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<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2024-03-11>

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[Draft agenda](#)
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[Press conferences and other events](#)
[EP Multimedia Centre](#)
[Election Press Kit](#)

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Artificial Intelligence Act: Parliament to adopt landmark law

MEPs will vote on new rules to ensure artificial intelligence is trustworthy, safe and respects EU fundamental rights, while supporting innovation.

After a debate on Tuesday, MEPs are expected to approve on Wednesday an [agreement reached with EU countries](#) establishing obligations for AI based on its potential risk and level of impact.

AI applications that pose a clear risk to fundamental rights - such as biometric categorisation systems based on sensitive characteristics, social scoring, or AI used to manipulate human behaviour - will be banned in Europe. AI systems considered high-risk, used for example in critical infrastructure, education, healthcare, law enforcement, border management or elections, will have to comply with strict requirements.

Fast-expanding general-purpose AI (GPAI) models will also have to comply with transparency obligations and EU copyright rules, while the most powerful models will face additional safety requirements. Considering the increasing difficulty with recognising artificial or manipulated audio-visual media ("deepfakes") online, such content will have to be clearly labelled.

Procedure Code: [2021/0106\(COD\)](#)

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure

Debate: Tuesday 12 March

Vote: Wednesday 13 March

Press conference: Wednesday 13 March, 11.00

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research Service: compilation of studies on Artificial Intelligence](#)

MEPs set to adopt plans to decarbonise the EU buildings sector

Plans to reduce the energy consumption and greenhouse-gas emissions from the buildings sector will be debated on Monday and voted on by plenary on Tuesday.

The revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, [agreed with the Council in December](#), aims to substantially reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy consumption in the EU building sector by 2030, and have it achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The new rules also mean more of the worst-performing buildings will undergo renovation, and information-sharing on energy performance will be improved.

New buildings must be zero-emission as of 2030, and new buildings occupied or owned by public authorities must be zero-emission as of 2028. For residential buildings, member states have to put in place measures to ensure a reduction in the average level of primary energy used of at least 16% by 2030 and at least 20-22% by 2035.

Member states also have to adopt measures to decarbonise heating systems and phase out fossil fuels in heating and cooling with fossil fuel boilers being completely phased out by 2040.

Procedure Code: 2021/0426(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Debate: Monday 11 March

Vote: Tuesday 12 March

Press conference: Tuesday 12 March, 15:00

Further information

[Report on the revision of the energy performance of buildings directive](#)

[Press release on trilogue agreement \(07.12.2023\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Ciarán Cuffe](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP research briefing](#)

[Legislative train](#)

Media Freedom Act: more protection for EU journalists and press freedom

MEPs are set to give their final green light on Wednesday to new legislation to protect EU journalists and media from political or economic interference.

Plenary will discuss the draft [European Media Freedom Act](#), agreed provisionally with the EU ministers in December 2023, on Tuesday afternoon. The new law will oblige member states to protect media independence from governmental, political, economic or private interference. It will ban all forms of interventions in editorial decisions and prevent the external pressuring of journalists to force them to disclose their sources or by targeting them with spyware.

To increase media ownership transparency, all outlets regardless of their size will have to publish information about their owners and report on their receipt of state funding. The Media Freedom Act will also establish a new mechanism to prevent very big online platforms, such as Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) or Instagram, from arbitrarily restricting or deleting independent media content.

Procedure reference: 2022/0277(COD)

Procedure type: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Debate: Tuesday 12 March

Vote: Wednesday 13 March

Press conference: Wednesday 13 March at 10.30, with rapporteur Sabine Verheyen tbc

Further information

[Draft European Media Freedom Act](#)

[Press release after the trilogue deal \(15.12.2023\)](#)

[Video of the press conference with the lead EU negotiators: rapporteur Sabine Verheyen \(EPP, DE\), rapporteur Ramona Strugariu \(Renew, RO\), Spanish Minister on Culture Ernest Urtasun and VP of Commission Vera Jourova](#)

[EP Think Tank briefing: European media freedom act \(February 2024\)](#)

[Rapporteur Sabine Verheyen \(EPP,DE\)](#)

[LIBE opinion rapporteur Ramona Strugariu](#)

[Free photos, videos and audios on media freedom in the EU](#)

Parliament to mark International Women's Day (8 March)

Ivana Andrés and Alba Redondo from the Spanish women's national football team will address MEPs in a ceremony on Tuesday.

To mark International Women's Day, Ivana Andrés, captain of Real Madrid and of the Spanish team during the 2023 World Cup, and Alba Redondo, captain for club Levante, will address MEPs on Tuesday at midday, followed by a round of political group speakers. Spain won the World Cup in 2023 for the first time, but [the trophy presentation was marred by harassment](#).

On the same day at around 10.30, MEPs will discuss whether Parliament should give its consent to Council for [member states to ratify the International Labour Organization's Convention on Violence and Harassment](#). The convention is the first international treaty to recognise the right to work free from violence and harassment.

Formal address: Tuesday, 12 March at 12:00

Procedure ILO Convention: consent

Procedure code: 2020/0011(NLE)

Debate ILO Convention: Tuesday, 12 March

Vote: Tuesday 12 March

Further information

[European Parliament Research Service - At A glance - Gender Equality in Sport \(March 2024\)](#)

[EP briefing Women in Sport \(February 2024\)](#)

[Procedure file ILO Convention](#)

[Free photos, video and audio material on international women's day](#)

MEPs to look ahead to March European Council

In a debate with Commission President von der Leyen and the Belgian Presidency on Tuesday morning, MEPs will outline their expectations for the 21 -22 March EU summit.

During their meeting in Brussels, heads of state or government will focus on the latest developments in Russia's war against Ukraine and the EU's continued support for Ukraine. They will also discuss the war in the Gaza Strip and the situation in the Middle East as well as security and defence issues.

On 29 February, Parliament adopted a resolution calling on the EU to [support Ukraine with whatever is needed for Kyiv to win its war against Russia](#), stressing that there should be "no self-imposed restriction on military assistance to Ukraine".

With regard to the war in the Gaza Strip, Parliament passed a [resolution on 18 January](#), demanding that all hostages are immediately and unconditionally released and the terrorist organisation Hamas is dismantled. In their report on the EU's common foreign and security policy, [adopted on 28 February](#), MEPs called for a permanent ceasefire so that aid can be provided to civilians in the Gaza Strip.

Debate: Tuesday 12 March

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, without resolution

Further information

[Resolution: The need for unwavering EU support for Ukraine, after two years of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine \(29.02.2024\)](#)

[Resolution: Humanitarian situation in Gaza, the need to reach a ceasefire and the risks of regional escalation \(18.01.2024\)](#)

EP to adopt position on textiles and food waste reduction

On Wednesday, MEPs will adopt their proposals to prevent and reduce waste from food and textiles across the EU.

In a [report prepared by the Environment Committee](#), MEPs want more ambitious 2030 targets for food waste reduction. For textile products, clothing and footwear, the new rules would require the creation of extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes, through which economic operators would cover the costs of separate collection, sorting and recycling.

The first reading vote on the [proposed revision](#) of the Waste Framework Directive is scheduled for Wednesday, leaving the file to be dealt with by the next European Parliament after the elections in June 2024.

Background

Every year, [60 million tonnes](#) of food waste (131 kg per person) and [12.6 million tonnes](#) of textile waste are generated in the EU. Clothing and footwear alone account for 5.2 million tonnes of waste, equivalent to 12 kg of waste per person every year. It is estimated that [less than 1% of all textiles worldwide are recycled](#) into new products.

Procedure code: 2023/0234(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Vote: Wednesday 13 March

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Rapporteur Anna Zalewska \(ECR, PL\)](#)

[Legislative train](#)

[EP Research: Waste framework directive: A more sustainable use of natural resources \(December 2023\)](#)

[European Environment Agency - textiles](#)

[Free photos, videos and audio material](#)

Euro 7: Parliament to adopt emissions limits for cars and other road vehicles

New EU rules to reduce emissions from passenger cars, vans, buses, trucks and trailers will be put to a final vote by MEPs on Wednesday.

The regulation governing the type-approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles (Euro 7), [provisionally agreed with the Council](#) in December 2023, aims to support the EU's transition towards clean mobility and improve air quality.

For passenger cars and vans, the current Euro 6 exhaust emissions limits and test conditions will be maintained, while stricter limits would be applied for buses and trucks. The Euro 7 standards also tackle non-exhaust emissions (microplastics from tyres and particles from brakes) and include requirements concerning battery durability.

Background

On 10 November 2022, the Commission [proposed](#) more stringent air pollutant emissions standards for combustion-engine vehicles, regardless of the fuel used. The current emission limits apply to cars and vans ([Euro 6](#)), and to buses, trucks and other heavy-duty vehicles ([Euro VI](#)).

Procedure code: 2022/0365(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Debate: Wednesday 13 March

Vote: Wednesday 13 March

Further information

[Provisional agreement](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Rapporteur Alexandr Vondra \(ECR, CZ\)](#)

[Legislative train](#)

[Free photos, videos and audio material](#)

Pollution: MEPs to vote on deal with Council to reduce industrial emissions

The new rules aim to reduce air, water and soil pollution from industrial installations and large livestock farms.

The [provisional political agreement](#) between Parliament and Council on the revised Industrial Emission Directive (IED) and the new regulation on the Industrial Emissions Portal, on which MEPs will hold a final vote on Tuesday, will make it mandatory to set the strictest achievable emissions levels for the sectors covered therein.

Livestock farms

The revised law extends IED measures to cover more pig and poultry farms. In line with Parliament's position, cattle farming was not included as originally proposed by the Commission. As requested by Parliament, negotiators agreed a reciprocity clause to ensure producers outside the EU meet requirements similar to EU rules when exporting to the EU.

Background

The [industrial emission directive](#) sets out the rules on preventing and controlling pollution from large agro-industrial installations' emissions into air, water and soil as well as generation of waste, use of raw materials, energy efficiency, noise and prevention of accidents.

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Procedure code: [2022/0104\(COD\)](#)

Vote: Tuesday 12 March

Further information

[EP press release: "Pollution: deal with Council to reduce industrial emissions" \(29.11.2023\)](#)

[EP Research: Revision of the industrial emissions directive \(05.07.2023\)](#)

[Procedure file \(Industrial Emissions Directive\)](#)

[Procedure file \(Industrial Emissions Portal\)](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: Free photos, videos and audio material](#)

Green claims: protecting consumers from being misled

Following a debate on Monday, MEPs will adopt on Tuesday their position on new rules to verify and pre-approve green marketing claims to protect consumers from misleading ads.

The so-called green claims directive complements the already-adopted EU ban on greenwashing. It defines what kind of information companies have to provide to justify their environmental marketing claims. It also creates the framework, processes and deadlines for checking this evidence and for approving claims before they can be used.

The directive foresees penalties for rule-breaking companies. It also sets out specific rules for using comparative claims and clarifies the conditions for mentioning carbon offsetting and removal projects in marketing claims.

Background

The Commission presented the proposal for the green claims directive in March 2023 to complement and flesh out the [directive on empowering consumers](#) that was adopted by Parliament in January 2024.

Procedure Code: 2023/0085(COD)

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Debate: Monday 11 March

Vote: Tuesday 12 March

Press conference with rapporteurs Andrus Ansip (Renew, EE) and Cyrus Engerer (S&D, MT): Tuesday 12 March at 14.30 CET.

Further information

[Draft report](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(14.02.2024\)](#)

[Rapporteur Andrus Ansip \(Renew, EE\)](#)

[Rapporteur Cyrus Engerer \(S&D, MT\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research briefing on the directive \(05.10.2023\)](#)

[Free photos, video and audio material](#)

Parliament set to back stricter rules for toy safety

The draft rules aim to decrease the number of unsafe toys sold on the EU's single market and better protect children from toy-related risks.

On Wednesday, MEPs are set to vote on their position on a proposal to [revamp EU legislation](#) on toy safety. The update of the current directive aims to respond to the increase in online shopping and the use of digital technologies, among other challenges. The proposed regulation extends EU bans on harmful chemicals in toys to include endocrine disruptors and makes it easier for consumers to access safety information, for example via a QR code.

To ensure coherence with existing EU rules, MEPs want digital toys equipped with artificial intelligence or internet connected toys to comply with the safety requirements set out in new EU legislation on [artificial intelligence](#) and [cybersecurity](#).

Procedure Code: [2023/0290 \(COD\)](#)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Vote: Wednesday 13 March

Press conference: Wednesday 13 March 14.30 CET

Further information

[Draft text](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur](#)

[EP Research Service: Toy safety regulation](#)

[EP Press release: MEPs approve revamped EU product safety rules \(30.03.2023\)](#)

MEPs seek to renew trade support for Ukraine and Moldova

MEPs are set to vote on their position on extending the temporary trade liberalisation measures for Ukraine and Moldova amidst Russia's war of aggression.

In January, the European Commission [proposed](#) that import duties and quotas on Ukrainian and Moldovan exports should be suspended for another year. The primary objective of the proposal on Ukraine is to support Ukraine in response to Russia deliberately targeting Ukrainian food production and Black Sea exporting facilities, with the objective of disrupting the Ukrainian economy. The proposal also puts forward safeguard measures to protect EU farmers. Moreover, the proposal gives the Commission the power to take swift action and to impose necessary measures should the EU market be disrupted, or the markets of one or more EU countries due to Ukrainian imports.

MEPs in the International Trade Committee on Thursday [supported](#) extending these trade liberalisation measures for another year for the two countries. Next week, Parliament is set to vote on its first reading position.

Procedure files: 2024/0028(COD) (Ukraine), 2024/0029(COD) (Moldova)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Further information

[Press release after the committee vote \(07.03.2024\)](#)

[Procedure file for Ukraine](#)

[Procedure file for Moldova](#)

[EU trade relations with Ukraine \(Commission site\)](#)

[Infographic: Ukrainian grain exports explained \(Council site\)](#)

Fighting foreign interference

During Question Time on Tuesday, MEPs will quiz Commission Vice-President Jourová about EU governments' preparedness to combat foreign interference, including from Russia.

The debate comes after Russia intercepted German military communications about supporting Ukraine against the Kremlin's invasion. The German Minister of Defence said the interception and the publication of the discussion was part of an ongoing information war by Putin, calling it a hybrid disinformation attack.

In February, Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) condemning continuous Russian efforts to undermine European democracy through various forms of interference and disinformation.

Procedure: Question Time to the Commission

Debate: Tuesday 12 March

Further information

[Press Release: Continuous Russian efforts to undermine European democracy, 08.02.2024](#)

[Press Release: Foreign Interference: MEPs call for urgent protection of 2024 European elections, 01.06.2024](#)

Ukrainian children deported to Russia: plenary debate

On Wednesday, MEPs will discuss with the Council and Commission how to address the urgent concerns surrounding Ukrainian children being forcibly deported to Russia.

Since Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine began in February 2022, international organisations have documented a wide range of serious human rights violations affecting children. [Reports of children forcibly deported or displaced by Russian authorities](#), combined in many cases with them being subjected to re-education programmes and forced adoption, have raised concern. According to the [Children of War initiative](#) of the Ukrainian National Information Bureau (NIB), more than 19 500 children have been deported or forcibly displaced, and only 388 have been returned.

In March 2023, the [International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants](#) against President Putin, and Maria Lvova-Belova, the Russian Commissioner for Children's Rights. Both have been charged with the unlawful deportation of children and the unlawful transfer of children from occupied areas of Ukraine to Russia.

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, without resolution

Debate: Wednesday 13 March

Further information

[EP resolution on human rights violations in the context of forced deportation of Ukrainian civilians to and forced adoption of Ukrainian children in Russia \(15.09.2022\)](#)

Stronger rules on the evasion of EU sanctions and confiscating criminal assets

MEPs are set to adopt two new laws to improve the enforcement of EU sanctions, and to strengthen the rules on finding and confiscating criminal assets.

Following a debate on Monday, Parliament will take a final vote on Tuesday on a directive, [already agreed with the Council](#), introducing a common definition for EU sanctions violations and minimum penalties.

EU sanctions ([most recently against Russia](#)), are enforced by member states, but inconsistent penalties have left room for forum-shopping, where companies wanting to circumvent sanctions search out the weaker regimes for their activities.

The new directive will harmonise penalties so they are dissuasive, make it a criminal offence to provide financial services or legal advisory services that violate sanctions, and criminalise trade in arms or dual-use items, including in cases of serious negligence.

Stronger regime for tracing, freezing and confiscating criminal assets

On Wednesday, MEPs are set to adopt a new directive, [agreed](#) with member states, on the recovery and confiscation of criminal assets and ensuring EU countries have the means to quickly and effectively detect and freeze criminal assets. Asset recovery offices (AROs) in each member state will get swift access to necessary information including registries on real estate, citizenship and beneficial ownership. As a new provision, unexplained wealth uncovered during a criminal investigation can be confiscated in certain cases.

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreements

Debate: Monday 11 March (sanctions violations)

Vote: Tuesday 12 March (sanctions violations) and Wednesday 13 March (asset confiscation)

Press conference: Tuesday 12 March at 17.00 with rapporteur Sophie In 't Veld (Renew, Netherlands)

Further information

[Procedure file \(sanctions violations\)](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur Sophie In 't Veld \(Renew, the Netherlands\)](#)

[EP Research Service: EU sanctions on Russia](#)

[EP Research Service: Proposal for a directive on the violation of Union restrictive measures](#)

[Procedure file \(asset freezing and confiscation\)](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur Loránt Vincze \(EPP, Romania\)](#)

[European Parliament Research Service: Revision of the EU rules on asset recovery and confiscation](#)

Improved protection for EU consumers against damage by defective products

Following a debate on Monday, MEPs will take a final vote on Tuesday on revamped rules ensuring access to compensation for damage caused by defective products for consumers.

MEPs are expected to adopt a provisional agreement [reached with the Council](#) in December 2023, simplifying the burden of proof for EU consumers seeking compensation for physical or psychological damage caused by defective products.

Consumers will receive the support of national consumer protection authorities with their compensation claims. According to the new directive, there must be an EU-based business, such as manufacturer or importer, that can be held liable for damage caused by defective products bought online from outside the EU. The new rules also extend the liability period to 25 years for damage in exceptional cases when symptoms are slow to emerge.

Background

The new directive on liability for defective products updates existing rules, which are almost 40 years old, reflecting the emergence of the new technologies such as AI, an increase in online shopping including of products from outside the EU, and the EU's ambition to build a truly circular economy.

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Debate: Monday 11 March

Vote: Tuesday 12 March

Further information

[Press release: Better protection for consumers against damages by defective products \(9.10.2023\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[European Commission proposal \(28.9.2022\)](#)

[EP Think Tank: Updating liability rules for defective products \(January 2023\)](#)

Cyber Resilience Act: Boosting the security of digital products

MEPs will debate on Monday and vote on Tuesday on new cyber resilience rules to protect digital products in the EU from cyber threats.

The new rules, [already agreed with the Council in December 2023](#), aim to ensure that products with digital features are secure to use, resilient against cyber threats, and provide enough information about their security properties.

Important and critical products will be categorised based on their importance and the level of cybersecurity risk they pose, and these two categories will be proposed and updated by the European Commission.

During the negotiations with member states, MEPs made sure that identity management systems software, password managers, biometric readers, smart home assistants and private security cameras will be covered by the regulation. Products should also, under the new rules, have security updates installed automatically and separately from functionality updates.

MEPs also pushed for a greater role for the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) when vulnerabilities and incidents occur.

Procedure Code: 2022/0272(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Debate: Monday 11 March

Vote: Tuesday 12 March

Further information

[Draft report on horizontal cybersecurity requirements for products with digital elements](#)

[Press release on trilogue agreement \(01.12.2023\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Nicola Danti \(Renew, IT\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP research briefing](#)

[Legislative train](#)

Animal welfare: MEPs want clear timeline for updating EU rules

On Thursday, MEPs will quiz the Commission on an announced revision of EU animal welfare legislation.

In the [EU Farm to Fork Strategy](#), and in its [Work Programme for 2023](#), the Commission committed to evaluating and revising the EU's animal welfare legislation by the end of 2023.

In December 2023, the Commission [presented](#) only two draft regulations: on the protection of animals during transport, and on the welfare and traceability of dogs and cats.

In a [question](#) to the Commission on Thursday, MEPs are now seeking a clear timeline for the publication of the three remaining legislative proposals: on the welfare of animals kept for economic purposes, on the protection of animals at the time of killing, and on animal welfare labelling.

Background

In a February 2022 [resolution](#) on the implementation report on on-farm animal welfare, Parliament called for clearer EU animal welfare rules.

In recent years, two European Citizens' Initiative related to animal welfare - "[End the Cage Age](#)" and "[Fur Free Europe](#)" - collected around 1.5 million signatures from citizens across all member states.

According to October 2023 special [Eurobarometer](#), 84% of Europeans believe that the welfare of farmed animals needs to improve.

Procedure Codes (2024/2604(RSP))

Debate: Thursday 14 March

Procedure: oral question to the Commission, without resolution

Further information

[European Food Safety Authority: Animal welfare](#)

[Free photos, video and audio material \(animal welfare\)](#)

Due diligence directive: MEPs to call on member states to end obstruction

MEPs are set to urge the Belgian Presidency and the Commission to ensure the corporate sustainability due diligence directive will be adopted before the end of this legislature.

After the provisional agreement on the directive, [reached by Parliament and Council in December 2023](#), [failed to secure a majority in the Council](#), MEPs are expected to quiz the Belgian Presidency and the Commission about the state of play of this legislation and how to overcome the blockage by some member states. MEPs are set to call on the Council to ensure it adopts the directive before the end of the legislature. The debate will take place on Tuesday.

Background

The corporate sustainability due diligence directive would require companies to eliminate their negative impact on human rights and the environment, such as on child labour, slavery, pollution or deforestation. The rules would be enforced by national authorities responsible for investigating and for imposing sanctions, including fines, on non-compliant companies.

Debate: Tuesday 12 March

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, without resolution

Further information

[Press conference with the rapporteur following the Coreper vote \(28.2.2024\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Think Tank: Corporate sustainability due diligence](#)

Parliament to decide on longer and heavier “green” trucks

On Tuesday, MEPs will vote on EU rules to change the weight and dimension limits applied to zero-emission trucks and buses for international road transport.

MEPs will [vote on a draft law](#) to encourage the transport industry to switch to cleaner vehicles by increasing the maximum weight and length of zero-emission trucks, to compensate the space and weight needed to fit battery or hydrogen cells, and to provide additional loading capacity.

In a [draft position adopted by the Transport Committee](#), to cut the number of trips and to make transportation more efficient, MEPs retained the possibility for EU countries to allow the circulation of mega trucks, which are longer and heavier than the EU limits. However, these trucks should have a common EU label and there should be a web portal listing roads mega trucks can use.

This draft law, on which MEPs will agree on a first reading position before passing it on to the next Parliamentary term after the June 2024 elections to follow up, is part of a [package of proposals for the greening of EU freight transport](#).

Procedure Code: 2023/0265 (COD)

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Vote: Tuesday 12 March

Further information

[EP rapporteur Isabel García Muñoz \(S&D, ES\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research Service briefing on the revision of weights and dimensions directive \(November 2023\)](#)

Updated rules for a combined work and residence permit for the EU

On Wednesday, MEPs will hold a final vote on revised administrative procedures for delivering a permit to third-country nationals wishing to live and work in the EU.

The [update of the existing rules](#), already agreed with the member states, should ensure quicker decisions on permits, and holders will also have the right to change employer, occupation and work sector –though member states may require a minimum period of work to be done at their first employer- and for holders to look for a new job if unemployed. The text also includes measures to combat abusive practices and worker exploitation.

Background

The 2011 [single permit directive](#) establishes a single administrative procedure for granting a permit to third-country nationals seeking to live and work in an EU country, and a common set of rights for those workers based on the principle of equal treatment with EU nationals. The legislation does not apply in Denmark and Ireland.

Procedure code: 2022/0131(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading agreement

Debate: Tuesday 12 March

Vote: Wednesday 13 March

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Rapporteur : Javier MORENO SÁNCHEZ \(S&D, Spain\)](#)

[EPRS briefing : Revision of Directive 2011/98/EU on the single permit to reside and work](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: Free photos, videos and audio material](#)

MEPs to vote on major overhaul of EU Customs Code

On Wednesday afternoon, Parliament will adopt its position on the biggest reform of the EU customs system since the Customs Union was established in 1968.

The EU is seeking to respond, with this reform, to the exponential growth of e-commerce and the wide array of new product standards, product bans, obligations and sanctions it has put in place in recent years. Large platforms would be obliged to submit information about goods to be shipped to the EU within one day after purchase, to help authorities monitor shipments and products that might not comply with EU norms.

The new rules would also simplify customs procedures and establish a multi-level system of trusted traders, who would be able to operate with minimal checks.

New IT tools would be put in place, including an EU DataHub that would become the main platform for dealing with customs authorities all over Europe and replace more than 111 customs-related IT systems currently in use. The regulation would also establish an EU Customs Authority and streamline the work of national customs authorities.

Procedure Code: 2023/0156(COD)

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Vote: Wednesday, 13 March

Further information

[Draft report](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(22.02.2024\)](#)

[Rapporteur Deirdre Clune \(EPP, IE\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Free photos, video and audio material](#)

Votes on EU's budget priorities for 2025 and new EU financial rules

On Wednesday, MEPs are set to adopt Parliament's budgetary guidelines for 2025, as well as new rules to better protect EU financial interests.

In their draft guidelines for next year's EU budget, the details of which the EU Commission is expected to table before the summer, MEPs want a robust, people-centred budget offering better opportunities to all citizens. The first annual budget after the [revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework](#) should focus on the green and digital transitions, ensuring prosperity and security as well as inclusiveness across the EU, MEPs argue in the draft text, on which they will debate on Tuesday and vote on Wednesday.

Read the details in the [recent press release](#).

Rapporteur [Victor Negrescu](#) (S&D, RO) will hold a press conference following the vote, on Wednesday 13 March at 14:00

New EU financial rules

In a separate debate and vote, MEPs are set to adopt the final text for the revision of the EU's Financial Regulation, agreed with member states in December 2023. The new rules will strengthen the protection of the EU's financial interests and enhance transparency, with a new public EU database detailing the ultimate beneficiaries of EU funds.

Read the details in the [press release following the deal with the EU countries](#).

Procedures: Budgetary initiative (budgetary guidelines 2025) and Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement (Financial regulation)

Procedure code: [2022/0162\(COD\)](#) (Financial regulation), [2023/2220\(BUI\)](#) (Guidelines)

Debates: Wednesday 13 March

Votes: Wednesday 13 March (Guidelines), Thursday 14 March (Financial regulation)

Further information

[Committee on Budget's webpage on the 2025 budgetary procedure](#)

[Fact Sheets on the European Union - The budgetary procedure](#)

[How is the EU budget prepared? \(EU Commission website\)](#)

[EU Financial Regulation](#)

Parliament to assess Armenia-Azerbaijan peace prospects

On Wednesday, MEPs will set out their stance on efforts to achieve lasting peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The two South Caucasus nations share a bloody history since the fall of the Soviet Union, having fought repeated wars and so far failed to achieve a lasting peace agreement. In September last year, Azerbaijan launched a lightning military assault to recapture the mountainous region of Nagorno-Karabakh, prompting a mass exodus of ethnic Armenians living in the area. Since then, the two countries have been working to put in place a historic peace treaty, although a breakthrough has yet to be announced.

In a resolution to be put to a vote on Wednesday, MEPs will lay out their views on the current negotiations, and are also expected to advocate for closer ties between the EU and Armenia.

The [plenary debate already took place on 27 February](#) during the previous plenary session.

Debate: Tuesday 27 February

Vote: Wednesday 13 March

Procedure: Non-legislative resolution

Further information

[Press release: Armenian Prime Minister: "We must move steadily towards peace with Azerbaijan" \(17.10.2023\)](#)

[Press release: "Nagorno-Karabakh: MEPs demand review of EU relations with Azerbaijan" \(05.10.2023\)](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

“This is Europe” debate with Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo

On Wednesday morning at 10.30 CET, Prime Minister of Finland Petteri Orpo will speak to MEPs to outline his vision on Europe’s challenges and future.

Before the debate, EP President Roberta Metsola will hold a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Orpo, followed by a *press point at 10.20 (still to be confirmed)*.

Thirteen EU heads of state or government have discussed the future of the EU in the plenary in [“This is Europe” debates](#).

Petteri Orpo was sworn in as Prime Minister of Finland on 20 June 2023. He has also served as an MP (since 2007), Minister of Agriculture and Forestry (2014–2015), Minister of the Interior (2015–2016) and Minister of Finance (2016–2019).

Debate: Wednesday 13 March

Press point: Wednesday 13 March at 10.20, still to be confirmed

Further information

[Profile of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo](#)

[Multimedia centre - This is Europe](#)

Court of Auditors: MEPs to vote on new Italian member

Plenary will vote on Thursday on supporting the candidacy of Carlo Alberto Manfredi Selvaggi, nominated by the Italian government, for the EU Court of Auditors (ECA).

Mr Selvaggi has been serving in the Italian Court of Auditors since 1997, as Substitute Prosecutor General until 2005, and Deputy Prosecutor General until 2021. He has been a coordinator of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan mission structure at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers since May 2023.

Background

The mandate of the previous Italian ECA member Mr Pietro Russo expired on 29 February.

The Committee of Budgetary Control supported the nomination of Mr Selvaggi by 19 votes to 8 with 1 abstention, following a [hearing on 22 February 2024](#). The final decision will be taken by EU member states.

Under the [EU Treaty](#), each member state can propose its candidate for the European Court of Auditors. The Council of the EU, after consulting Parliament, decides on the appointment for a six-year term.

Further information

[CV of Manfredi Selvaggi, nominated by the Italian government to the European Court of Auditors](#)

[EP Research Service Briefing: Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors: Italy \(October 2023\)](#)

Resolutions on human rights and democracy

Parliament will hold urgent debates on the following human rights, democracy and rule of law topics on Wednesday afternoon, followed by votes on Thursday.

- The immediate risk of mass starvation in Gaza and the attacks on humanitarian aid deliveries;
- The repressive environment in Afghanistan, including public executions and violence against women;
- The case of Rocío San Miguel and General Hernández Da Costa, among other political prisoners in Venezuela.

Debate: Wednesday 13 March

Vote: Thursday 14 March

Procedure: non-legislative resolutions

Further information

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

Other topics on the agenda

Other topics on the agenda

- EU climate risk assessment, taking urgent action to improve security and resilience in Europe, Commission statement, Tuesday-
- Creation of a European initiative for an annual designation of European capitals of children, Commission statement, debate Wednesday, vote Thursday
- Joint debate - European Semester, Repasi, Pislaru, debate Wednesday, vote Thursday
- European cross-border associations, Sergey Lagodinsky, debate , and vote Wednesday
- Amending certain financial services and investment support Regulations as regards certain reporting requirements, Othmar Karas, vote Tuesday
- The time the European Commission takes to deal with requests for public access to documents, Commission statement, Wednesday
- European Maritime Safety Agency, debate Monday, vote Tuesday
- Cohesion policy 2014-2020 – implementation and outcomes in the Member States, Andrey Novakov, debate Wednesday, vote Thursday
- Use of railway infrastructure capacity in the single European railway area, Tilly Metz, vote Tuesday
- Healthy lifestyle and active ageing in the EU, Commission statement, Thursday
- EU designs and legal protection of designs, Lebreton, final vote Thursday
- Compulsory licensing, Vázquez Lázara, first reading vote on Wednesday
- Allegations of corruption and misuse of EU funds in Spain during the pandemic, Topical debate, Wednesday