



# Plenary sessions

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## Further information:

- [Draft agenda - 6-9 September 2010](#)
- [EuroparTV - watch live broadcasts from Strasbourg plenary](#)
- [EP Live - watch the plenary live](#)

# Plenary sessions

## State of the Union debate with President Barroso

**Commission President José Manuel Barroso will give his first-ever State of the Union address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Tuesday. The ensuing debate will enable MEPs to review with Mr Barroso the developments in the European Union since the EP elections of June 2009 and the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in December 2009.**

*Debate: 07 September 2010 (09.00-11.20)*

# Plenary sessions

## MEPs to discuss aid for Pakistan flood victims

**The floods in Pakistan and the EU's response to the ensuing humanitarian crisis will be debated by MEPs with the Commission in Strasbourg on Tuesday afternoon.**

On Tuesday 31 August MEPs from the Development Committee told EU Aid Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva that the EU's aid response to the devastating flooding needs to be better coordinated and more visible on the ground. Several Members linked the floods to climate change while others voiced fears that extremists could exploit the crisis for their own ends.

*Procedure: Commission statement with debate*

*Debate: 07 September 2010*

### Further information:

- [Press Release on Committee vote 31.08.2010](#)
- [Website of Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva](#)

# Plenary sessions

## Deportation of Roma

**Parliament will discuss with the Commission whether the deportation of hundreds of Roma people this summer from France to Romania and Bulgaria breached EU provisions on freedom of movement and fundamental rights.**

More than 8000 Roma have been expelled from France since January. In a resolution adopted in March, Parliament stated that the failure of policies to promote the social integration of the Roma people must be examined critically, given the "unsatisfactory progress" to date. MEPs stressed at the time that Member States should make better use of structural funding opportunities to promote the integration of the Roma, and that the implementation of local projects should be monitored objectively.

In response to MEPs' demands, the European Commission produced detailed plans for improving the economic integration of Roma people in Europe. Livia Járóka (EPP, HU) is Parliament's rapporteur on this subject.

At the request of the S&D group, next Wednesday Parliament will also debate with the Commission the "*temporary restrictions affecting Romanian and Bulgarian citizens on the EU labour market*".

*Procedure: Council & Commission statements + resolution*

*Debate: 3pm, 7 September 2010*

*Vote: 9 September 2010*

### Further information:

- [European Parliament resolution of 25 March 2010 on the Second European Roma Summit](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Livia JÁRÓKA \(EPP, HU\)](#)

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## New limits on animal testing

- Governments to check on welfare of animals used in scientific experiments
- Animal testing to be allowed only if no workable alternative available

**The use of animals in scientific experiments will soon be scaled down if Parliament backs an agreement reached with Council in July on new EU legislation.**

National authorities will be required, under the legislation, to assess the animal welfare implications of every experiment performed, with a view to promoting alternative testing methods and reducing levels of pain inflicted on animals.

Under the new assessment procedure, Member States must ensure that, whenever an alternative method is available, this is used instead of animal testing. Animal tests would only be approved if they used methods of killing that cause the least possible pain or distress while still producing scientifically satisfactory results. The law would also tighten up rules on the use of primates in scientific experiments, classify tests according to their severity and lay down the inspections needed to ensure compliance.

According to rapporteur Elisabeth Jeggle (EPP, DE), the deal reached with Council aims to strike the right balance between improving animal welfare and assisting research against disease. A positive vote by MEPs would mean the legislation is approved and implemented in two years.

*Procedure: Codecision (2nd reading)*

*Debate & Vote: 08 September 2010*

### Further information:

- [Press release on Committee vote 12.07.2010](#)
- [Recommendation - Protection of animals used for scientific purposes](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Elisabeth JEGGLE \(EPP, DE\)](#)

# Plenary sessions

## President of Mali to address MEPs

**The President of Mali, Amadou Toumani Touré, will address the European Parliament in a formal sitting at 12 noon on Tuesday.**

Mali's successful democratic transition over the last twenty years, the Millennium Development Goals and security issues in the greater Sahel region are among topics that may be covered in the President's address to MEPs. Mali is scheduled to hold its next presidential and parliamentary elections in April and July 2012 respectively.

*Formal sitting: 12 noon, 07 September 2010*

# Plenary sessions

## Anti-counterfeiting agreement: latest talks

**The ongoing negotiations on the multilateral Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) will be discussed with the Commission on Wednesday in the wake of the tenth round of talks, held in Washington from 16 to 20 August.**

The aim of ACTA is to beef up the enforcement of intellectual property rights and combat counterfeiting and piracy. On 10 March 2010, the EP adopted a resolution calling for the negotiations to be conducted transparently.

MEPs demanded that no personal searches should be conducted at EU borders and that the agreement should not introduce any type of "three strikes" internet disconnection as a penalty for three online copyright infringements.

Parliament also insisted that ACTA should not affect global access to affordable and safe medicinal products on the pretext of combating counterfeiting.

*Procedure: Commission statement with debate*

*Debate: 08 September 2010*

### Further information:

- [European Parliament resolution of 10 March 2010 on the transparency and state of play of the ACTA negotiations](#)
- [Press Release on Committee vote 10.03.2010](#)
- [EC website on Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement \(ACTA\)](#)

# Plenary sessions

## Press freedom in the EU

**Curbs on freedom of expression and information as well as government control of the media in several Member States will come under the spotlight in a debate with the Commission on Tuesday.**

Following a heated debate last autumn that highlighted the differing views on this topic among MEPs, Parliament rejected - on 21 October 2009 - all the motions for resolutions on press freedom in Italy and other Member States tabled by its various political groups.

In a report published in July this year the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) voiced concern about press freedom in several EU countries.

*Procedure: Commission statement with debate (no resolution)*

*Debate: 07 September 2010*

### Further information:

- [Press release on vote of 21.10.2009](#)
- [Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe - report 29.07.2010](#)

# Plenary sessions

## EU law needed to fight discrimination against same-sex couples?

**MEPs will ask the Commission on Tuesday about its plans to combat discrimination encountered by same-sex couples.**

Same-sex couples, whether married or in civil partnership, still face discrimination when working, studying and travelling in the EU, since the spouse is not legally recognised as a family member by many Member States. MEPs will quiz the Commission about its lack of concrete proposals in this area.

*Procedure: Oral question to the Commission*

*Debate: 07 September 2010*

### Further information:

- [Oral question on discrimination against same-sex couples](#)

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## Human rights in Iran: two women at risk

**Parliament will hold a debate on human rights in Iran, focusing on the cases of Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani and Zahra Bahrami.**

In a much-publicised case, Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani was accused of adultery and sentenced to be stoned to death, while Zahra Bahrami, a Dutch/Iranian woman, has been kept incommunicado since her arrest last December in the Ashura Day protests in Tehran.

Dutch MEPs have called on EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton to discuss these cases with the Iranian authorities. The EP will vote on a resolution on Thursday.

*Procedure: Urgent resolution*

*Debate/Vote: 09 September 2010*

## EU-South Korea trade agreement: vote on safeguard clause

**MEPs will vote on safeguard measures accompanying a new free trade accord with South Korea. The measures are intended to shield individual EU industries against any disproportionate rise in imports.**

Safeguard measures could be imposed if lower customs duties led to an excessive increase in imports from South Korea, causing or threatening to cause "serious injury" to EU producers.

An investigation into the need for such measures could be initiated by any Member State, the Commission, the EU-Korea Domestic Advisory Group or, under amendments tabled by the EP International Trade Committee, the European Parliament or associations representing at least 25% of the industry. MEPs wish to set the maximum length of an investigation at 200 days, instead of 6 months extendable by a further 3 months, as proposed by the Commission.

Parliament wishes to introduce a special monitoring system for the car manufacturing and related industries, as these will be among the sectors most exposed to increased competition after the trade agreement enters into force.

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative, 1st reading*

*Debate: 6 September 2010*

*Vote: 7 September 2010*

### Further information:

- [Report on bilateral safeguard clause in the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement](#)
- [Press Release after the Committee vote on 23.06.2010](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Pablo ZALBA BIDEGAIN \(EPP, ES\)](#)

## Better communication needed for the EU

**Europe's citizens still see the EU as too distant and not relevant to their needs, says a draft resolution by the Culture Committee which urges governments, parties, educational institutions and public service broadcasters to do more to explain EU issues to the public.**

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*Procedure: Own-initiative*

*Vote: 7 September 2010*

## Further information:

- [Report on journalism and new media - creating a public sphere in Europe](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Morten LØKKEGAARD \(ALDE, DK\)](#)

## Weeding out faulty euro coins to stop vending machines jamming

**Parliament will be asked to approve legislation designed to combat the common problem of jammed vending machines caused by counterfeit and damaged euro coins.**

Vending machines throughout the eurozone countries are all programmed to accept standard euro coins. But because there is no mandatory common authentication system, faulty coins can slip through the net, thereby undermining the euro as a currency but also causing more mundane problems such as blocked coffee machines.

The legislation lays down binding measures for the regular testing of coin-processing machines and the training of staff involved in manual checking. It also specifies the types of controls to be undertaken by Member States and their frequency.

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative, 1st reading*

*Vote: 07 September 2010*

## Further information:

- [Report on authentication of euro coins and handling of euro coins unfit for circulation](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Slavi Binev \(NI, BG\)](#)

## Call for EU law on food prices

**New EU legislation is needed to ensure fair returns for farmers and transparent prices for consumers by enforcing fair competition throughout the food supply chain, argues a draft resolution by the Agriculture Committee.**

The committee makes recommendations on how to ensure fairness throughout the food chain, by tackling dominant positions, unfair commercial and contractual practices and late payments and also by improving the bargaining position of farmers.

*Procedure: Own-initiative*

*Debate: 06 September 2010*

*Vote: 07 September 2010*

## Further information:

- [Press release after committee vote 28.06.2010](#)
- [Report on fair revenues for farmers: A better functioning food supply chain in Europe](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur José BOVÉ \(Greens/EFA, FR\)](#)

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## EP to vote on €90 million EU grant to crisis-hit Moldova

**Moldova will be eligible for an EU grant of up to €90 million to finance its balance-of-payments deficit and meet its budgetary needs, if Parliament votes in favour of a Commission proposal on Tuesday.**

The International Trade Committee insists that Parliament must be regularly briefed by the Commission on how the assistance is managed and on whether the principles of efficiency, transparency and accountability are observed. Recently Parliament gave its backing to similar macro-financial support to Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine.

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative (1st reading) (codecision)*

*Vote: 07 September 2010*

### Further information:

- [Draft report on macro-financial assistance for the Republic of Moldova](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Iuliu Winkler \(EPP, RO\)](#)
- [Press release on committee vote of 30.08.2010](#)

## EU-Switzerland: lowering barriers for cross-border workers

**Every day around 200,000 commuters from the EU or one of the EFTA countries cross the border to Switzerland to work. The Internal Market Committee suggests ways to improve the free movement of people and services together with EU-Swiss cooperation in this area.**

Since Switzerland signed the Agreement on Free Movement of Persons in 1999, the number of posted workers and self-employed service providers from the EU working in Switzerland has increased significantly. However, the Internal Market Committee's draft resolution highlights various issues that still need to be tackled to make the free movement of services a reality.

*Procedure: Own-initiative*

*Vote: 07 September 2010*

### Further information:

- [Report on EEA-Switzerland: Obstacles with regard to the full implementation of the internal market](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Rafal Trzaskowski \(EPP, PO\)](#)

## Targeted EU policies to integrate ethnic minority women

**Parliament will vote on a draft resolution by the Women's Rights Committee calling for better social integration of women from ethnic minorities through new measures as well as better implementation of existing law on education, language, health, housing and working conditions.**

*Procedure: Own-initiative*

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Vote: 07 September 2010

## Further information:

- [Report on social integration of women belonging to ethnic minority groups](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Antonyia Parvanova \(ALDE, BG\)](#)

## Cloned meat on the menu?

**Following cases of meat from cloned animal offspring reaching the EU market, MEPs will discuss the matter with the Commission.**

In response to the current legal uncertainty, Parliament has demanded specific EU legislation to ban food products derived from cloned animals and their descendants, while Council favours regulation under 'novel foods' rules. The ongoing update to these rules is moving towards a conciliation process to try to reach an agreement over this contentious issue.

*Procedure: Commission statement with debate  
Debate: 08 September 2010*

## Further information:

- [Press release on Novel Foods \(7.7.2010\)](#)

## Presentation of ECOFIN conclusions

**On Wednesday Belgian finance minister Didier Reynders will, on behalf of the Belgian Presidency, present the conclusions of the ECOFIN Council meeting of the preceding day.**

At their meeting, Europe's finance ministers discussed the current financial and economic situation in the EU, as well as the widely debated banking tax. A new topic on the ECOFIN agenda was the tax on financial transactions, which should reduce the risk of speculation on financial markets.

*Council and Commission statements with debate  
Debate: 08 September 2010*

## Further information:

- [Council of the European Union - Ecofin Council](#)

## 2011 budget negotiations: Council presents its wishes

**The Belgian presidency will explain the changes the Member States wish to make to next year's EU budget drafted by the Commission, following Council's votes in mid-July.**

Parliament's committees have already started preparing their input to the budget. The most important topics for MEPs will be the financial crisis, reform of the EU budget, external policy, youth programmes, competitiveness policy and the EU2020 strategy.

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The final reading in the Budgets Committee is scheduled for 28-30 September, to be followed by a vote in plenary in October. The budget negotiations will probably continue with a conciliation committee aiming at a final agreement in November. This budget procedure is the first where Parliament has joint decision-making power with Council on the whole budget.

*Debate: 08 September 2010*

## Further information:

- [Council press release on its vote](#)
- [EP press release: Budget 2011 negotiations coming closer - MEPs decide on tactics](#)
- [Commission press release: EU draft budget 2011: The future beyond the crisis](#)
- [Budget 2011 - negotiation timetable](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Sidonia Elżbieta Jędrzejewska \(EPP, PL\)](#)
- [EP Budgets Committee website](#)

## Proposed Israeli law on NGOs under the spotlight

**An Israeli draft bill seeking to monitor the activities of Israeli NGOs funded by foreign governments or government-funded donors will be discussed on Wednesday by MEPs.**

Members of four political groups (S&D, ALDE, Greens/EFA and GUE/NGL) have expressed concern over this bill, which requires all recipients receiving foreign funding for the purpose of 'political activity' in Israel to register with the Political Party Registrar.

### Situation of the lower River Jordan

Parliament will also debate the much-needed rehabilitation of the River Jordan and in particular its lower reaches. The river - which has great historical, symbolic and religious meaning for Arabs and Israelis, for Christians, Jews and Muslims - has been devastated by overexploitation, pollution and a lack of regional management. MEPs will vote on a resolution on this issue on Thursday.

*Procedure: Oral questions with debate and resolution on Lower Jordan River*

*Debate: 08 September 2010*

*Vote: 09 September 2010*

## Further information:

- [Oral question on Draft bill on Israeli NGOs](#)
- [EP resolution on Goldstone report resolution \(10 March 2010\)](#)
- [Oral question on the situation of the Jordan River with special regard to the Lower Jordan River area](#)

## Employment rate of 75% by 2020?

**The employment rate in the EU should be increased to 75% by 2020, with priority being given to vulnerable groups, argues the Employment Committee in a draft resolution that lays down job targets for EU Member States.**

Governments should seek to increase the employment rate to 75% of the active population by 2020, raising it as a first step by 10% by 2014 and making a special effort towards vulnerable groups. The resolution, drafted by Csaba Öry (EPP, HU), is designed to influence the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs.

*Procedure: Consultation*

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*Debate: 07 September 2010*

*Vote: 08 September 2010*

## Further information:

- [Report on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States](#)
- [Press Release after Committee vote 14.07.2010](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Csaba Öry \(EPP, HU\)](#)

## Quicker payouts of EU aid to workers who lose their jobs

**Parliament will vote on a resolution by the Budgets Committee suggesting how to cut the time taken to pay out aid from the EU Globalisation Adjustment Fund to workers who have lost their jobs as a result of globalisation or the financial crisis.**

*Procedure: Own-initiative*

*Short presentation: 06 September 2010*

*Vote: 07 September 2010*

## Further information:

- [Press Release on Committee vote 14.07.2010](#)
- [General information: European Globalisation Adjustment Fund](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Miguel PORTAS \(EUL/NGL, PT\)](#)
- [Report on funding and functioning of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund](#)

## Green jobs, the key to a sustainable economy

**The EU needs a strategy by 2011 to encourage the creation of green jobs. Education and training systems must be shaped to reflect these new types of work, says a draft resolution by the Employment Committee.**

MEPs call on the European Commission to come up with a concrete strategy on this area by next year. They urge new incentives to prompt companies to invest more in clean technologies.

*Procedure: Own-initiative*

*Vote: 07 September 2010*

## Further information:

- [Press release on committee vote](#)
- [Report on developing the job potential of a new sustainable economy](#)
- [Profile of Elisabeth Schroedter \(Greens/EFA, DE\)](#)

## Positive discrimination in favour of older women?

**With women living longer than men and facing a greater risk of ending up in poverty, the Women's Rights Committee wants to see positive discrimination measures for older women.**

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New types of paid leave at work for caring duties other than parental leave are among the proposals.

Innovative policies should be devised, say MEPs, to support 'informal carers' (most of whom are women) with benefits and social security rights, says the committee's draft resolution. Workers with dependent older relatives should be able to choose whether to be paid if they opt to care for them themselves or to be allowed to call on social services instead.

Governments should also ensure that workers whose income is temporarily lower owing to their caring duties can continue acquiring pension rights, adds the Women's Rights Committee. Lastly, the Commission should come up with a plan to support women who care for grandchildren while the parents are at work.

Also in plenary next Tuesday, the Employment Committee will table an oral question to the Commission concerning long-term care for older people.

*Procedure: Own-initiative*

*Debate: 06 September 2010*

*Vote: 07 September 2010*

## Further information:

- [Report on the role of women in an ageing society](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Sirpa Pietikäinen \(EPP, FI\)](#)
- [Oral question on long-term care for older people](#)

## Arms exports to third countries: on the Council's agenda?

**Have arms exports to non-EU countries ever been the subject of discussion in the Council and, if so, which third countries were concerned, ask EPP Members in an oral question to the Council.**

Member States have promised to prevent the export of military technology and equipment which might be used for internal repression or international aggression or contribute to regional instability, under a December 2008 Council Common Position on defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment.

*Procedure: Oral question with debate and resolution*

*Debate: 08 September 2010*

*Vote: 09 September 2010*

## Further information:

- [Oral question - Common foreign and security policy](#)
- [Council Common Position defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment](#)

## Better enforcement of court rulings across the EU

**MEPs will vote on a draft resolution by the Legal Affairs Committee on the Brussels I Regulation on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of civil and commercial court judgments.**

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The time and cost of getting a foreign court judgment recognised are hard to justify in the single market, with rulings in debt cases causing particular problems.

*Procedure: Own-initiative*

*Short presentation: 06 September 2010*

*Vote: 07 September 2010*

## Further information:

- [Report on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Tadeusz Zwiefka \(EPP, PL\)](#)

## Other items on the agenda

### Human rights and democracy issues

As well as the case of the two women at risk in Iran referred to earlier in this publication, debates on the following will take place at 3pm on Thursday (9 September) followed by votes on the resolutions

- Kenya: failure to arrest President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan
- Syria: the case of Haythan Al-Maleh

### Other topics

- Madeira and the Azores - temporary suspension of autonomous common Customs Tariff duties on imports of certain industrial products - rapporteur Danuta Maria Hübner (EPP, PL) - vote Tuesday
- EU potato starch sector after 2012 - Oral question to Council and Commission - debate Wednesday

## Further information:

- [Motions for resolutions will be available here](#)
- [Oral question on potato starch sector will be available here](#)
- [Madeira and the Azores - customs tariffs on imports of certain industrial products](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Danuta Maria HÜBNER \(EPP, PL\)](#)