

Newsletter

12-13 November 2014

Brussels plenary session

Commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989

MEPs will commemorate the 25th anniversary of citizens peacefully tearing down the Berlin Wall and paving the way for the German reunification. On Wednesday 12 November, European Parliament President Martin Schulz will deliver a statement after opening the plenary session at 15.00, followed by a round of political group speakers.

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Corporate tax: group leaders to call for debate on fighting tax avoidance

Political group leaders are to ask at the opening of the session that reports of secret deals giving preferential tax treatment to multinational firms like IKEA and Amazon in Luxembourg be added to the agenda for a debate with Commission and Council on Wednesday, after the election of the Vice-President. The case has become known as "Lux leaks", because it was based on thousands of pages of documents leaked to the press.

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MEPs set to back EU-Moldova association deal

The proposed EU-Moldova Association Agreement is likely to win MEPs' backing in a debate and vote on Thursday. The Foreign Affairs Committee recommended by 44 votes to 3 that Parliament grant its consent to the deal, which was signed on 27 June and ratified by Moldova on 2 July.

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Parliament to elect a new Vice-President

Parliament will elect a new Vice-President on Wednesday afternoon to replace Corina CREȚU, who was elected European Commissioner for regional policy.

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EU auditors to table report on how EU funds were spent in 2013

The Luxembourg-based European Court of Auditors (ECA) presents its assessment of how EU countries spent the bulk of EU funds in 2013 to Parliament as a whole on Wednesday. The presentation marks the start of the 2013 "discharge" exercise in which Parliament vets spending. The overall payments error rate in 2013 was 4.7%, slightly down on 2012.

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Restarting stalled Northern Ireland peace process – debate and vote

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<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2014-11-12>

Further information

[Draft agenda](#)
[Follow the plenary live](#)
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[EP Audiovisual website](#)
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Contacts

Andrew BOREHAM

Press Unit

☎ (+32) 2 28 42319 (BXL)

☎ (+33) 3 881 74005 (STR)

📱 (+32) 498 98 34 01

✉ andrew.boreham@europarl.europa.eu

Commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989

MEPs will commemorate the 25th anniversary of citizens peacefully tearing down the Berlin Wall and paving the way for the German reunification. On Wednesday 12 November, European Parliament President Martin Schulz will deliver a statement after opening the plenary session at 15.00, followed by a round of political group speakers.

In the aftermath of the fall of the Berlin Wall on the night of 9 to 10 November 1989, the European Parliament was the first European Community institution to advocate a possible German reunification.

Procedure: Statements by the President and political group speakers

Debate: Wednesday, 12 November

#FalloftheWall25

Further information

[MEPs discuss their memories of the fall of the Berlin Wall \(08.11.2014\)](#)

[Verbatim of EP plenary debate with Kohl and Mitterrand \(22.11.1989\)](#)

[Video and images from the Berlin Wall fall](#)

[EP Live](#)

[EbS+ \(12.11.2014\)](#)

Corporate tax: group leaders to call for debate on fighting tax avoidance

Political group leaders are to ask at the opening of the session that reports of secret deals giving preferential tax treatment to multinational firms like IKEA and Amazon in Luxembourg be added to the agenda for a debate with Commission and Council on Wednesday, after the election of the Vice-President. The case has become known as “Lux leaks”, because it was based on thousands of pages of documents leaked to the press.

The Commission announced last month that it was launching an investigation into tax deals reached between companies and various European governments, including Luxembourg.

Procedure: Commission and Council statements (without resolution)

Debate: Wednesday, 12 November

#luxleaks

Further information

[EP Live](#)

[MEPs call for measures to fight tax fraud, tax evasion and tax havens \(21.05.2013\)](#)

MEPs set to back EU-Moldova association deal

The proposed EU-Moldova Association Agreement is likely to win MEPs' backing in a debate and vote on Thursday. The Foreign Affairs Committee recommended by 44 votes to 3 that Parliament grant its consent to the deal, which was signed on 27 June and ratified by Moldova on 2 July.

The deal's trade clauses, and many of its political ones, have applied provisionally since 1 September. The rest will take effect once they have been ratified by all parties, including the European Parliament and EU member states.

The association agreement is to pave the way for "deep political association and economic integration" between the EU and Moldova.

In a separate resolution, drawn up by Pietras Auštrevičius (ALDE, LT), MEPs are expected to raise the issue of Transnistria - which declared its independence from Moldova in 1990 but which the EU and the international community still consider an integral part of Moldova - and the Russian factor in relations with Moldova, ahead of its 30 November parliamentary elections.

Procedure: Consent

Procedure Code: [2014/0083\(NLE\)](#)

Debate: Thursday, 13 November

Vote: Thursday, 13 November

Press conference: Thursday, 13 November at 14:00

#Moldova

Further information

[Draft report on the EU-Moldova Association Agreement \(consent\)](#)

[Draft resolution on the EU-Moldova Association Agreement \(accompanying resolution\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Pietras Auštrevičius \(ALDE, LT\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Text of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement](#)

[EU-Moldova relations](#)

Parliament to elect a new Vice-President

Parliament will elect a new Vice-President on Wednesday afternoon to replace Corina CREȚU, who was elected European Commissioner for regional policy.

Vice-Presidents are elected by secret ballot (Rules 15 and 17). To be elected, a candidate must win an absolute majority of the votes cast.

If no candidate obtains an absolute majority, a second ballot is held under the same conditions.

Should a third ballot be necessary, a relative majority suffices. In the event of a tie, the oldest candidate is declared elected.

The newly-elected Vice-President takes the place of his or her predecessor in the order of precedence. Ms Crețu was the eighth of the European Parliament's 14 Vice-Presidents.

Procedure: Election of Vice-President

Vote: Wednesday, 12 November

Further information

[Rules of procedure - Rule 17: Election of Vice-Presidents](#)

EU auditors to table report on how EU funds were spent in 2013

The Luxembourg-based European Court of Auditors (ECA) presents its assessment of how EU countries spent the bulk of EU funds in 2013 to Parliament as a whole on Wednesday. The presentation marks the start of the 2013 "discharge" exercise in which Parliament vets spending. The overall payments error rate in 2013 was 4.7%, slightly down on 2012.

EU accounts should measure the achievements of EU-funded projects, and not just payment errors, MEPs stressed when the ECA first presented its evaluation to the Budgetary Control Committee on 5 November. 80% of the EU budget is spent in and by the member states.

Procedure: Budget discharge

Procedure Code: [2014/2867\(RSP\)](#)

Debate: Wednesday, 12 November

[@EUAuditorsECA#EUauditorsAnnualReport](#)

Further information

[Press release on committee vote \(05.11.2014\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Ingeborg Grässle \(EPP, DE\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[The ECA annual report for 2013](#)

Restarting stalled Northern Ireland peace process – debate and vote

MEPs are set to call on all parties to restart the Northern Ireland peace process, which stalled in December 2013 over issues such as welfare spending, flags and emblems, protests and parading, in a debate on Wednesday and resolution to be voted on Thursday.

MEPs are likely to stress the need to settle these issues, so as to ensure that Northern Ireland's democratic institutions work, and also to combat unemployment and low pay there, so as to prevent violent, criminal and anti-social activity from undermining the peace process.

European Parliament President Martin Schulz urged all parties to refrain from “dangerous mutual provocation”, and join a new round of talks launched on 16 October to break the stalemate, in his opening address to Parliament's October plenary session.

Procedure: Commission statement (with resolution)

Debate: Wednesday, 12 November

Vote: Thursday, 13 November

Further information

[Draft resolution on the Northern Ireland peace process](#)

[Opening: Schulz warns against attempts to disrupt Northern Ireland peace process \(20.10.2014\)](#)

[EP Research: The European Union and Northern Ireland](#)

Cyprus' exclusive economic zone: MEPs to debate tensions with Turkey

MEPs are likely to condemn Turkey's "maritime survey" activities as encroaching upon the Republic of Cyprus' exclusive economic zone and its sovereign right to explore the natural resources within it, in a debate with the Commission on Wednesday.

The draft resolution, to be voted on Thursday, says Turkey should immediately withdraw its vessels "operating in and around Cyprus' exclusive economic zone" and stop its "provocative actions".

Procedure: Statement (with resolution) by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Procedure Code: [2014/2921\(RSP\)](#)

Debate: Wednesday, 12 November

Vote: Thursday, 13 November

#Cyprus #Turkey

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Draft joint resolution](#)

Humanitarian crisis in South Sudan

An eruption of hostilities and subsequent humanitarian crisis in South Sudan that have uprooted more than 1.5 million people will be debated by MEPs with the Commission on Wednesday afternoon. MEPs will vote on a resolution on Thursday morning.

Procedure: Statement by the EU's High Representative on Foreign Affairs (with resolution)

Debate: Wednesday, 12 November

Vote: Thursday, 13 November

#SouthSudan

Further information

[Draft resolution on South Sudan \(will soon be available here\)](#)

[United Nations' news article on South Sudan \(05.11.2014\)](#)

EU job-search aid for former workers at Greek retailer and Irish jeweller

Parliament votes Thursday on two applications for EU aid worth €8.8 million to help find or create new jobs for workers made redundant by fashion retailer Sprider Stores in Greece and jewellery maker Andersen Ireland Limited in Ireland. The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) aid applications approved by Parliament's Budgets Committee and the Council of Ministers.

Procedure: Budgetary

Procedure Code: [2014/2098/\(BUD\)](#)

[2014/2107\(BUD\)](#)

Votes: Thursday, 13 november

#EGF #Ireland #Greece

Further information

[Draft report on EGF aid to Irish company Andersen Ireland](#)

[Profile of Rapporteur: Ivan Štefanec \(EPP/ SK\)](#)

[Procedure File](#)

[Draft report on aid to Greek company Sprider Stores](#)

[Profile of Rapporteur: Victor Negrescu \(S&D/ RO\)](#)

[Procedure File](#)

[The Commission's EGF page](#)

[EP think tank backgrounder](#)