

## The European parliamentary committees' response to COVID-19

# Ensuring the continuation of the legislative and democratic life of the European Union

### An overview



This publication contains an overview of the principal debates held by the committees and the delegations of the European Parliament, and of decisions made as a result of their work following the COVID-19 outbreak, during the period between 2 April and 30 June 2020.

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**The sudden onset of the COVID-19 pandemic** posed a serious challenge to the work of the European Parliament, affecting many activities, official visits, as well as ordinary committee meetings. Therefore, it was essential to prevent the democratic machinery of the EU from potentially coming to a halt.

Parliament's committees and standing delegations play a key role in fulfilling the institutions' core functions. Therefore, several measures were quickly adopted, allowing the continuity of key activities in order to address the most pressing issues and legislative acts, while focusing in particular on the EU's response to the COVID-19 crisis. Thanks to pre-existing contingency plans to ensure that the most important functions of Parliament continue, as well as by adopting innovative working methods, staff in DG IPOL and DG EXPO have kept on supporting the work of MEPs. Irrespective of their physical location, MEPs continue holding debates and taking decisions to ensure the EU can adopt the measures needed to address the COVID-19 crisis, to ensure the benefit of all EU citizens and beyond, establish a recovery plan and relaunch the economy.

In terms of its external relations, the European Parliament continues working in close contact with its partners across the world, particularly in its wider neighbourhood, in order to demonstrate solidarity in action and to further reinforce cooperation, while monitoring the impact of the crisis on democratic institutions.

## Innovative use of technology

Due to these unprecedented circumstances, several meeting rooms were equipped with new videoconference facilities, allowing remote meetings to be held with the availability of simultaneous interpretation. Solutions for remote voting were also found.

Consequently, within a period of almost 13 weeks starting from the beginning of April, some 140 committee meetings and 42 committee coordinators' meetings took place remotely, with simultaneous interpretation.



Several other parliamentary bodies, including the European Parliament delegations to non-EU countries, and the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group, have also met and engaged in various types of activities to continue their work, including informal virtual meetings.

Improvements to the system are ongoing, including the establishment of a dedicated hotline to assist MEPs in case of technical or connectivity problems. As a result, committees continue dealing with all aspects of EU politics.

## Subject matter

In the beginning of the pandemic, the committees' agendas initially focussed mostly on discussing the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, holding several exchange of views with Commissioners on the EU's response to the pandemic and steps ahead.

However, decisions made by committees call for a democratic vote. Due to the number and nature of amendments, these voting sessions are often more complex than the ones held during a plenary session. Therefore, at the beginning of April, the Conference of Committee Chairs adopted guidelines on the remote voting procedure in committees. This was followed by extensive efforts made by the committees, which led to a quick adoption of several key legislative acts in plenary.

These include amendments to the current Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, setting up the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (promoting the use of and investments under the Structural Funds) and modifying the scope of the EU Solidarity Fund (to include major public health emergencies), as well as the adaptation of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (e.g. facilitating the purchase of personal protective equipment), and measures to mitigate the impact of the outbreak in the fisheries and transport sectors.

Considering the seriousness of the situation, a number of the Commission proposals were amended at the Parliament's initiative within a mere 2 to 4 weeks from proposal date to publication. The Commission has further tabled several additional COVID-19 response proposals, which will be dealt with over the coming weeks by the committees responsible.

## Expert support

During this period, Parliament's policy departments in DG IPOL and DG EXPO have continued to support the committees in performing their legislative and institutional tasks by keeping them updated about recent developments and relevant expertise. The COVID-19 angle will be included in ongoing and planned research products to take into account the implications and the impacts of the pandemic.

## Foreign Affairs

### Debates

- [Olivér Várhelyi, Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, European Commission](#)  
The Eastern Partnership policy, COVID-19 related EU support in the Neighbourhood, and Turkey, and the future external financing instruments, 19 May 2020
- [Olivér Várhelyi, Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, European Commission](#)  
The EU-Western Balkans Summit videoconference of 6 May 2020 and the support to the Western Balkans in tackling COVID-19, 7 May 2020
- [Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission](#)  
The EEAS special report on the narratives and disinformation around the COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic, 30 April 2020
- [Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission](#)  
The implications of COVID-19 for the external action of the EU, 20 April 2020 - AFET in association with DROI and SEDE
- [Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission](#)  
The Joint Communication and the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy for 2020-2024, 20 April 2020 - AFET jointly with DROI

### Other files

- [Recommendations on the negotiations for a new partnership with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland \(jointly with INTA\)](#)
- [EU-African security cooperation in the Sahel region, West Africa and the Horn of Africa](#)
- [Recommendation on the Western Balkans, following the 2020 summit](#)
- [Recommendation on the Eastern Partnership, in the run-up to the June 2020 Summit](#)

### Policy department publications

- [A Comprehensive EU Strategy on Africa - June 2020](#)
- [A Comprehensive EU Strategy for Africa - Political Dialogue: Governance, Security and Migration - June 2020](#)
- [A Comprehensive EU Strategy for Africa - Development, Humanitarian Aid and Climate Change - June 2020](#)
- [A Comprehensive EU Strategy for Africa - Development, Humanitarian Aid and Climate Change - June 2020](#)
- [A Comprehensive EU Strategy for Africa - Trade and Investments - June 2020](#)

- Mapping fake news and disinformation in the Western Balkans and identifying ways to effectively counter them - *forthcoming*
- The state of trans-Atlantic relations - *forthcoming*
- EU-Iran relations - *forthcoming*
- Workshop on Achieving strategic sovereignty for the EU - *forthcoming*
- Geopolitical implications of the COVID-19 pandemic - *forthcoming*

## DROI

### Human Rights

#### Debates

- [Children's rights and sustainable solutions](#), 26 June 2020 (in association with LIBE)
- [Human rights due diligence legislation](#), 22 June 2020
- [The use of digital surveillance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic](#), 5 June 2020
- [Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court](#), 29 May 2020
- [United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, European Court of Human Rights, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Human Rights Watch, Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture](#)  
Human rights impacts and policy responses in places of detention in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, 11 May 2020
- [Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission](#)  
The implications of COVID-19 for the external action of the EU, 20 April 2020 (AFET in association with DROI and SEDE)
- [Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission](#)  
The Joint Communication and the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy for 2020-2024, 20 April 2020 (AFET jointly with DROI)

#### Policy department publications

- [Biodiversity as a Human Right and its implications for the EU's External Action](#) - April, 2020
- The external dimension of migration and human rights - *forthcoming*
- The impact of disinformation on human rights and democracy - *forthcoming*
- Digital technologies as a means of repression and social control - *forthcoming*

# SEDE

## Security and Defence

### Debates

- [Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, 26 May 2020](#)
- [Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market, European Commission, 25 June 2020](#)

### Other files

- [EU-African security cooperation in the Sahel region, West Africa and the Horn of Africa](#)
- [Arms export](#)

### Policy department publications

- Nuclear Arms Control Regimes: state of play and perspectives - *forthcoming*
- Implementation of the Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR) and the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP): lessons for the European Defence Fund (EDF) - *forthcoming*
- The future of CSDP in a new security environment, including the impact of climate change - *forthcoming*
- The European Space sector as an enabler of EU strategic autonomy - *forthcoming*
- Security and defence-related aspects of the COVID-19 crisis for the EU - *forthcoming*

# DEVE

## Development

### COVID-19 related filed

- [European Fund for Sustainable Development \(EFSD\), the EFSD Guarantee and the EFSD Guarantee Fund \(ongoing\)](#)  
Increase in the ceilings under the 2014-2020 Multi-annual Financial Framework to enable the implementation of measures within the Union and beyond in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Debates

- [David Beasley, Executive Director, World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#)  
The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food insecurity and poverty – urgent needs and sustainable responses, 15 June 2020

- [European Commission representatives](#)  
The EU response to the COVID-19 pandemic in developing countries, 15 June 2020
- [Michael Ryan, Executive Director, World Health Organization's Health Emergencies Programme](#)  
The COVID-19 outbreak in developing countries: a WHO perspective on the challenges and its impact on the international humanitarian and development response, 29 May 2020
- [Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships](#)  
[Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner for Crisis Management, European Commission](#)  
The EU's response to the COVID-19 outbreak, 21 April 2020

## INTA

### International Trade

#### COVID-19 related files

- [Macro-Financial Assistance to enlargement and neighbourhood partners in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis \(completed\)](#)  
Provide EUR 3 billion of macro-financial assistance (MFA) in the form of loans to 10 enlargement and neighbourhood partner countries to help them mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

#### Debates

- [Sabine Weyand, DG Trade Director General, European Commission](#)  
EU tools against distortions in international trade and investments, 25 June 2020
- [Phil Hogan, Commissioner for Trade, European Commission](#)  
The EU response to the impact of COVID-19 on trade, 28 May 2020
- [Phil Hogan, Commissioner for Trade, European Commission](#)  
EU response to the impact of COVID-19 on trade; export authorisation regime for personal protective equipment, 21 April 2020

#### Other files

- [Recommendations on the negotiations for a new partnership with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland \(jointly with AFET\)](#)
- [Exercise of the Union's rights for the application and enforcement of international trade rules](#)

#### Policy department publications

- Data flows, artificial intelligence and international trade: impacts and prospects for the value chains of the future - workshop - *forthcoming*

## Economic and Monetary Affairs

### COVID-19 related files

- [Taxation - administrative cooperation \(ongoing\)](#)  
Deferral of certain deadlines for the filing and exchanging of information in the field of taxation due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- [Solvency Support Instrument \(ongoing\)](#)  
Puts forward a temporary equity-based instrument to address the negative socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for workers, households and companies in the Union.
- [Recovery and Resilience Facility \(ongoing\)](#)  
Offer large-scale financial support for public investments and reforms that make Member States economies more resilient, and better prepared for the future
- [VAT e-commerce package – distance sales of goods and services \(ongoing\)](#)  
Postponement of the date of application due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis
- [Value added tax \(VAT\) - administrative cooperation and combating fraud \(ongoing\)](#)  
Postponement of the date of application due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis
- [Capital Requirements Regulation Quick Fix Package: adjustments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic \(ongoing\)](#)  
Enables banks to continue to lend money to support the economy and mitigate the significant economic impact of the Coronavirus.

### Debates

- [Francois-Louis Michaud, candidate for Executive Director of the European Banking Authority](#)  
Hearing, 29 June 2020
- [The COVID-19 outbreak, its expected impact on the EU economy and possible policy responses including monetary and fiscal measures](#)  
Public hearing, 15 June 2020
- [Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank](#)  
Monetary Dialogue, 8 June 2020
- [Christine Lagarde, Chair of the European Systemic Risk Board](#)  
Public Hearing, 8 June 2020
- [Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice-President for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age, European Commission](#)  
The economic impact and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 25 May 2020
- [Luis de Guindos, ECB Vice-President](#)  
Presentation of the European Central Bank Annual Report 2019, 7 May 2020
- [Elke König, Chairperson of the Single Resolution Board \(SRB\)](#)  
The economic impact and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 5 May 2020
- [Andrea Enria, Chair of the Single Supervisory Mechanism](#)  
The economic impact and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 5 May 2020
- [Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People](#)  
[Paolo Gentiloni, European Commissioner for Economy, European Commission](#)  
The economic impact and the response to the COVID-19 outbreak, 27 April 2020

- [Mário Centeno, President of the Eurogroup](#)  
Economic Dialogue, 21 April 2020

## Other files

- [Framework to facilitate sustainable investment \(jointly with ENVI\)](#)

## Policy department publications

- [The ECB's Monetary Policy Response to the COVID-19 Crisis](#) - updated regularly
- The macro-prudential aspects of non-banking intermediation (shadow banking) should cover the risks arising from the COVID-19 crisis - *forthcoming*
- Post-Crisis Global Currency Order: Risks and Opportunities for the Euro - *forthcoming*
- COVID-19-related state aid and global competitiveness - *forthcoming*

# EMPL

## Employment and Social Affairs

### COVID-19 related files

- Amending Annex III to the Biological Agents Directive to classify COVID-19 as a biological agent known to infect humans - motion for a European Parliament resolution (*ongoing*)
- [Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived \(FEAD\) 2014-2020 \(\*ongoing\*\)](#)  
Introduction of specific measures for addressing the COVID-19 crisis, in order to provide that additional resources are made available for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022.
- [Introduction of specific measures for addressing the COVID-19 crisis \(\*completed\*\)](#)  
Amends the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) in order to adapt implementation of the FEAD.

### Debates

- [Steve Kapsos, Head of the analysis and data production unit, International Labour Organization, Geneva](#)  
ILO Monitor measuring the impact of COVID on the World of Work, 23 June 2020
- [Lieve Verboven, Director, International Labour Organization, Brussels](#)  
Global Covid-19 Country Response Repository, 23 June 2020
- [Joost Korte, DG EMPL Director General, European Commission](#)  
The Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI) and other related initiatives to improve the electronic exchange of social security data, 15 June 2020
- [Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President for An Economy that Works for People](#)  
[Paolo Gentiloni, Commissioner for Economy](#)  
[Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, European Commission](#)  
Economic Dialogue and exchange of views on the Country-specific recommendations of the 2020 European Semester, 27 May 2020 (jointly with ECON)

- [Helena Dalli, Commissioner for Equality, European Commission](#)  
Structured Dialogue, 26 May 2020
- [Jürgen Siebel, Executive Director of Cedefop](#)  
CEDEFOP activities regarding the labour market, vocational training and skills intelligence in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, 26 May
- [Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, European Commission](#)  
Updates of the European Commission work programme, the MFF proposal and the social dimension of the recovery plan, 26 May
- [Josip Aladrović, Croatian Minister of Labour and Pension System, Croatian Presidency](#)  
[Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, European Commission](#)  
[Jordi Curell Gotor, Interim Executive Director of the European Labour Authority](#)  
The situation of cross-border workers and free movement of workers, 26 May
- [Christa Sedlitzschek, Executive Director of EU-OSHA \(European Agency for Safety and Health at Work\)](#)  
The Agency's activities in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, 7 May 2020
- [Juan Menéndez-Valdés, Executive Director of Eurofound \(European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions\)](#)  
The agency's recent research on social and employment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, 7 May 2020

## Other files

- [Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States](#)
- [Enhanced cooperation between Public Employment Services](#)

## Policy department publications

- [Mitigating the employment and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic European and international policy recommendations](#) - June 2020
- [Employment and social situation in Germany](#) - April, 2020
- European initiative for minimum wages - *forthcoming*
- Skills and jobs - *forthcoming*
- The Child Guarantee - *forthcoming*
- Affordable Housing - *forthcoming*
- Social Impact Investment - *forthcoming*

# ENVI

## Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

### COVID-19 related files

- [Conduct of clinical trials with and supply of medicinal products for human use containing or consisting of genetically modified organisms intended to treat or prevent coronavirus disease \(ongoing\)](#)

To ensure that such clinical trials can start swiftly and without a prior environmental risk assessment and/or consent, in so far as there is a valid declaration of pandemic by the WHO, or if COVID-19 is declared an emergency situation.

- [Shortage of medicines - how to address an emerging problem \(associated with ITRE\) \(ongoing\)](#)
- [Emission limits and type-approval for internal combustion engines for non-road mobile machinery \(ongoing\)](#)  
Transitional provisions in order to address the impact of COVID-19 crisis.
- [Medical devices - dates of application of certain of its provisions \(completed\)](#)  
Defers by one year the application of the Regulation on medical devices. Also intended to address potential shortages of important medical devices in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

## Debates

- [Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organisation](#)  
The fight against COVID-19, including the Coronavirus Global Response, 25 June 2020
- [ENVI Health Working Group](#)  
The novel coronavirus outbreak - vaccine and treatment, and the resilience of the health care systems, 25 June 2020
- [Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, European Commission](#)  
An EU strategy for COVID-19 vaccines, 22 June 2020
- [European Commission representatives](#)  
The European Recovery Package and the link with the European Green Deal and the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, 16 June 2020
- [Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Commission](#)  
The Biodiversity strategy, 5 June
- [Janusz Wojciechowski, Commissioner for Agriculture, European Commission](#)  
The CAP reform and the European Green Deal, 4 June
- [European Commission representatives](#)  
Revised proposal on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, 4 June
- [Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, European Commission](#)  
The Farm to Fork Strategy and the Health Programme, 28 May
- [Guido Rasi, Executive Director of European Medicines Agency \(EMA\)](#)  
EMA activities on COVID-19 and prospects for the future, 18 May 2020
- [Guido Rasi, Executive Director of European Medicines Agency \(EMA\)](#)  
EMA activities on COVID-19 and prospects for the future, 12 May 2020
- [Adina Vălean, Commissioner for Transport](#)  
Sustainable mobility post COVID-19 and developments related to CORSIA, 11 May 2020
- [Commission representatives](#)  
Commission activities related to the development of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, 11 May 2020
- [Andrea Ammon, Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\)](#)  
Update on the COVID-19 situation, 4 May 2020
- [Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, European Commission](#)  
[Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner for Crisis Management, European Commission](#)  
COVID-19 and the EU-measures to tackle the pandemic, 21 April 2020
- [Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, European Commission](#)  
European Green Deal and on the European Climate Law

## Other files

- A chemicals strategy for sustainability - motion for a European Parliament resolution
- [Establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality](#)
- [Framework to facilitate sustainable investment \(jointly with ECON\)](#)

## Policy department publications

- [Medicine shortage in the EU during the novel coronavirus outbreak](#) - May 2020
- [Novel Coronavirus Outbreak](#) - April, 2020
- COVID-19 data collection and reporting - *forthcoming*
- Link between biodiversity loss and the increase of zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19 - *forthcoming*
- Ambient and indoor air pollution and vulnerability/resilience of our society against diseases such as COVID-19 - *forthcoming*
- Opportunities of post COVID-19 European recovery funds in transitioning towards circular and climate neutral economy - *forthcoming*
- The relation between zoonotic pandemics and the livestock sector, including fur production - *forthcoming*
- Access to medicines and medical devices related to the COVID-19 crisis - *forthcoming*

# ITRE

## Industry, Research and Energy

### Debates

- [Timo Pesonen, DG DEFIS Director General, European Commission](#)  
The impact of the Recovery plan for Europe on the Union's defence industry and space policy, 29 June 2020
- [Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, European Commission](#)  
The European recovery after COVID-19, 16 June 2020
- [European Commission representatives](#)  
The impact of the 'Recovery plan for Europe' on industry, digital, research and energy policies, 12 June 2020
- [Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market, European Commission](#)  
European recovery after COVID-19, 4 June 2020
- [Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy, European Commission](#)  
Energy-related aspects of European recovery after COVID-19, 19 May 2020
- [Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People, European Commission](#)  
European recovery after COVID-19, 15 May 2020
- [Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, European Commission](#)  
European recovery after COVID-19, 8 May 2020

- [Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth](#)  
[Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market, European Commission](#)  
The way forward following the adoption by plenary of a resolution on COVID-19, 24 April 2020

## Other files

- [A comprehensive European approach to energy storage](#)
- [Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\) 2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe \(associated with CULT\)](#)
- [The Digital Europe programme for the period 2021-2027](#)
- [The European Defence Fund](#)
- [The space programme of the Union and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme](#)
- [Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination](#)
- [Labelling of tyres with respect to fuel efficiency and other essential parameters](#)

## Policy department publications

- [National COVID-19 contact tracing apps](#) - May 2020
- [COVID-19: List of the measures taken in relation to the ITRE remit \(March-April 2020\)](#) - May 2020
- COVID-19: List of the measures taken in relation to the ITRE remit (May-June 2020) - *forthcoming*
- COVID-19 impact on EU industries - *forthcoming*

# IMCO

## Internal Market and Consumer Protection

### Debates

- [Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice, European Commission](#)  
The adapted work programme of the Commission following the COVID-19 outbreak, 8 June 2020
- [Paolo Gentiloni, Commissioner for Economy, European Commission](#)  
The EU response to the COVID-19 outbreak, 20 May 2020
- [Margarethe Vestager, Executive Vice President for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age, European Commission](#)  
The EU response to the COVID-19 outbreak, 4 May 2020
- [Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice, European Commission](#)  
The EU response to the COVID-19 outbreak, 14 April 2020
- [Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market, European Commission](#)  
The EU response to the COVID-19 outbreak, 2 April 2020

## Other files

- [Addressing product safety in the Single Market](#)
- [Digital Services Act: improving the functioning of the Single Market](#)
- [Addressing product safety in the Single Market](#)

## Policy department publications

- [Digital Services Act - a collection of studies](#) - June 2020
- [Artificial Intelligence - Opportunities and Challenges for the Internal Market and Consumer Protection](#) - June 2020
- The impact of Covid-19 on the Internal Market - workshop - *forthcoming*
- Legal obstacles to single market rules - *forthcoming*

# TRAN

## Transport and Tourism

### COVID-19 related files

- [Regulation establishing measures for a sustainable rail market in view of the COVID-19 pandemic \(ongoing\)](#)  
Complements the existing framework in order to allow national authorities and rail stakeholders to deal more easily with a number of negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Specific and temporary measures in view of COVID-19 outbreak and concerning the validity of certain certificates, licences and authorisations and the postponement of certain periodic checks and training in certain areas of transport legislation \(completed\)](#)  
Lays down specific and temporary measures on the validity period of certain certificates, licences and authorisations and the postponement of certain periodic checks and training in the area of road, rail and inland waterways transport and maritime security.
- [Provision of port services and financial transparency of ports: enabling managing bodies or competent authorities to provide flexibility in respect of the levying of port infrastructure charges in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak \(completed\)](#)  
Makes it possible for the managing body of the port or the competent authority not to levy nor suspend nor reduce the port infrastructure charge or to defer a payment of the port infrastructure charge due for the period from 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2020.
- [Common rules for the operation of air services in the Community in view of the COVID-19 pandemic \(completed\)](#)  
Proposes temporary changes to a number of aviation-related laws following potential financial or other problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Interoperability of the rail system within the EU and Railway safety \(4th Railway Package\): extension of the transposition period \(completed\)](#)  
Proposes to postpone the deadline for complying with certain provisions by three months from 16 June 2020 to 16 September 2020.

- [Allocation of slots at Community airports: common rules](#)  
Protects the 'grandfathering rights' of air-carriers for slots not used during the period when the aviation market has been most affected by the outbreak of COVID-19.

## Debates

- [Henrik Hololei, Director-General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission](#)  
Transport aspects of the EU Recovery Plan and revised MFF, 8 June 2020
- [European Commission representatives](#)  
Package on tourism and transport in 2020 and beyond, 28 May 2020
- [Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, European Commission](#)  
Future of transport sector in the framework of the Green Deal, 11 May 2020
- [Commission representatives](#)  
COVID-19 relief measures related to transport, 11 May 2020
- [Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market, European Commission](#)  
Commission's response to the COVID-19 crisis in the tourism sector, 21 April 2020

## Policy department publications

- Sustainable and smart urban transport - *forthcoming*
- Transport infrastructure in depopulated and low-density areas - *forthcoming*
- Emerging technologies driving the transformation of the transport sector and state of play and future actions necessary for transport infrastructure - *forthcoming*
- Relaunching transport and tourism in the EU after COVID-19 - *forthcoming*

# REGI

## Regional Development

### COVID-19 related files

- [Exceptional additional resources and implementing arrangements under the Investment for growth and jobs goal \(REACT-EU\) \(ongoing\)](#)  
To provide assistance for fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy
- [Investments in the health care systems of the Member States and in other sectors of their economies in response to the COVID-19 outbreak - Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative \(completed\)](#)  
Introduces the "Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative" to promote investments by mobilising available cash reserves in the European Structural and Investments Funds.
- [Financial assistance to Member States and countries negotiating their accession to the Union seriously affected by a major public health emergency \(completed\)](#)  
Extends the scope of the EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF) to include major public health emergencies.

- [Specific measures to provide exceptional flexibility for the use of the European Structural and Investments Funds in response to the COVID-19 outbreak \(completed\)](#)  
Allows 100% EU co-financing rate for relevant operational programmes for the accounting year 2020-2021, the transfer of allocations for the year 2020 without limitations between the ERDF and the ESF, and the Cohesion Fund under the Investment for Growth and Jobs.

## Debates

- [Elisa Ferreira, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission](#)  
Recovery plan, the new MFF proposal and the future of cohesion policy, 8 June 2020
- [Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice President for an Economy that Works for People](#)  
[Elisa Ferreira, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission](#)  
The EU's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, 20 April 2020
- [The situation of the regions facing the COVID-19 pandemic and specific measures to provide exceptional flexibility for the use of the European Structural and Investments Funds in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, 8 April 2020](#)

## Other files

- [Establishing the Just Transition Fund](#)

## Policy department publications

- Cohesion policy measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic - *forthcoming*
- EU Cohesion Policy in non-urban areas - *forthcoming*
- EU lagging regions - *forthcoming*

# AGRI

## Agriculture and Rural Development

### COVID-19 related files

- [Specific measures to provide exceptional temporary support under EAFRD in response to the COVID-19 outbreak \(ongoing\)](#)  
Measures to further support the agricultural and food sectors most affected by the coronavirus crisis. Allows Member States to use rural development funds to compensate farmers and small agri-food businesses.
- [Derogation in respect of the year 2020 as regards the fruit and vegetables sector and as regards the wine sector in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic \(completed\)](#)
- [Temporary exceptional measures derogating from certain provisions to address the market disturbance in the fruit and vegetables and wine sectors caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and measures linked to it \(ongoing\)](#)

## Debates

- [Johannes Hahn, Commissioner responsible for Budget and Administration, European Commission](#)  
The new MFF proposal and the recovery plan after the outbreak of COVID-19 with special focus on the future CAP and agricultural matters, 2 June 2020
- [Wolfgang Bartscher, DG AGRI Director-General, European Commission](#), 26 May 2020
- [Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, European Commission](#)  
Agriculture sector after the COVID-19 outbreak, 11 May 2020
- [Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, European Commission](#)  
Agriculture sector after the COVID-19 outbreak, 7 May 2020
- [Janusz Wojciechowski, Commissioner for Agriculture, European Commission](#)  
Exceptional measures to support the agri-food sector – Coronavirus, 30 April 2020
- [Janusz Wojciechowski, Commissioner for Agriculture, European Commission](#)  
COVID-19 consequences in the agricultural sector, 15 April 2020

## Other files

- [Transitional provisions for the support by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development \(EAFRD\) and by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund \(EAGF\) in the year 2021](#)

## Policy department publications

- Preliminary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on European Agriculture: a sector-based analysis of food systems and market resilience - *forthcoming*

# PECH

## Fisheries

### COVID-19 related files

- [Specific measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector \(completed\)](#)  
Mitigates the impact of COVID-19 outbreak in fishery and aquaculture sectors, amending the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and Common Market Organisation Regulation.

## Debates

- [Urgent measures to tackle socio-economic consequences of Covid-19 crisis for the fisheries sector, 7 April 2020](#)

## Other files

- [Fisheries Control](#)

## Policy department publications

- Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on EU fisheries and aquaculture - *forthcoming*

# CULT

## Culture and Education

### Debates

- [Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth](#)
- [Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market, European Commission](#)  
The EU's short- and medium-term response to the COVID-19 crisis, 4 May 2020

## Policy department publications

- EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward - *forthcoming*
- Shaping digital education policy - *forthcoming*
- Education and Youth in post-COVID-19 Europe – Crisis effects and policy recommendations - *forthcoming*
- Cultural and Creative Sectors in post-COVID-19 Europe – Crisis effects and policy recommendations - *forthcoming*

# JURI

## Legal Affairs

### COVID-19 related files

- [Temporary measures concerning the general meetings of European companies \(SE\) and of European Cooperative Societies \(SCE\) \(completed\)](#)  
Following confinement and social-distancing measures, this temporary derogation allows SEs and SCEs to hold their general meetings within 12 months of the end of the financial year, but no later than 31 December 2020.

## Debates

- [Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice-President for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age, European Commission](#)  
Structured dialogue, 23 June 2020
- [Věra Jourová, Vice-President for Values and Transparency, European Commission](#)  
Structured dialogue, 25 May 2020
- [Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market, European Commission](#)  
Structured dialogue, 25 May 2020
- [Maroš Šefčovič, European Commission Vice-President for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight, European Commission](#)  
Structured dialogue, 25 May 2020
- [Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice, European Commission](#)  
Questions relating to the current COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, 7 May 2020

## Policy department publications

- How corporate social responsibility (CSR) is implemented within EU Company law - *forthcoming*

# LIBE

## Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

### COVID-19 related files

- [Situation of the Schengen area following the COVID-19 outbreak \(completed\)](#)  
Draft European Parliament resolution on the situation in the Schengen area following the COVID-19 outbreak.

## Debates

- [Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice, European Commission](#)  
[Council Presidency, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe \(PACE\), European Networks of Councils for the Judiciary \(ENCJ\), EU Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA\)](#)  
Establishment of an EU Mechanism on Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights, 29 June 2020
- [Manuel Navarrete, Head of the European Counter Terrorism Centre, Europol](#)  
European Union terrorism situation and trend report (TE-SAT) 2020, 23 June 2020
- [Věra Jourová, Vice-President for Values and Transparency](#)  
Structured dialogue, 15 June 2020
- [European Commission, EEAS, UNHCR, International Organization for Migration, Sea Eye](#)  
Follow-up on the situation of refugees and migrants in the Central Mediterranean, 15 June 2020

- [Helena Dalli, Commissioner for Equality, European Commission](#)  
Anti-discrimination policy in times of COVID-19, in particular on the situation of LGBTI, 11 June 2020
- [Krum Garkov, Executive Director, eu-LISA](#)  
The impact of COVID-19 on the activities of the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA), 11 June 2020
- [Helena Dalli, Commissioner for Equality, European Commission](#)  
[Michael O'Flaherty, Executive Director, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA\)](#)  
Report on the implementation of National Roma Integration Strategies: combating negative attitudes towards people with Romani background in Europe, 4 June 2020
- [Alexis Goosdeel, Director, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction \(EMCDDA\)](#)  
The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the drugs situation in Europe, 4 June 2020
- [Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe](#)  
Presentation on the COVID-19: Toolkit for Member States - Respecting democracy, rule of law and human rights in the framework of the COVID-19 sanitary crisis, 25 May 2020
- [José Igreja Matos, President of the European Association of Judges](#)  
[Joanna Hetnarowicz-Sikora, Member of the National Board of IUSTITIA, Polish judges association](#)  
Determination of a clear risk of a serious breach by the Republic of Poland of the rule of law, 25 May 2020
- [Catherine De Bolle, Executive Director of Europol](#)  
Europol's work in combatting COVID-19 pandemic-induced criminal behaviour, 18 May 2020
- [Nina Gregori, Executive Director of EASO](#)  
EASO operational support to Member States in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, notably in Greece, 18 May 2020
- [Tanja Fajon, Chair of the LIBE Working Group on Schengen Scrutiny](#)  
[Terezija Gras, State Secretary for European and International Affairs, Ministry of the Interior \(Croatian Presidency\)](#)  
[Monique Pariat, Director-General, DG HOME, European Commission](#)  
Internal border controls within the Schengen area, focusing on the those introduced by most Members States in reaction to the COVID-19 crisis, and the way forward in gradually returning to a fully functioning Schengen area, 12 May 2020
- [Ylva Johansson, Commissioner for Home Affairs, European Commission](#)  
Home affairs issues in COVID-19 times, including Schengen, asylum and migration and security issues, 7 May 2020
- [Wojciech Wiewiórowski, European Data Protection Supervisor](#)  
[Andrea Jelinek, Chair of the European Data Protection Board](#)  
The use of personal data in the fight against COVID-19, 7 May 2020
- [Representatives of UNHCR, NGOs, Frontex and the European Commission;](#)  
The situation in Libya and on the Central Mediterranean Route, given the deteriorating situation of refugees and migrants in Libya because of the Covid-19 crisis, 27 April 2020
- [Zbigniew Ziobro, Minister of Justice, Republic of Poland](#)  
[Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice, European Commission](#)  
[Irena Andrassy, Ambassador, Croatian Presidency](#)  
[Adam Bodnar, Polish Commissioner for Human Rights](#)  
The situation of the Rule of Law in Poland, 23 April 2020

- [Sophie In't Veld, Chair of the LIBE Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group \(DRFMG\)](#)  
Reporting on the activities of the LIBE Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group activities, 23 April
- [Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice, European Commission](#)  
Assessment of emergency measures taken in all Member States in the context of COVID-19 outbreak including of the situation in Hungary and their implications on democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights, 23 April 2020
- [Greek Ministers, European Commission, Council Presidency, EBCG and FRA](#)  
The situation at the Union's external borders in Greece, given the tension at the Greek-Turkish borders and following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2 April 2020

## Other files

- [Automated data exchange with regard to dactyloscopic data in the United Kingdom](#)
- [Determination of a clear risk of a serious breach by the Republic of Poland of the rule of law](#)
- [Community statistics on migration and international protection](#)

## Policy department publications

- [The impact of COVID-19 on Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights \(Monitoring Group Democracy, Rule of law, Fundamental Rights\)](#) - April 2020
- Safety of journalists and the fighting of corruption in the EU - *forthcoming*
- Hate speech and hate crime in the EU and the evaluation of national approaches to online content regulation - *forthcoming*
- Artificial intelligence in law enforcement and criminal justice. Impact on fundamental rights - *forthcoming*
- Protecting and strengthening freedom of association, civil society and NGOs in Europe - *forthcoming*
- State of play of Schengen Governance. How the Schengen evaluation mechanism has performed in its first multiannual programme - *forthcoming*
- How the Schengen internal border controls introduced in response to COVID-19 can be assessed - *forthcoming*
- COVID-19 State(s) of emergency and emergency powers in EU Member States: Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights requirements - *forthcoming*

# AFCO

## Constitutional Affairs

### COVID-19 related files

- [European citizens' initiative \(ongoing\)](#)  
Temporary measures concerning the time limits for the collection, verification and examination stages in view of the COVID-19 outbreak.

- The situation in the Schengen area following the COVID-19 outbreak - motion for a European Parliament resolution.

## Debates

- [The Conference on the Future of Europe and the role of the European Parliament](#), 8 June 2020
- [Nikolina Brnjac, Ministre délégué, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia](#)  
Outcome of the Croatian Council Presidency, 8 June 2020
- [The Conference on the Future of Europe and the role of the European Parliament](#), 26 May 2020

## Policy department publications

- [Possible avenues for further political integration – a more democratic and effective Union](#) - May 2020
- Europeanisation of the European public space - *forthcoming*
- Institutions and foreign interferences - *forthcoming*

# FEMM

## Women's Rights and Gender Equality

### COVID-19 related files

- [The gender perspective in the COVID-19 crisis and post-crisis period \(forthcoming\)](#)  
Report dealing with all facets of gender issues related to the COVID-19 crisis and post-crisis, including the increase of domestic violence during confinement, restricted access to contraception, safe abortion, maternal health, and healthcare workers.

## Debates

- [Gender Mainstreaming Network](#)  
Gender Mainstreaming in the new MFF and Recovery Fund with regards to COVID19, 25 June 2020
- [Helena Dalli, European Commissioner for Equality, European Commission](#)  
EU Strategy on Gender Equality and EU measures taken against the COVID-19 crisis and their gender aspects, 25 May 2020

## Other files

- [Reducing inequalities with a special focus on in-work poverty](#)
- [The EU Strategy for Gender Equality](#)
- [Gender Equality in EU's foreign and security policy](#)

## Policy department publications

- [Violence against women: psychological violence and coercive control in the EU](#) - April 2020
- Analysing legislation of the Member States related to the violence against women and domestic violence - *forthcoming*
- Istanbul Convention GREVIO reports and COVID-19 responses linked to violence against women - *forthcoming*
- Precarious work from a gender and intersectionality perspective and ways to combat it - *forthcoming*
- The gender perspective in the Covid-19 crisis and post-crisis period - *forthcoming*
- The situation of single parents in the EU - *forthcoming*

## PETI

### Petitions

#### COVID-19 related files

- [The rights of persons with intellectual disabilities in the COVID-19 crisis - motion for a European Parliament resolution \(ongoing\)](#)

#### Debates

- [Petition by M.A. \(British\)](#)  
Vaccination against Covid-19, 16 June 2020
- [Petition by Josef Fradler \(Austrian\)](#)  
Customs duties on beef due to COVID-19, 16 June 2020
- [Petition by Sergio Santamaria Santiagosa \(Spanish\)](#)  
Limitation of the information rights during the Corona Virus crisis, 16 June 2020
- [Petition by María Itamar Rodríguez Díez \(Spanish\)](#)  
The management of cancelled flights and trips by airline carriers and travel agencies during the COVID-19 outbreak, 19 May 2020
- [Petition by Antonio Martino \(Italian\)](#)  
The exemption of VAT for goods and services donated in the fight against and management of the pandemic due to COVID-19, 19 May 2020
- [Petition by Helen Portal \(Luxembourgish\)](#)  
Defend the rights of people with intellectual disabilities and their families in times of COVID-19 emergency, 19 May 2020
- [Petition by Jonathan Beedell \(British\)](#)  
Help to protect the residents and asylum seekers from COVID-19 in the Aegean islands, 30 April 2020
- [Petition by T.M.F. \(German\)](#)  
Travel restrictions imposed by the Czech Republic, Poland, Austria and Denmark because of COVID-19, 30 April 2020

- [Petition by Virginia Fiume \(Italian\), on behalf of Eumans and others](#)  
Empowering the EU to address global challenges, from COVID-19 to social, economic and climate crises, 30 April 2020
- [Petition by J.M.B. \(Spanish\)](#)  
The coronavirus crisis, 30 April 2020

## Other files

- [International and domestic parental abduction of EU children in Japan - motion for a European Parliament resolution \(ongoing\)](#)

## Policy department publications

- Obstacles to participation in local and European elections, inside the EU - *forthcoming*
- The new EU Disability Strategy 2020-2030 - *forthcoming*

# BUDG

## Budgets

### COVID-19 related files

- [Draft amending budget no 6 to the general budget 2020 Reflecting the launch of the recovery plan for Europe \(ongoing\)](#)  
Aiming to provide EUR 11 540 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 6 540 million in payment appropriations in the year 2020 to reflect the impact of the Commission's legislative proposals in the framework of the economic recovery package.
- [Multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 \(ongoing\)](#)  
Increase the ceilings in commitment appropriations for the year 2020 for 'Competitiveness for growth and jobs', 'Economic, social and territorial cohesion', and 'Global Europe'.
- [Multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 \(completed\)](#)  
Activates the Emergency Support Instrument and reinforces the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (rescEU)
- [A safety net to protect the beneficiaries of EU programmes: setting up an MFF contingency plan \(completed\)](#)
- [Assistance to Greece in response to increased migration pressure - Immediate measures in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak - Support to post-earthquake reconstruction in Albania \(completed\)](#)
- [Emergency support to Member States and further reinforcement of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism/rescEU to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak \(completed\)](#)
- [Mobilisation of the Contingency Margin in 2020 to provide emergency assistance to Member States and further reinforce the Union Civil Protection Mechanism/rescEU in response to the COVID-19 outbreak \(completed\)](#)
- [Mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument for 2020 to be used for migration, refugee inflows and security threats; immediate measures in the framework of the COVID-19 outbreak; and reinforcement of the European Public Prosecutor's Office \(completed\)](#)

- EU Budget 2020 transfer requests:
  - Emergency Aid Reserve to enhance health, water, sanitation and hygiene services to prevent the further spread of the pandemic, particularly in crowded settings, including refugee camps/settlements;
  - Union Civil Protection Mechanism for EU citizens' repatriation flights;
  - The Humanitarian Aid Instrument to reinforce the EU's response to the severe COVID-19 crisis in Iran through humanitarian aid channels.

## Debates

- [Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources, European Commission](#)  
The Commission's Draft Budget 2021, 24 June 2020
- [Negotiations on the next MFF, own resources and recovery plan](#), 22 June 2020
- [The role of the European Investment Bank in the EU response to the COVID-19 outbreak and the post-crisis recovery](#)  
Public hearing - jointly with ECON, 26 May 2020

## Other files

- [Guidelines for the 2021 Budget - Section III \(Commission\)](#)
- [Estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2021 – European Parliament](#)

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## Budgetary Control

### Debates

- [Helga Berger, candidate nominated by Austria as Members of the Court of Auditors](#)  
Hearing, 25 June 2020
- [Implementation of EU funds: towards more effective management and control systems under shared management](#)  
Public Hearing, 11 June 2020

### Other files

- [Control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank - annual report 2018](#)
- [Protection of the European Union's financial interests - combating fraud - annual report 2018](#)

# Delegations

## of the European Parliament

- [Delegation for relations with the countries of Central America \(D-CAM\)](#)  
The state of play in Central America regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, 25 June 2020
- [Delegation to the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee \(D-CL\)](#)  
The situation in Chile, with special reference to the constitutional referendum and the measures to tackle COVID-19, 25 June 2020
- [Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly \(DLAT\)](#)  
The impact of COVID-19 pandemic for EU-LAC relations, 22 June 2020
- [Delegation for relations with Maghreb countries \(D-MAG\)](#)  
Meeting with EEAS on the situation in Libya in the context of COVID-19, EU Operation Irini and the UN-led military and security negotiations of the 5+5 Joint Military, 18 June 2020

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