
Coming up in 2019: European elections, EU budget, Brexit

Elections, future of Europe, Brexit... the New Year starts with a busy agenda for the European Parliament.

European elections

The next [European elections](#) - and the first after Brexit - will take place on 23-26 May. People in the EU will elect [705 MEPs](#) to form the new European Parliament, which will then elect a new president of the European Commission. Look out for debates between the lead candidates for the post.

Future of Europe

MEPs will continue to discuss [the future of Europe](#) with EU leaders.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, Finnish Prime Minister Juha Sipilä and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte will be the first to address the plenary session next year.

Brexit

The UK is set to leave the EU in March 2019. Any agreement on [Brexit](#) has to be approved by the European Parliament.

The EU's long-term budget

Parliament has agreed its priorities for the [EU's next long-term budget](#) for 2021-2027 and is urging the Council to begin negotiations. MEPs want to reach an agreement before the European elections, in order to avoid delays to important projects and job losses that a later deal on the budget could mean.

Pesticides authorisation

Parliament's [special committee](#) looking into the EU's authorisation procedure for pesticides will wind up its work with a [report](#) in January calling for the highest standards to ensure a high level of protection.

Free trade agreements

In February, Parliament will be looking beyond the EU as it considers a free trade deal with Singapore. The southeast Asian nation is a key [EU trade partner](#) and hosts more than 10,000 European companies. The [EU-Singapore free trade agreement](#) will remove almost all tariffs and simplify trade.

Fighting propaganda

MEPs will discuss how the EU should counteract propaganda against it by non-EU countries. The EU wants to focus on measures such as increasing media literacy, raising awareness and promoting independent and investigative journalism

Whistle-blowers

MEPs will continue work on proposals to strengthen [the protection of whistle-blowers](#) across the EU in the wake of recent scandals such as Dieselgate, Luxleaks, the Panama Papers and Cambridge Analytica.

Find out more

[Video: the lead candidate process for the European elections](#)

[Press release: MEPs call on EU to increase its resilience to Russian propaganda \(17 January 2018\)](#)



Video

https://www.multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/coming-up-in-2019_N01-PUB-181203-CMUP1H_ev



Video

<https://www.europartv.europa.eu/en/programme/society/how-do-meps-represent-me>