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Parliament to elect its new President, Vice-Presidents and Quaestors

MEPs will cast their votes to choose the new President of the European Parliament for the next two and a half years. After three-minute presentations by each candidate on Tuesday at 9.00, the secret ballots will be chaired by outgoing President Martin Schulz.

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Malta's EU Council Presidency priorities up for debate with PM Joseph Muscat

MEPs will debate the priorities of the incoming Maltese Presidency of the EU Council of Ministers with Prime Minister Joseph Muscat on Wednesday morning.

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MEPs set to return EU Commission blacklist of states at risk of money laundering

MEPs may decide that the EU Commission must revise its blacklist of countries deemed to be at risk of money laundering and terrorist financing. A draft resolution to be voted on Thursday argues that this list is too limited, and should be expanded, e.g. to include territories that facilitate tax crimes.

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Debate with Messrs Katainen and Tusk on EU summit outcome and challenges in 2017

MEPs will assess political challenges in 2017 with Commission Vice-President Jyrki Katainen and Council President Donald Tusk in a Wednesday afternoon debate on the outcome of the European Council meeting of 15 December 2016.

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<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2017-01-16>

Further information

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Parliament to elect its new President, Vice-Presidents and Quaestors

MEPs will cast their votes to choose the new President of the European Parliament for the next two and a half years. After three-minute presentations by each candidate on Tuesday at 9.00, the secret ballots will be chaired by outgoing President Martin Schulz.

Seven official candidates from different political groups are so far declared for Parliament's top position. Fresh candidatures could emerge before any of the first three ballots. If no candidate wins an absolute majority of valid votes cast during the three first ballots, the President will be elected by a simple majority in a fourth and last ballot between the two candidates who scored best in the third ballot.

At the time of writing, the declared candidates were:

- Eleonora Forenza, European United Left-Nordic Green Left Group (IT),
- Jean Lambert, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (UK),
- Gianni Pittella, Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats Group (IT),
- Laurențiu Rebega, Europe of Nations and Freedom Group (RO),
- Helga Stevens, European Conservatives and Reformists Group (BE),
- Antonio Tajani, European People's Party Group (IT), and
- Guy Verhofstadt, Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (BE)

14 Vice-presidents, 5 Quaestors, 22 Committees

On Wednesday, MEPs will elect Parliament's 14 Vice-Presidents and five Quaestors in secret votes, chaired by the newly-elected President. They will also approve the numerical composition of Parliament's 22 standing committees. On Thursday at noon, MEPs will vote on the appointments of members to committees.

Read more on the election process and duties in the [background note](#).

Procedure: Elections

Votes: Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 January

#EPresident

Further information

[Background note on Parliament's mid-term elections](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

Malta's EU Council Presidency priorities up for debate with PM Joseph Muscat

MEPs will debate the priorities of the incoming Maltese Presidency of the EU Council of Ministers with Prime Minister Joseph Muscat on Wednesday morning.

The first-ever [Maltese Council Presidency](#) will focus its six-month mandate on the following priorities:

- migration
- the single market,
- security
- social inclusion
- Europe's neighbourhood, and
- maritime issues.

Procedure: Council and Commission statements with debates

[2016/2791\(RSP\)](#)

Debates: Wednesday, 18 January

Press conference: Parliament's new president will hold a press conference with Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat on Wednesday at around 12.00 (tbc)

[@EU2017MT#EU2017MT@JosephMuscat_JM](#)

Further information

[Website of the Maltese Council Presidency](#)
[Audiovisual material for professionals](#)

MEPs set to return EU Commission blacklist of states at risk of money laundering

MEPs may decide that the EU Commission must revise its blacklist of countries deemed to be at risk of money laundering and terrorist financing. A draft resolution to be voted on Thursday argues that this list is too limited, and should be expanded, e.g. to include territories that facilitate tax crimes.

The Commission lists eleven countries, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Syria, which it judges to be deficient in countering money laundering and terrorist financing. People and legal entities from blacklisted countries face tougher than usual checks when doing business in the EU.

If MEPs vote to return the list to the Commission, an existing inventory of third countries thought to fall short in this area will remain in force while the Commission considers any revisions.

Procedure: Objection to Delegated Acts

[2016/3007\(DEA\)](#)

Vote: Thursday, 19 January

#moneylaundering #terrorism

Further information

[Draft resolution on Commission Delegated Regulation amending Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2016/1675 supplementing Directive \(EU\) 2015/849 by identifying high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(08.12.2016\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Judith Sargentini \(Greens/EFA, NL\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

Debate with Messrs Katainen and Tusk on EU summit outcome and challenges in 2017

MEPs will assess political challenges in 2017 with Commission Vice-President Jyrki Katainen and Council President Donald Tusk in a Wednesday afternoon debate on the outcome of the European Council meeting of 15 December 2016.

MEPs are likely to focus on the EU's external and internal security, investment in jobs and migration, but may also comment on procedural arrangements for the Brexit negotiations, EU-Russia relations, Ukraine, and Cyprus reunification talks.

Procedure: European Council and Commission statements

Debate: Wednesday, 18 January

#euco #migrationEU, #security, #Russia, #Brexit @JunckerEU @eucopresident

Further information

[Conclusions of the European Council 15 December](#)

[Brexit negotiations: Statement after the informal meeting of the 27 heads of state or government](#)

Welfare state: MEPs to call for “EU core” of social rights for all

The forthcoming “European Pillar of Social Rights” (EPSR), announced in 2015, should not just be a statement of good intentions. It must include concrete proposals to reduce inequality and poverty in the EU, says a draft resolution to be debated and voted on Thursday. The EU Commission should also prepare a law guaranteeing every worker a core set of rights, such as equal treatment, health and safety protection, and parental leave, it adds.

The text, drafted by [Maria João Rodrigues](#) (S&D, PT), notes that the EPSR, as a review and update of the so called “European Social Model”, should enable people to live a dignified life by safeguarding the principles of equal treatment, non-discrimination and equal opportunities. The new instrument should also ensure that international labour standards are properly applied in all member states, which is not always the case, it adds.

The draft resolution also calls for decent pay for internships, at least covering basic expenses and clarification of whether a person working for a digital platform is really self-employed or is in an employment relationship which entails a set of rights and obligations. It also suggests introducing a European social security card with a record of individual contributions to social security systems wherever a person has been employed.

Procedure: Non-legislative resolution

[2016/2095\(INI\)](#)

Debate: Thursday, 19 January

Vote: Thursday, 19 January

#socialrights

Further information

[Draft resolution on a European Pillar of Social Rights](#)
[Profile of rapporteur: Maria João Rodrigues \(S&D, PT\)](#)
[Procedure file](#)
[Audiovisual material for media](#)

Refugees: MEPs to call for cold snap emergency aid

Parliament will call on the Commission and the Council to provide emergency aid to thousands of migrants and refugees in dire straits due to freezing weather and snow in several parts of Europe. The situation is particularly grave in the Greek islands, where there are still around 15,000 asylum-seekers. The debate takes place on Thursday morning.

Procedure: Council and Commission statements followed by debate

Debate: Thursday, 19 January

#refugees

Sharing intelligence on terror attacks - debate with Council and Commission

Recent terror attacks in the EU have highlighted deficiencies in the sharing of law enforcement and intelligence information among EU member states. On Wednesday evening MEPs will quiz the Council and Commission on their plans to ensure that vital information is exchanged quickly and update legislation to this end.

Parliament has repeatedly stressed the need to ensure smooth information exchanges between EU countries' law enforcement authorities to strengthen the collective fight against terrorism, a field which until the Lisbon treaty was an exclusive competence of the member states.

Procedure: Council and Commission statements followed by debate

Debate: Wednesday, 18 January

#counterterrorism

Further information

[Clampdown on terrorism - new counter-terrorism law backed by civil liberties MEPs \(press release 5.12.2016\)](#):

Human rights and democracy resolutions

Parliament will hold urgent debates on the following human rights and democracy topics on Thursday 19 January, at around 10.30, with the votes following at 12.00.

- Indonesia: the cases of Hosea Yeimo and Ismael Alua, and the Governor of Jakarta
- Central African Republic
- Burundi

Procedure: non-legislative resolutions

Debates/votes: Thursday, 19 January

#humanrights #democracy #Indonesia #CentralAfricanRepublic #Burundi

Other topics on the agenda

Other topics for debate and vote include the following:

- State of play on the Financial Transaction Tax - *Council statement*, debate *Wednesday*
- Multimodal Logistics in Transeuropean Transport Corridors, Inés Ayala Sender (S&D, ES) *debate Wednesday, vote Thursday*
- Imports of textile products from certain third countries not covered by specific Union import rules, COD, Hannu Takkula (ALDE, FI), *vote Thursday*

Further information

[Report on logistics in the EU and multimodal transport in the new TEN-T corridors](#)

[Report on common rules for imports of textile products from certain third countries not covered by bilateral agreements, protocols or other arrangements, or by other specific Union import rules](#)