

Newsletter

5-8 October 2015

Strasbourg plenary session

State of the EU debate with Angela Merkel and François Hollande

President of the French Republic François Hollande and Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Angela Merkel visit the European Parliament on Wednesday. This highly symbolic joint visit, 25 years after Germany was reunified and 26 after the Berlin Wall fell, echoes that of President François Mitterrand and Chancellor Helmut Kohl in November 1989. They will address the plenary session, as European Council members, and debate the state of the EU with political group leaders (15.00-17.00).

4

Felipe VI of Spain to address Parliament on Wednesday

King Felipe of Spain will deliver a formal address to the House at noon on Wednesday. This will be his second visit to the European Parliament since becoming monarch in June 2014, following his visit to Brussels on 15 April. His father, King Juan Carlos I, appeared before Parliament twice: in 1986, months after Spain joined the European Communities, and in 1998.

5

Debate on the outcome of the EU summit on the refugee crisis

Measures to deal with the unprecedented refugee crisis, as agreed by heads of state or government at an informal EU summit on 23 September, will be debated with European Council President Donald Tusk and Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker on Tuesday, at 9.00. The humanitarian situation of refugees within the EU and in neighbouring countries will also be addressed by MEPs in a separate debate, also on Tuesday.

6

Car industry: manipulation of exhaust emission tests up for debate

MEPs will debate the unfolding Volkswagen exhaust emissions scandal on the basis of a parliamentary question. They will ask Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska on Tuesday afternoon to clarify whether emission test manipulation took place in Europe as well as the USA, whether polluting emissions other than NOx, or even CO2, could be involved, and what must be done to improve emissions testing in the EU.

7

Improving payment service rules

EU rules on payment services will be updated to improve security, widen consumer choice and keep pace with innovation in a vote on Thursday. These rules, agreed

informally by MEPs and ministers in May, aim to cut the cost of payment services by stimulating competition to provide them and fostering innovations such as mobile and online payment methods. 8

MEPs to call for better protection for traditional know-how

EU-wide geographical indication (GI) protection should be extended from agricultural products to include locally manufactured goods and handicraft products rooted in traditional know-how, MEPs are expected to say in a non-binding resolution to be voted on Tuesday. The draft text calls on the Commission to propose legislation without delay. 9

Small Claims Procedure to ease cross-border recovery of debts up to €5,000 10

Capping emissions from medium-sized combustion plants 12

Kick-off debate on capital markets union package 13

Debate with Mogherini: Turkey, Syria, Libya 14

EU diplomacy versus the death penalty, especially for drug-related crime 15

MEPs to call for binding measures to close gender pay gap 17

Greece: fast-tracking over €35 billion in EU funding for jobs and growth 19

Job search aid for Germany, Italy, Belgium, disaster relief for Bulgaria, Greece 21

MEPs to debate plans to expand Nord Stream pipeline from Russia 23

Hungary's 2010 red mud disaster: how to prevent another? 24

MEPs to call for action to clamp down on abusive banking in Spain 25

Human rights and democracy resolutions

Parliament will hold urgent debates on the following human rights and democracy topics, on Thursday 8 October at around 11.00, with the votes following at 12.00.

26

Other topics on the agenda

27

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2015-10-05>

Further information

[Final draft agenda](#)

[Follow the plenary live](#)

[EuroparTV](#)

[Press conferences and other events](#)

[EP Audiovisual website](#)

[EP Newshub](#)


[EP research: The Franco-German relationship in the European Union: A short overview](#)


[EP research: Vehicle emission tests: beyond the VW case](#)

Contacts

Mary BRAZIER

COMM - PRESS


 (+32) 2 28 32733 (BXL)

 (+32) 498 98 35 87

 press-EN@europarl.europa.eu

Andrew BOREHAM

COMM - PRESS

 (+32) 2 28 42319 (BXL)

 (+32) 498 98 34 01

 andrew.boreham@europarl.europa.eu

State of the EU debate with Angela Merkel and François Hollande

President of the French Republic François Hollande and Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Angela Merkel visit the European Parliament on Wednesday. This highly symbolic joint visit, 25 years after Germany was reunified and 26 after the Berlin Wall fell, echoes that of President François Mitterrand and Chancellor Helmut Kohl in November 1989. They will address the plenary session, as European Council members, and debate the state of the EU with political group leaders (15.00-17.00).

After a formal welcome by President Schulz, President Hollande and Chancellor Merkel will each make a 20-minute statement, followed by Parliament's eight political group leaders. Mr Hollande and Ms Merkel will then reply to questions.

Debate: Wednesday, 7 October - 15.00-17.00

#Merkel #Hollande

Further information

[EP Press conference by Martin SCHULZ, EP President \(01.10.2015\)](#)

[Audiovisual material: Visit of Helmut KOHL, Federal German Chancellor and François MITTERRAND, President of the French Republic \(22 November 1989\)](#)

[Audiovisual material: Addresses by Helmut KOHL, Federal German Chancellor and François MITTERRAND, President of the French Republic \(22 November 1989\)](#)

[Medias link to the event : Video EbS, photo, europartv ...](#)

[The Franco-German relationship in the European Union: A short overview \(Briefing 01/10/2015\)](#)

Felipe VI of Spain to address Parliament on Wednesday

King Felipe of Spain will deliver a formal address to the House at noon on Wednesday. This will be his second visit to the European Parliament since becoming monarch in June 2014, following his visit to Brussels on 15 April. His father, King Juan Carlos I, appeared before Parliament twice: in 1986, months after Spain joined the European Communities, and in 1998.

President Schulz invited King Felipe to address Parliament in Strasbourg when they met in Brussels last April.

Formal sitting

Wednesday, 7 October – 12.00

#KingofSpain

Further information

[Web page of the Spanish Royal House](#)

Debate on the outcome of the EU summit on the refugee crisis

Measures to deal with the unprecedented refugee crisis, as agreed by heads of state or government at an informal EU summit on 23 September, will be debated with European Council President Donald Tusk and Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker on Tuesday, at 9.00. The humanitarian situation of refugees within the EU and in neighbouring countries will also be addressed by MEPs in a separate debate, also on Tuesday.

At an informal summit on 23 September, EU leaders discussed ways to respond to the urgent needs of refugees in the region, including providing an additional €1 billion to help the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme, increasing EU funds to help Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, and strengthening controls at the EU's external borders.

Migration will also be high on the agenda of the 15-16 October European Council summit.

Procedure: Council and Commission statements followed by debate

Debate: Tuesday, 6 October

#EUCO #refugeecrisis #migrationEU #asylumseekers

Further information

[Informal meeting of EU heads of state or government on migration, 23 September 2015 - Statement](#)

[European Council, 15-16 October 2015 - Agenda highlights](#)

Car industry: manipulation of exhaust emission tests up for debate

MEPs will debate the unfolding Volkswagen exhaust emissions scandal on the basis of a parliamentary question. They will ask Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska on Tuesday afternoon to clarify whether emission test manipulation took place in Europe as well as the USA, whether polluting emissions other than NOx, or even CO2, could be involved, and what must be done to improve emissions testing in the EU.

The parliamentary question says that in view of the importance of protecting citizens, their health and the quality of air, as well as consumer trust and confidence in the standards and type approval mechanism used in Europe, it is essential that information be provided to assess whether European testing regimes have also been adversely affected by such manipulation.

Long before the Volkswagen scandal, MEPs repeatedly urged that testing should take more account of emissions in real-world driving conditions, and amended legislation to this end. They pointed out that car manufacturers have exploited weaknesses in the current procedure, leading to official consumption and emission figures far below those achievable every day on the road.

Procedure: Oral question to Commission with resolution

Debate: Tuesday, 6 October

Vote: October III (26-29 October)

#Volkswagen #VWgate

Further information

[Oral question to the European Commission](#)

[Press release: MEPs push for real life emissions test protocol \(23.09.2015\)](#)

[Vehicle emission tests: beyond the VW case \(01810/2015\)](#)

Improving payment service rules

EU rules on payment services will be updated to improve security, widen consumer choice and keep pace with innovation in a vote on Thursday. These rules, agreed informally by MEPs and ministers in May, aim to cut the cost of payment services by stimulating competition to provide them and fostering innovations such as mobile and online payment methods.

After Parliament's vote, the agreed text, which also updates rules in a wide range of related areas, such as refund rights, payment service charges and surcharges, will need to be officially endorsed by the Council of Ministers before the legislation enters into force.

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading agreement)

[2013/0264\(COD\)](#)

Debate: Wednesday, 7 October

Vote: Thursday, 8 October

#PSD2 #paymentservices #consumer #security

Further information

[Press release after the deal with the Council \(05.05.2015\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur, Antonio Tajani \(EPP, IT\)](#)

[EP Research note: Consumer protection aspects of mobile payments](#)

MEPs to call for better protection for traditional know-how

EU-wide geographical indication (GI) protection should be extended from agricultural products to include locally manufactured goods and handicraft products rooted in traditional know-how, MEPs are expected to say in a non-binding resolution to be voted on Tuesday. The draft text calls on the Commission to propose legislation without delay.

The draft resolution calls for EU-wide protection of geographical indications for products such as Bohemian glass, Scottish tartan and Carrara marble, in order to fully exploit the economic benefits of protecting the distinctive nature and the quality of such products, provide consumers with reliable information and preserve traditional know-how and the jobs related to them. It could also help combat counterfeiting and other misleading practices, the text adds.

Procedure: Non-legislative resolution

[2015/2053\(INI\)](#)

Debate: Monday, 5 October

Vote: Tuesday, 6 October

#GeographicalIndications #handicraft #GI

Further information

[Draft resolution](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Virginie Rozière \(S&D, FR\)](#)

[Article: Protecting traditional products could boost demand and create jobs](#)

[European Commission: Geographical indications for non-agricultural products](#)

Small Claims Procedure to ease cross-border recovery of debts up to €5,000

The simplified EU procedure for recovering small debts across borders will be updated by a draft law to be debated Tuesday and voted on Wednesday. Changes already informally agreed by MEPs and ministers include raising the debt ceiling from €2,000 to €5,000 to enable more claims, and incentives to use electronic tools, such as videoconferencing, to help resolve disputes. The new rules should also further curb court fees.

The EU Small Claims Procedure, in use since 2009, enables citizens and small firms to use standard forms to recover money owed by someone in another EU country. To widen its use, which would remain optional, the law would raise the ceiling on claims covered from €2,000 today to €5,000.

The Small Claims Procedure has cut the cost of cross-border small claims litigation by up to 40% and its average duration from two years and five months to just five months.

Procedure: Co-decision (Ordinary Legislative Procedure), first reading (agreement)

Procedure Code: 2013/0403(COD)

Debate: Tuesday, 6 October

Vote: Wednesday, 7 October

#SmallClaims #crossborder

Further information

[Draft report](#)

[Press release: Small claims procedure: MEPs strike a deal with Council \(23.06.2015\)](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur Lidia Joanna GERINGER DE OEDENBERG \(S&D, PL\)](#)

[Procedure file:](#)

[Commission: European Small Claims Procedure – Citizen Factsheet](#)

[E-Justice: Small claims \(with link to standard forms\)](#)

[EPRS Briefing: Reform of the European Small Claims Procedure](#)

[EPRS: European Small Claims Procedure Legal analysis of the Commission's proposal to remedy weaknesses in the current system](#)

[Text of the informal agreement with Council of Ministers](#)

Capping emissions from medium-sized combustion plants

Draft plans to set sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emission limits for medium-sized combustion plants, such as electricity generators or domestic, residential or industrial heating systems, will be put to a vote on Wednesday. The limits have already been informally agreed by MEPs and ministers. But EU member states would have to assess whether to introduce stricter ones in areas where these emissions breach EU air quality standards.

There are about 143,000 “medium” combustion plants in the EU, i.e. those with a thermal input rated between 1 and 50 MW. They have a wide variety of uses, such as electricity generation, domestic or residential heating and cooling and providing heat or vapour for industrial processes. These plants are an important source of SO₂, NO_x and dust emissions, which are detrimental to air quality in urban areas.

While most small combustion plants are covered by EU ecodesign legislation, and large ones by the industrial emissions directive, there is as yet no EU legislation to cap emissions of air pollutants from medium combustion plants even though these emissions contribute to poor air quality in hotspots (large cities), and areas where coal is commonly used for residential heating (e.g. Poland, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, and Slovakia).

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading agreement)

[2013/0442\(COD\)](#)

Debate: Tuesday, 6 October

Vote: Wednesday, 7 October

#MCP

Further information

[Profile of rapporteur Andrzej Grzyb \(EPP, PL\)](#)

[Text of the informal agreement with Council of Ministers](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[At a glance: Air pollution from medium combustion plants](#)

Kick-off debate on capital markets union package

MEPs will quiz Commission Vice-President Jyrki Katainen on Wednesday on the action plan for the EU Capital Markets Union (CMU), which seeks to foster investment in all 28 EU countries by removing barriers and upgrading the investment network.

The Action Plan for the Capital Markets Union was presented on Wednesday 30 September by financial services and CMU Commissioner Jonathan Hill.

MEPs will ask Mr Katainen, who is responsible for jobs, growth investment and competitiveness, about the specifically European approach to the CMU, SME-friendly rules and whether the future legislation will be consistent with existing financial rules.

Parliament passed a [non-binding resolution](#) in July, in response to the Commission's launch of its CMU project earlier in the year, which says that reliable non-bank sources of finance should be further developed alongside well-established bank financing. MEPs want CMU building blocks, such as a wider range of investment choices, risk mitigation tools and clear information on investment opportunities across the EU to be in place by 2018.

Procedure: Commission statement followed by debate

Debate: Wednesday, 7 October

#CapitalMarkets #CMU

Further information

[European Parliament resolution on Building a Capital Markets Union \(09.07.2015\)](#)

[ECON Chair Roberto Gualtieri \(S&D, IT\) and Burkhard Balz \(EPP, DE\) co-authors of the EP resolution: Building the CMU, react to the Commission's Action Plan](#)

[EP Research study: Capital Markets Union What Think Tanks are thinking](#)

[EP Research study: Capital Markets Union](#)

[EP Research study: The Capital Markets Union package](#)

[Commission Green Paper: Building a Capital Markets Union](#)

Debate with Mogherini: Turkey, Syria, Libya

MEPs will quiz EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on Wednesday morning on how the EU can contribute to efforts to end the civil war in Syria and on the changing situation in Turkey ahead of the general election in November, amidst the ongoing refugee crisis in the Mediterranean. The House will also discuss with Ms Mogherini plans for a national unity government in Libya on Tuesday afternoon.

Statements by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission

Debate: Tuesday 6 October (Libya), Wednesday, 7 October (Syria, Turkey)

#Syria #Turkey #Libya #ISIS

EU diplomacy versus the death penalty, especially for drug-related crime

What foreign policy and bilateral measures is the EU taking to discourage recourse to the death penalty in third countries, especially for drug-related crimes? MEPs will put the question to the Council on Tuesday evening. The EU's anti-drug cooperation with third countries must not encourage them to execute those convicted of such crimes, they will add. Parliament votes a resolution on Wednesday.

MEPs will table an oral question to the Council ahead of the 13th World Day Against the Death Penalty on 10 October. Experts at a Human Rights Subcommittee hearing on 22 September urged MEPs to pass a "resolution which will clearly set up Europe's position that EU funds should not be spent on such operations".

Note to editors

Amnesty International recorded executions in 22 countries in 2014, the same number as in 2013. At least 607 executions were carried out worldwide, a reduction of almost 22% compared with 2013. As in previous years, this figure does not include the number of people executed in China, where data on the death penalty is treated as a state secret.

At least 2,466 people are known to have been sentenced to death in 2014, an increase of 28% compared with 2013. This increase was largely due to sharp spikes in death sentences in Egypt and Nigeria, where courts imposed mass sentences against scores of people in some cases.

According to Amnesty International, the death penalty was imposed or carried out for drug-related offences in countries that included China, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE and Vietnam. About 8% of all recorded executions in China were carried out for drug-related crimes.

Procedure: Oral question to Council (with resolution)

O.000103/2015

Debate: Tuesday, 6 October

Vote: Wednesday, 7 October

#deathpenalty

Further information

[Oral question to Council](#)

[Watch the hearing on death penalty held by the Human rights subcommittee \(22.09.2015\)](#)

[Factsheet: The death penalty in the world in 2015 – abolitionist and retentionist countries](#)

[Report "Death sentences and executions" from Amnesty International](#)

[Document "Death Penalty: Ratification of International Treaties from Amnesty International](#)

[UN resolution adopted on the moratorium on the use of the death penalty \(18.12.2014\)](#)

MEPs to call for binding measures to close gender pay gap

Despite the EU's 2006 Directive on gender equality in the labour market, "the differences in pay for men and women persist and are even growing as a result of the crisis", says a draft non-legislative resolution to be debated and voted on Thursday. MEPs are set to urge the EU Commission to table fresh legislation "providing for more effective means of supervising the implementation and enforcement in member states".

EU member states are often slow to apply and enforce the equal pay principle and the gender pay and pension gaps still average 16.4 % and 38.5 % respectively across the EU (Eurostat 2012) , with significant differences between countries, says the text drafted by the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee.

To close the gender pay gap, members are set to propose mandatory pay audits for large stock exchange-listed companies and possible sanctions at EU level in cases of non-compliance (such as excluding companies from EU budget-funded public procurement of goods and services).

Furthermore, the draft resolution calls for:

- harmonized gender-neutral job classification and evaluation,
- objective criteria for comparing work of "equal value"
- wage transparency (to reveal gender bias and pay discrimination) and
- free legal aid for victims of discrimination.

Procedure: Non-legislative resolution

Procedure Code: 2014/2160(INI)

Debate: Thursday, 8 October

Vote: Thursday, 8 October

#equalpayforequalwork #women #paygap

Further information

[Draft resolution on equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Anna Záborská\(EPP, SK\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research Study on Gender Pay Gap](#)

[Eurostat: Gender pay gap statistics per country \(February 2015\)](#)

[Eurostat: Gender pay gap in unadjusted form](#)

[European Commission: the situation in the EU](#)

[Tackling the gender pay gap in the European Union:](#)

[Eurobarometer published on 8/03/2012: gender inequalities in the EU:](#)

[Draft Council Conclusions: Closing the gender gap in pensions](#)

Greece: fast-tracking over €35 billion in EU funding for jobs and growth

Parliament votes on Tuesday on a set of specific, one-off measures aimed at boosting the effective use of €35 billion earmarked for Greece for the EU 2014-2020 budget. This includes €20 billion from the European structural and investment funds and €15 billion from agricultural funds.

Iskra Mihaylova (ALDE, BG), the rapporteur and the chair of the regional development committee, wants the proposal to be adopted unchanged, as a matter of urgency. Her report has already been backed, almost unanimously and with no amendments, by the regional development committee. The Council also seems ready to approve the Commission's initial proposal if it is adopted unchanged by Parliament. Nonetheless, MEPs are still free under Parliament's rules to table amendments before the plenary vote.

These specific measures, if adopted, would:

- remove the need for national co-financing by increasing the EU contribution rate to 100% (this measure concerns the investments started in the 2007-2013 programming period);
- make available the total amount, including pre-financing and interim payments, immediately (for the same period); the last 5% of EU payments would normally be held back until 2017;
- increase by 7% the level of initial pre-financing available for cohesion policy programmes for the 2014-2020 period; this could make an additional €1 billion available.

These steps are justified by the unique situation in Greece, where the financial crisis has led to persistently negative growth and to serious liquidity problems. Public funds are lacking in particular for much-needed investment to boost growth and job creation.

Next steps

The measures have to be adopted by the Council as well as by Parliament before they can enter into force. The Greek authorities will have to establish a mechanism to guarantee that the additional amounts made available under the period 2007-2013 are fully used for the beneficiaries and operations under the programmes.

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure (co-decision)

[2015/0160\(COD\)](#)

Debate: Monday, 5 October

Vote: Tuesday, 6 October

#Greece #EUfunds

Further information

[Draft report](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Rapporteur: Iskra Mihaylova \(ALDE, BG\),](#)

[EC proposal COM 2015/0365 to amend the Common Provisions Regulation as regards specific measures for Greece](#)

[EC Communication: "A new start for Jobs and Growth in Greece" adopted \(15.07.2015\)](#)

[EC press release A new start for jobs and growth in Greece \(15.07.2015\)](#)

[Press conference following the regional development committee meeting on 3 September](#)

[EP Research study: Enabling Greece to make best use of EU funding](#)

Job search aid for Germany, Italy, Belgium, disaster relief for Bulgaria, Greece

Germany, Italy and Belgium could get €14.6 million in EU aid to help redundant car and airline workers to find new jobs, and Bulgaria and Greece a total of €16.3 million to repair flood damage, if Parliament approves their applications on Tuesday.

Job search aid from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)

Country	Company	Number of beneficiaries	Amount of aid (€)	Sector	EP rapporteur
Germany	Adam Opel AG	2,692	6,958,623	Car manufacturing	Jens Geier (S&D, DE)
Belgium	Ford Genk, 11 suppliers	4,500	6,268,564	Car manufacturing	Paul Rübigen (EPP, AT)
Italy	Gruppo Alitalia	184	1,414,848	Air transport	Monika Vana (Greens/ALE, AT)

Disaster relief aid from the European Solidarity Fund (EUSF)

Country	Natural disaster	Date of disaster	Amount of aid (€)	Rapporteur
Bulgaria	Heavy rainfall, snow, floods, landslides	Jan-Feb 2015	6,377,815	Andrey Novakov (EPP, BG)
Greece	Floods in two areas	Feb 2015	9,896,950	Andrey Novakov (EPP, BG)

Procedure: Budgetary

Adam Opel AG: 2015/2208(BUD); Ford Genk: 2015/2209(BUD); Alitalia: 2015/2212(BUD); Bulgaria and Greece: 2015/2151(BUD)

Vote: Tuesday, 6 October

#Opel #Germany #Ford #Belgium #Alitalia #Italy #Bulgaria #Greece #EUBudget #floods

Further information

[Press release on committee vote, EGF \(29.09.2015\)](#)

[Press release on committee vote, EUSF \(14.09.2015\)](#)

Rapporteur (Germany): Jens Geier (S&D, DE)

Rapporteur (Belgium): Paul Rübigen (EPP, AT)

Rapporteur (Italy): Monika Vana (Greens/ALE, AT)

Rapporteur (Bulgaria and Greece): Andrey Novakov (EPP, BG)

MEPs to debate plans to expand Nord Stream pipeline from Russia

Russia's Gazprom and several European energy firms recently revealed plans to double the capacity of the Nord Stream gas pipeline between Russia and Germany. A number of MEPs fear this could increase dependency on Russia, weaken Ukraine and affect EU countries bypassed by the pipeline. The debate with the Luxembourg presidency and the Commission is on Wednesday night.

Written questions by MEPs from several political groups raise concerns that the plans, unveiled by the Russian energy firm Gazprom and European firms E.ON, Shell, OMV, BASF/Wintershall and ENGIE, will increase EU's dependency on Russia and harm the political, security and economic interests of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and other EU countries that are bypassed. MEPs also fear that Ukraine will become even more vulnerable as a result of losing its strategic role as an important transit country on the Russia-EU gas transit route. The Nord Stream pipeline links Russia's Baltic Sea coast near Vyborg with Germany's Baltic Sea coast near Greifswald.

Procedure: Council and Commission statements followed by debate

Debate: Wednesday 7 October

#NordStream2

Further information

[Question for written answer: Plans for new Nord Stream pipelines in the Baltic Sea](#)

Hungary's 2010 red mud disaster: how to prevent another?

Are EU rules to prevent environmentally-disastrous mining accidents in place and properly enforced? MEPs will put the question to the EU Commission and Council of Ministers on Wednesday, six years after a lethal sludge spill at a Hungarian waste reservoir near the town of Ajka. Similar sites exist in several EU countries, MEPs warn. Parliament votes a resolution on Thursday.

On 4 October 2010, almost one million cubic metres of highly alkaline red mud flooded settlements, killed ten people and injured almost 150 in western Hungary. The disaster highlighted poor enforcement of EU law, deficiencies in inspections, and gaps in the relevant EU legislation, say MEPs.

Procedure: question for oral answer to the Commission and the Council, with resolution

Debate: Wednesday, 7 October

Vote: Thursday, 8 October

#Hungary

Further information

[Question to the Commission](#)

[Question to the Council](#)

MEPs to call for action to clamp down on abusive banking in Spain

MEPs are set to urge the Commission to initiate legislation to harmonise mortgage contract terms and debt settlement procedures so to reinforce consumer protection across the EU, in a draft, non-binding resolution to be debated on Monday and voted on Thursday.

The resolution, drafted by the petitions committee, says that in Spain "civil society has been protesting against hundreds of thousands of housing evictions, abusive terms in mortgage contracts and lack of protection for borrowers". It is estimated that more than 700,000 Spanish citizens have been victims of financial fraud, as their saving banks sold them risky financial instruments without informing them properly.

MEPs ask the Commission to closely monitor the effective implementation of the new measures taken by the Spanish Government in the banking sector to prevent abusive banking. To enable consumers to take informed decisions on financial instruments, banks need to provide them with clear, understandable and correct information, says the text.

Procedure: Oral question to Commission (with resolution)

Debate: Monday, 5 October

Vote: Thursday, 6 October

#Spain #mortgage

Human rights and democracy resolutions

Parliament will hold urgent debates on the following human rights and democracy topics, on Thursday 8 October at around 11.00, with the votes following at 12.00.

1. Central African Republic
2. Situation in Thailand
3. Nigeria: 500,000 children on the run from Boko Haram
4. Saudi Arabia: the case of Ali Mohammed al-Nimr

Other topics on the agenda

Other topics for debate and vote include the following;

- Role of local authorities in developing countries in development cooperation (INI), rapporteur Eleni Theodorou (EPP, CY), *debate Monday, vote Tuesday*
- Parliament's calendar of part-sessions 2017, *vote Wednesday*
- Export controls in respect of dual-use items after the Hacking Team revelations, *debate Monday, OQs*

Further information

[Eleni Theodorou \(EPP, CY\)](#)