Circular economy: MEPs to discuss new proposals with the Commission
Commission Vice-presidents Frans Timmermans and Jyrki Katainen will present MEPs on Wednesday with long-awaited proposals for moving towards a circular economy intended to reduce waste, increase recycling, and promote a more efficient use of resources.

Hungary: MEPs to press Commission for answers on fundamental rights
Has the Commission carried out the in-depth monitoring of democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights in Hungary requested by Parliament in its resolution of 10 June 2015? If so, what are its conclusions? And has it activated the rule of law framework set up to prevent a systemic threat, as called for by Parliament? MEPs will put these questions to the Commission on Wednesday.

Migration: call for new tool to process complaints against Frontex border guards
The EU’s Frontex border agency should set up a mechanism to process complaints about alleged breaches of the fundamental rights of migrants and asylum seekers, says a draft resolution to be discussed and voted on Wednesday. MEPs want the Commission to include provisions for this mechanism in a review of the Frontex regulation, due in December.

Vote on ending EU citizens’ bank secrecy in Liechtenstein
Parliament’s take on an agreement with Liechtenstein which will make it harder for EU citizens to hide capital from their national tax authorities will be set out in a resolution to be voted on Wednesday. Under the agreement, the EU and Liechtenstein will automatically exchange information on the financial accounts of each other’s residents, starting in 2018.

Women on boards: MEPs to push ministers to agree on a position at last
MEPs will debate a draft directive seeking to ensure that by 2020 at least 40% of non-executive directors on listed company boards are women on Wednesday evening. The EP approved the draft back in November 2013 but two years on it is still blocked in the Council. MEPs will ask the Council what is preventing the member states from reaching a common position.

Virunga: protecting Africa's most biodiverse national park
MEPs will ask the Commission on Wednesday how it plans to help protect Virunga National Park, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, founded in 1925, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979 and home to the critically endangered mountain gorillas, from the dangers posed by oil exploration, armed conflict and corruption. The House will vote on a resolution at its second December session.

MEPs want to promote environmentally friendly urban transport
MEPs are likely to call, in a debate on Wednesday with Transport Commissioner Violeta Bulc, for measures to boost car-sharing and park-and-ride schemes, refuelling/recharging facilities for electric and alternative-fuel vehicles, and support for cyclists and say information technology can help cut down the number of journeys needed and modernise transport management.


Further information
Draft agenda
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EP Audiovisual website
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The Commission put forward a package in July 2014, before withdrawing it the following December. Since then, the Commission has given an undertaking to table ‘a more ambitious proposal’.

In its July 2015 resolution, Parliament urged the Commission to put forward a package by the end of 2015. It called for the promised draft legislation on waste to set strict limits to the incineration of recyclable and biodegradable waste by 2020, to phase in, by 2030, a ban on landfilling, and to raise the targets for recycling and preparation for re-use to at least 70% of municipal solid waste and 80% of packaging waste by 2030. MEPs also asked for the eco-design directive to be revamped and for new draft measures to uncouple economic growth from resource use.

Debate: Wednesday, 2 December

Procedure: Commission statement followed by debate

#Circulareconomy

Further information

Press release: Circular economy: MEPs call for “systemic change” to address resource scarcity (09.07.2015)
Audiovisual material
EP Research study
Hungary: MEPs to press Commission for answers on fundamental rights

Has the Commission carried out the in-depth monitoring of democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights in Hungary requested by Parliament in its resolution of 10 June 2015? If so, what are its conclusions? And has it activated the rule of law framework set up to prevent a systemic threat, as called for by Parliament? MEPs will put these questions to the Commission on Wednesday.

The Commission was asked to "report back on this matter to Parliament and the Council before September 2015".

Debate: Wednesday, 2 December

Procedure: Question to the Commission for oral answer

Procedure Code: 140/2015

#Hungary #fundamentalrights

Further information

Oral Question to the Commission on the situation in Hungary: follow-up to the European Parliament resolution of 10 June 2015
European Parliament resolution of 10 June 2015 on the situation in Hungary:
Press release after the vote on the resolution on the situation in Hungary (10 June 2015):
EC press release on the setting up of the framework on the rule of law (11.03.2014):
Audiovisual material
Migration: call for new tool to process complaints against Frontex border guards

The EU’s Frontex border agency should set up a mechanism to process complaints about alleged breaches of the fundamental rights of migrants and asylum seekers, says a draft resolution to be discussed and voted on Wednesday. MEPs want the Commission to include provisions for this mechanism in a review of the Frontex regulation, due in December.

This mechanism should become a first-instance body for complaints about fundamental rights infringements arising from Frontex’s work, MEPs say in the draft text, which recommends that persons who consider they have been harmed by border guards wearing the Frontex emblem should have the right to lodge a complaint.

The text, drafted by Ska Keller (Greens/EFA, DE) and Roberta Metsola (EPP, MT), backs a recommendation made by the European Ombudsman in a special report following the Ombudsman’s 2012 own-initiative inquiry into Frontex’s fundamental rights obligations.

Debate: Wednesday, 2 December
Vote: Wednesday, 2 December
Procedure: non-legislative resolution
Procedure Code: 2014/2215(INI)

@Frontex #complaints #fundamentalrights #migrants #asylumseekers

Further information
Draft resolution
Press release on committee vote (24.11.2015)
Profile of rapporteur Ska Keller (Greens/EFA, DE) for Civil Liberties Committee
Profile of rapporteur Roberta Metsola (EPP, MT) for Petitions Committee
Procedure file
Special report of the European Ombudsman
Audiovisual material
Frontex homepage
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The EU and Liechtenstein agreed in October to clamp down on tax fraud and tax evasion. Information is to be exchanged not only on income, such as interest and dividends, but also account balances and proceeds of the sale of financial assets.

Vote: Wednesday, 2 December

Procedure: Consultation

Procedure Code: 2015/0175(NLE)

#TaxTransparency #Liechtenstein

Further information
Profile of rapporteur Sander loones (ECR, BE)
Procedure file
Women on boards: MEPs to push ministers to agree on a position at last

MEPs will debate a draft directive seeking to ensure that by 2020 at least 40% of non-executive directors on listed company boards are women on Wednesday evening. The EP approved the draft back in November 2013 but two years on it is still blocked in the Council. MEPs will ask the Council what is preventing the member states from reaching a common position.

Parliament’s November 2013 resolution called on member states to ensure that listed companies take effective measures to guarantee equal access for both women and men to non-executive positions on boards to ensure that by 2020, at least 40% of non-executive directors’ positions are held by women. Qualifications and merit remain the key criteria in a fair and transparent selection procedure.

Debate: Wednesday, 2 December

Procedure: Council statement (without resolution)

Procedure Code: 2012/0299(COD)

#Genderbalance #womenonboards

Further information

European Parliament legislative resolution (20.11.2013)
Press release after the vote in the Plenary (20.11.2013)
Procedure file
EP Research Gender balance on Company Boards
EC Memo
EP research study
Virunga: protecting Africa's most biodiverse national park

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MEPs will also debate the outcome of the European Year for Development (EYD2015) with Commissioner Mimica and the Council, on Wednesday The European Year for Development sought to raise awareness of the difference global cooperation is making in some of the world's poorest countries and why this is important for Europeans as well. The slogan for the Year was 'Our world, our dignity, our future'. The closing event of EYD2015 will take place on 9 December in Luxembourg.

Note to editors

Virunga National Park in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), on the border with Uganda, was established in 1925 and has been strongly supported over the years by the EU, its largest donor. Virunga is renowned for being the most biologically diverse protected area in Africa and home to critically endangered mountain gorillas, elephants and lions in a landscape that includes volcanoes, glaciers, lakes and plains.

By supporting infrastructure reconstruction and increasing security in the park, as well as putting in place a training programme for rangers and park managers, the EU has helped the resumption of tourism in the eastern part of the DRC. According to the Commission data tourism in the Virunga Park has produced millions of euros in revenue, and has already created job opportunities and boosted economic activity.

Debate: Wednesday, 2 December 2015

Vote: December II plenary session (14-17 December)

Procedure: Oral question to Commission (with resolution) - Virunga Park; Council and Commission statements with debate - European Year for Development
Procedure Code: 2015/2728(RSP)

#Virunga #DRC #EYD2015

**Further information**

Draft motion for a resolution on the protection of the Virunga Park
Oral question to the Commission on the protection of the Virunga Park
European Commission Memo on Virunga Park
EYD2015 website
Briefing note on the EYD2015 – the EU focus on development aid
UNESCO site
Draft resolution
MEPs want to promote environmentally friendly urban transport

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A resolution to be put the vote on Wednesday also says EU countries must tackle traffic congestion and air pollution in cities and set ambitious emissions limits.

Debate: Wednesday, 2 December

Vote: Wednesday, 2 December

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

#transport #urbantransport #carsharing #electricfuels #alternativefuels #cyclists

Further information
Draft resolution on sustainable urban mobility
Press release on committee vote: Transport MEPs call for more efforts in ensuring sustainable urban transport
Profile of rapporteur Karima Delli (Greens/EFA, FR)
Procedure file
EP Research study