined electric power consumption in kWh/100 km (62.1 mi)\*: 20.2–19.3 (NEDC), combined CO2 emissions in g/km (g/mi)\*: 0). Both models are powerful, fast, and dynamic, and both have zero local emissions. The sum of these qualities adds up to a strong character that reinterprets the idea of the gran turismo. The exterior of the Audi e-tron GT\*\* is a dynamic work of art. Each surface and each line is harmonious, from the headlights, which are available with Audi laser light upon request, to the large diffuser at the rear. In combination, the details create a sculpture that looks like it was shaped by the wind. The body line is extremely aerodynamic, and the drag coefficient is just 0.24. The interior also corresponds to that of a classic gran turismo: The driver and front passenger seats are installed in a sporty low position and separated by a wide center console, and the rear seats provide sufficient space even for adults.

The progressive elegance of the interior design emphasizes the car's character.

A gran turismo is a sporty touring car with excellent dynamic handling, a confident glider. The Audi e-tron GT\*\* shares this character. Depending on the model, its electric motors output 350 kW (476 PS) or 440 kW (598 PS), thereby allowing dynamic spurts. The range of up to 487 kilometers (302.6 mi) (in accordance with the WLTP), which is made possible by the battery and its net capacity of 85 kWh, is equally important. Its 800-volt technology enables fast DC charging with an output of up to 270 kW. The suspension is also based in the balance of dynamism and comfort, thanks to technologies such as Audi drive select, all-wheel steering, controlled damping, three-chamber air suspension, electric all-wheel drive, and the rear-axle differential lock. The wheel sizes range up to 21 inches, and the brake disks — which are available in carbon-fiber ceramic as an option — have a diameter of up to 420 millimeters (16.5 in).

