

Newsletter 14-17 July 2014 Strasbourg plenary session

Parliament to vote on Jean-Claude Juncker for Commission President

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MEPs to quiz EU Commission on transatlantic trade talks

EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht will brief the new Parliament Tuesday on progress in Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) talks with the USA. MEPs are set to ask how the Commission is meeting the conditions set by Parliament when it approved the opening of the TTIP talks over a year ago.

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Tackling youth unemployment

Recommendations on how to tackle youth unemployment in the EU will be voted at noon on Wednesday, following a debate with Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner László Andor.

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Maternity leave: MEPs to question Commission plans to withdraw EU directive

Plans to withdraw a draft EU directive on maternity leave, after four years' deadlock in the Council, will be debated on Tuesday in the light of EU Commission and Council statements. MEPs amended the first draft in October 2010 to extend maternity leave from 14 to 20 weeks on full pay and introduce two weeks' paternity leave.

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Vote on Lithuania's bid to join the euro

Lithuania's bid to join the Eurozone next year will be debated by MEPs on Tuesday and put to a vote on Wednesday. Parliament's draft resolution, which first needs to be approved by the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee on Monday, "endorses the adoption of the euro by Lithuania on 1 January 2015", as advocated by the European Commission and confirmed by the European Council on 27 June.

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Four fresh Commissioners to replace those who left to become MEPs

Four candidate EU Commissioners, nominated to replace those who left to become MEPs, will be given committee hearings on Monday. The four, who are to serve for the rest of the Commission's current term, are Jyrki Katainen (Finland), Ferdinando Nelli Feroci (Italy) Martine Reicherts (Luxembourg) and Jacek Dominik (Poland). The full house will vote on their appointments on Wednesday morning. 11

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<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2014-07-14>

Further information

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Parliament to vote on Jean-Claude Juncker for Commission President

Parliament is set to vote by secret ballot on the appointment of Jean-Claude Juncker as European Commission President on Tuesday at 12.30, following a debate with the political group leaders and MEPs, starting at 10.00.

Mr Juncker, a former Prime Minister of Luxembourg and Eurogroup chairman, was elected the EPP candidate for Commission President before the European elections.

So when the EPP again became the biggest group in Parliament, Mr Juncker was first in line to succeed José Manuel Barroso.

The European Council officially nominated Mr Juncker for the job on 27 June, with 26 countries in favour and two against. He now needs the backing of a qualified majority (376 votes) in Parliament.

Mr Juncker presented his priorities in hearings with Parliament's various political groups on 8 and 9 July, with a view to building support for his political programme..

On Tuesday morning he will take the floor in plenary session to make a statement, before a final pre-vote debate with the political group leaders.

Commission President election procedure

The European Commission President is elected by Parliament on the proposal of the European Council, which must take account of the election results and consult the new Parliament before making its nomination(s).

Procedure: Election of Commission President

Debate: Tuesday, 15 July at 10:00

Vote: Tuesday, 15 July at 12:30

Press conference: President Schulz and Jean-Claude Juncker after the vote, at about 13.30 (tb)

#JunckerEU #EU_Commission

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Rules of Procedure - election of the Commission President](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

MEPs to quiz EU Commission on transatlantic trade talks

EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht will brief the new Parliament Tuesday on progress in Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) talks with the USA. MEPs are set to ask how the Commission is meeting the conditions set by Parliament when it approved the opening of the TTIP talks over a year ago.

The plenary debate will coincide with the 6th round of the TTIP negotiations, to be held in Brussels from 14 to 18 July.

Procedure: Commission statement (without resolution)

Procedure code: 2014/2714(RSP)

Debate: Tuesday, 15 July

#TTIP #trade

Further information

[Press Release on EU/US trade talks: keep Parliament on board, MEPs warn \(23.05.2013\)](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

Tackling youth unemployment

Recommendations on how to tackle youth unemployment in the EU will be voted at noon on Wednesday, following a debate with Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner László Andor.

These recommendations will be the new Parliament's first effort to address the persistent problem of high unemployment among people aged below 26, all over Europe, but especially in crisis-hit countries.

In 2013 the previous Parliament passed two youth unemployment resolutions, one urging EU member states to make it easier for young people to move to jobs or training and the other calling for EU support and quality standards for traineeships and apprenticeships.

Parliament also amended European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) rules to allow temporary aid to be granted to young people who are not in employment, education or training, provided that they come from regions hit by redundancies.

Procedure: Resolution on topical subjects 2014/2713(RSP)

Debate and vote: Wednesday, 16 July

#youth #employment

Further information

[Video recording of debate \(click on 16.07.2013\)](#)

[Press release on resolution on Youth guarantee scheme \(11.09.2013\)](#)

[Press release on EGF \(11.12.2013\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

Maternity leave: MEPs to question Commission plans to withdraw EU directive

Plans to withdraw a draft EU directive on maternity leave, after four years' deadlock in the Council, will be debated on Tuesday in the light of EU Commission and Council statements. MEPs amended the first draft in October 2010 to extend maternity leave from 14 to 20 weeks on full pay and introduce two weeks' paternity leave.

The European Commission's initial proposal would have extended paid maternity leave from 14 to 18 weeks.

Paternity leave

Parliament amended the initial proposal to entitle fathers to at least two weeks' paternity leave, on full pay, within the maternity leave period.

MEPs also added clauses to ban the dismissal of pregnant workers at any time from the start of a pregnancy to at least 6 months after the end of the maternity leave and to protect the health and safety of pregnant women at work.

Background

In October 2008, the Commission proposed to review the current legislation (Directive 92/85), as part of the "work-life balance" package, based on ILO Maternity Protection Convention of 2000. In October 2010 the European Parliament closed its first reading and submitted the amended legislation to the Council.

The withdrawal has been announced in the Commission Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT).

Procedure: Council and Commission statement (without resolution)

Procedure Code: [COD\(2008\)0193](#)

Debate: Tuesday, 15 July

#maternityleave

Further information

[Amended proposal on maternity leave - adopted text \(20.10.2010\)](#)

[Press release \(20.10.2014\)](#)

[Background note \(15.10.2010\)](#)

[Background note: FAQs on the health and safety of pregnant workers \(23.2.2010\)](#)

[Impact studies on the costs and benefits of maternity and paternity leave](#)

[Questions and Answers on Maternity and paternity leave \(6.10.2010\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

Vote on Lithuania's bid to join the euro

Lithuania's bid to join the Eurozone next year will be debated by MEPs on Tuesday and put to a vote on Wednesday. Parliament's draft resolution, which first needs to be approved by the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee on Monday, "endorses the adoption of the euro by Lithuania on 1 January 2015", as advocated by the European Commission and confirmed by the European Council on 27 June.

The resolution was drafted by Werner Langen (EPP, DE). Lithuania's euro plan is expected to get a final go-ahead from the General Affairs Council on 23 July.

Lithuania is to become the 19th member of the Eurozone, after Latvia (2014), Estonia (2011), Slovakia (2009), Cyprus and Malta (2008), Slovenia (2007), Greece (2001), and Belgium, Germany, France, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland (1999).

Procedure: Consultation

Procedure Code: 2014/0170(NLE)

Debate: Tuesday, 15 July

Vote: Wednesday, 16 July

#euro #Lithuania

Further information

[Draft resolution on the adoption by Lithuania of the euro on 1 January 2015](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Werner Langen \(EPP, DE\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

Four fresh Commissioners to replace those who left to become MEPs

Four candidate EU Commissioners, nominated to replace those who left to become MEPs, will be given committee hearings on Monday. The four, who are to serve for the rest of the Commission's current term, are Jyrki Katainen (Finland), Ferdinando Nelli Feroci (Italy) Martine Reicherts (Luxembourg) and Jacek Dominik (Poland). The full house will vote on their appointments on Wednesday morning.

The current Commission's term of office expires on 31 October 2014.

In line with Parliament's rules of procedure, the Commissioners-designate will be invited to appear before the committees in their areas of responsibility.

Mr Katainen, who is to replace Olli Rehn, will be heard by the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee.

Mr Nelli Feroci, who is to replace Antonio Tajani, will be heard by the Industry, Research and Energy Committee.

Ms Reicherts, who is to replace Viviane Reding, will be heard by the Civil Liberties Committee.

Mr Dominik, who is to replace Janusz Lewandowski, will be heard by the Committee on Budgets.

The appointments will be put to a plenary vote at noon on Wednesday morning.

Procedure: Consultation

Procedure Code: [2014/0803\(NLE\)](#) - Katainen, [2014/0804\(NLE\)](#)- Dominik, [2014/0805\(NLE\)](#)- Nelli Feroci, [2014/0806\(NLE\)](#) - Reicherts

Committee Hearings: Monday, 14 July

Vote: Wednesday, 16 July, 09.00

#EU #Commissioners #hearings

Further information

[European Parliament rules of Procedure \(rule 118\)](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

Forming EP interparliamentary delegations

Parliament decides on the size of its interparliamentary delegations, which maintain relations and exchange information with parliaments in non-EU countries, in a vote on Wednesday. The delegations' membership lists will be put to a vote on Thursday.

The Conference of Presidents' proposal for the composition of the delegations should ensure as far as possible that EU member states and political views are fairly represented (Rules of procedure, Rule 212).

Delegation chairs and vice-chairs will be elected at the delegations' constitutive meetings, scheduled for early October.

Procedure: Internal organisation decisiona

Votes: Wednesday, 16 July (numerical strength of interparliamentary delegations) and Thursday, 17 July (appointments to delegations)

Procedure: Internal organisation decisions

#EP #delegations

Further information

[Rules of procedure](#)

[EP decision on the number of interparliamentary delegations \(12.3.2014\)](#)

Debate on insufficient funding for this year's EU programmes

The unprecedented shortage of funds in the EU's 2014 budget will be debated with Commissioner Andris Piebalgs and the Council on Wednesday. MEPs will highlight concerns about budget shortfalls for research and employment programmes (€587 million), cohesion policy (€3.396 million), Ukraine, Syrian refugees and other foreign policy instruments (€651 million) and fisheries (€106 million).

These budget shortfalls result from excessively low budgeting in recent years. Most concern projects that member states have already funded, in the expectation that the Commission will now reimburse them.

Parliament is calling on the Council to approve an extra €4.74 billion as a matter of urgency to bridge the payments gap so that the Commission can meet its legal obligations. On Wednesday 9 July the Council was not able to agree on the Draft Amending Budget for this purpose.

Procedure: Council and Commission statements

Debate: Wednesday, 16 July

#EUBudget

Further information

[Press release on shortage of funding in 2014 \(01.04.2014\)](#)

MEPs to debate growing violence in Gaza

The current escalation of violence between Israel and Palestine in the Gaza Strip will be debated on Wednesday afternoon, with input from the Italian Presidency of the Council.

Procedure: High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Statement

Debate: Wednesday, 16 July

#Israel #Gaza #Palestine

Further information

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

Debate on Iraq's violent insurgency

Fighting between Iraqi government forces and Sunni rebels, led by the militant group Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), which has resulted in the deaths of thousands and the displacement of hundreds of thousands more, will be the key issue in Wednesday afternoon's EU foreign policy debate with the Council Presidency. A resolution will be voted on Thursday. Iraq's government has gradually lost control of the predominantly Sunni northern and western parts of the country in recent weeks.

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

Procedure Code: 2014/2716(RSP)

Debate: Wednesday, 16 July

Vote: Thursday, 17 July

#Iraq #ISIS

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Council conclusions on Iraq \(23/06/2014\)](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

Escalation of violence in Ukraine

The escalation of violence between pro-Russian militants and Ukraine government forces in the east of Ukraine will be debated by MEPs with the Commissioner for enlargement and European neighbourhood policy, Štefan Füle on Tuesday afternoon. MEPs are also likely to discuss the recently signed EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. The House will vote a resolution on Thursday.

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

Procedure Code: [2014/2717\(RSP\)](#)

Debate: Tuesday 15 July 15.00

Vote: Thursday 17 July

#Ukraine #Donetsk #Russia

Further information

[EU-Ukraine Association Agreement](#)

Sudan, Egypt and Nigeria: debates on breaches of human rights

MEPs will debate the case of Meriam Yahia Ibrahim in Sudan, freedom of expression and assembly in Egypt and recent attacks by Boko Haram in Nigeria, on Thursday starting at 10.00.

Meriam Yahia Ibrahim, a mother of two, was charged with apostasy for declaring herself a Christian and with adultery for marrying and having children with her Christian American husband. After twice being imprisoned since last May, and once sentenced to the death penalty, she was finally released early in July.

The three resolutions on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law will be put to vote on Thursday at 11.00.

- Sudan, the case of Meriam Yahia Ibrahim
- Freedom of expression and assembly in Egypt
- Nigeria, recent attacks by Boko Haram

Procedure: Non-legislative resolutions

Debate/vote: Thursday, 17 July

#Egypt, #Sudan, #Nigeria

Other items on the plenary agenda and committee meetings

Other items for debate include:

- European Central Bank (ECB) President Mario DRAGHI meeting with the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (*Monday*)
- committee hearings for replacement Commissioners (*Monday*)
- crime of aggression: Statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (with resolution) (*Wednesday*)

Further information

[Draft agenda for Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee](#)