

## Newsletter

### 14-17 December 2015

### Strasbourg plenary session

#### **Sakharov Prize 2015 to go to Saudi Arabian blogger Raif Badawi**

Raif Badawi, a Saudi Arabian blogger arrested in 2012 and later sentenced to 10 years in prison, 1,000 lashes and a hefty fine, accused of insulting Islamic values on his website, is this year's laureate of the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. Mr Badawi's wife, Ms Ensaf Haidar, will receive his prize on his behalf at a ceremony in Strasbourg on Wednesday at noon.

5

#### **MEPs to discuss outcome of COP21 climate conference in Paris**

The outcome of the Paris climate talks will be debated by MEPs, the Council and the European Commission on Tuesday. A delegation of 15 MEPs from the Environment and Industry committees attended the conference during its final week.

7

#### **Migrants, EMU, terrorism and UK referendum: EU Council preparations with Juncker**

With a view to the 17-18 December European Council, MEPs will debate the fight against terrorism, and EU responses to current and future migration challenges, on Wednesday at 09.00, with EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council. Economic and Monetary Union, strengthening the single market and UK Prime Minister David Cameron's reform demands to all his European partners ahead of the UK's EU membership referendum will also be on the agenda.

8

#### **New plans to step up checks at EU external borders - debate with MEPs**

Plans to strengthen the EU border agency Frontex and take steps towards setting up a European border and coast guard will be presented by Commission First Vice-President Frans Timmermans and debated by MEPs in plenary session on Tuesday afternoon.

9

#### **Improving corporate tax transparency, coordination and convergence in the EU**

Parliament is set to debate its recommendations for legislation to improve corporate tax transparency, coordination and EU-wide tax policy convergence on Tuesday afternoon, followed by a vote on Wednesday. Once they are adopted, the Commission will have to respond to any recommendation Parliament makes for legislation, even if it does not

submit a formal legislative proposal. 10

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## **Vote on Parliament's vision for an ambitious energy union**

Parliament's vision for a resilient EU energy union and forward-looking climate change policy will be set out in a non-legislative resolution to be debated on Monday evening and voted on Tuesday. This text replies to a Commission communication tabled in February. In a separate resolution also to be voted on Tuesday, MEPs will also address interconnecting electricity supplies across the EU. 11

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## **Eurozone governance: Debate with Eurogroup president Dijsselbloem**

Eurogroup president Jeroen Dijsselbloem will take part in a plenary debate for the first time, on Tuesday morning, when he joins MEPs and Commission and Council representatives to discuss the EU's economic and social priorities for 2016, set out by the Commission in the Annual Growth Survey, and specific recommendations for the euro area as a whole, all presented by the Commission on 26 November. 12

---

## **Modernising trade mark legislation: final step**

14

---

## **Member states must apply arms export controls more rigorously, say MEPs**

15

---

## **Plant breeding: patent threat to food security?**

16

---

## **International police cooperation: MEPs vote on two new agreements**

17

---

## **MEPs to call for closer ties with China to tackle global challenges**

19

---

## **MEPs to take a stand on the detention and use of force against asylum seekers**

20

---

## **MEPs to call for measures to protect victims of terrorism**

22

---

## **Objections to weedkiller-tolerant GMO maize and alien invasive species list**

23

---

## **Including and enforcing human rights clauses in international deals**

24

---

<b>MEPs to urge EU to help base metals/steel industry</b>	25
.....	
<b>Vote on €3 million in job search aid for redundant Finnish and Irish workers</b>	
	26
.....	
<b>Stop the violence in Burundi and protect Virunga National Park say MEPs</b>	28
.....	
<b>Parliament to take a stand on the state of Hungary's democracy</b>	30
.....	
<b>Human rights and democracy resolutions</b>	31
.....	
<b>Other topics on the agenda</b>	32
.....	

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2015-12-14>

## Further information

[Draft agenda](#)  
[Follow the plenary live](#)  
[EuroparlTV](#)  
[Press conferences and other events](#)  
[EP Audiovisual website](#)  
[EP Newshub](#)

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# Plenary sessions

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## Sakharov Prize 2015 to go to Saudi Arabian blogger Raif Badawi

**Raif Badawi, a Saudi Arabian blogger arrested in 2012 and later sentenced to 10 years in prison, 1,000 lashes and a hefty fine, accused of insulting Islamic values on his website, is this year's laureate of the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. Mr Badawi's wife, Ms Ensaf Haidar, will receive his prize on his behalf at a ceremony in Strasbourg on Wednesday at noon.**

A joint press conference with President Schulz will take place immediately after the ceremony, at 12.30.

Following his conviction, the first 50 lashes were administered to Raif Badawi in January 2015, but the rest were postponed following international protests. Mr Badawi's wife, Ensaf Haidar, currently lives in Canada with their three children.

Also shortlisted for the prize were the Venezuelan Democratic Opposition and the murdered Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov. They will be represented at the ceremony by a representative of the Mesa de la Unidad Democratica (tbc) and Olga Shorina, Executive Director of the Boris Nemtsov Foundation for Freedom in Germany.

Syrian cartoonist and 2011 Sakharov Prize laureate Ali Ferzat will also attend the ceremony.

### **Sakharov Prize**

The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, named after Soviet scientist and dissident Andrei Sakharov, was established in December 1988 by the European Parliament to honour individuals or organizations who dedicate their lives to the defence of human rights and freedoms, particularly the right to free expression.

*Award of the Sakharov Prize: Wednesday 16 December, 12.00*

*Press conference: Wednesday 16 December, 12.30*

*#SakharovPrize2015 #RaifBadawi #Badawi*

## Further information

[Website of the Sakharov prize for freedom of thought](#)

[Top story: Sakharov Prize 2015](#)

[Audiovisual materials for Sakharov Prize 2015](#)

[Former laureates](#)

## MEPs to discuss outcome of COP21 climate conference in Paris

**The outcome of the Paris climate talks will be debated by MEPs, the Council and the European Commission on Tuesday. A delegation of 15 MEPs from the Environment and Industry committees attended the conference during its final week.**

*Procedure: Council and Commission statements with debate*

*Debate: Tuesday, 15 December*

*#COP21*

### **Further information**

[The European Parliament at COP21](#)

[EP resolution: Towards a new international climate agreement in Paris](#)

[Press release: COP21 climate change talks: MEPs in Paris to push for 2°C target](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Gilles Pargneaux \(S&D, FR\)](#)

## Migrants, EMU, terrorism and UK referendum: EU Council preparations with Juncker

With a view to the 17-18 December European Council, MEPs will debate the fight against terrorism, and EU responses to current and future migration challenges, on Wednesday at 09.00, with EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council. Economic and Monetary Union, strengthening the single market and UK Prime Minister David Cameron's reform demands to all his European partners ahead of the UK's EU membership referendum will also be on the agenda.

MEPs will doubtless also address EU-Russia relations and the situation in Ukraine, which are on the agenda of the Heads of State or Government too, and the controversial Nord Stream gas pipeline project.

*Procedure: European Council and Commission statements followed by a debate*

*Debate: Wednesday, 16 December*

*#migrationEU, #refugeecrisis, #antiterrorism ##euref#brexit*

### Further information

[European Council 17/18 December - Agenda](#)

[Letter by President Donald Tusk to the European Council on the issue of a UK in/out referendum](#)

## New plans to step up checks at EU external borders - debate with MEPs

**Plans to strengthen the EU border agency Frontex and take steps towards setting up a European border and coast guard will be presented by Commission First Vice-President Frans Timmermans and debated by MEPs in plenary session on Tuesday afternoon.**

Plans to beef up EU external border management rules and resources were announced by the Commission in the European Agenda on Migration, presented on 13 May 2015.

MEPs had previously called on the Council and Commission to consider establishing an EU coast guard, e.g. in an October 2013 [resolution](#) on migratory flows in the Mediterranean. On 2 April 2014, Parliament also said that "the Schengen external borders should in the future be guarded with the support of European border guards whose training includes human rights standards".

In a [resolution](#) approved on 2 December 2015, they also asked the Commission to include provisions on a mechanism to process individual complaints about alleged breaches of the fundamental rights of migrants and asylum seekers in the upcoming review of the Frontex regulation.

*Procedure: Commission statement followed by debate*

[2015/2961\(RSP\)](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 15 December*

*@Frontex #Schengen #border #coastguard #refugeecrisis #migrationEU*

### Further information

[EP resolution on migratory flows in the Mediterranean, with particular attention to the tragic events off Lampedusa \(23.10.2013\)](#)

[EP resolution on the mid-term review of the Stockholm Programme \(02.04.2014\)](#)

[Press release - Migration: EP calls for system to process complaints against Frontex border guards \(2 December 2015\)](#)

[EC study on the feasibility of creating a European System of Border Guards to control the external borders of the Union - presented in the Civil Liberties Committee on 31 March 2015](#)

[The European Agenda on Migration - Communication from the European Commission \(13 May 2015\)](#)

[EP Fact sheet - management of the external borders](#)

## Improving corporate tax transparency, coordination and convergence in the EU

**Parliament is set to debate its recommendations for legislation to improve corporate tax transparency, coordination and EU-wide tax policy convergence on Tuesday afternoon, followed by a vote on Wednesday. Once they are adopted, the Commission will have to respond to any recommendation Parliament makes for legislation, even if it does not submit a formal legislative proposal.**

The [proposed measures](#), prepared by economic and monetary affairs committee members Anneliese Dodds (S&D, UK) and Luděk Niedermayer (EPP, CZ), build on the work of Parliament's [Special Committee on Tax Rulings](#), set up in the wake of the "Luxleaks" revelations and whose [recommendations](#) were approved at the 26 November plenary sitting.

*Procedure: Legislative resolution*

[2015/2010\(INL\)](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 15 December*

*Vote: Wednesday, 16 December*

*Press conference: Wednesday, 16 December at 14:30*

[#taxpolicy](#) [#luxleaks](#) [#TaxTransparency](#) [#TAXE](#)

### Further information

[Draft report "Bringing transparency, coordination and convergence to corporate tax policies in the Union"](#)

[Press release after committee vote \(01.12.2012\)](#)

[Profile of co-rapporteur Anneliese Dodds \(S&D, UK\)](#)

[Profile of co-rapporteur Luděk Niedermayer](#)

[Procedure file](#)

## Vote on Parliament's vision for an ambitious energy union

**Parliament's vision for a resilient EU energy union and forward-looking climate change policy will be set out in a non-legislative resolution to be debated on Monday evening and voted on Tuesday. This text replies to a Commission communication tabled in February. In a separate resolution also to be voted on Tuesday, MEPs will also address interconnecting electricity supplies across the EU.**

The draft energy union text urges EU member states to comply with the Commission recommendations on hydraulic fracturing and a voluntary system for buying energy collectively. It also backs plans to develop Europe's own energy resources.

The other draft text notes that a fully integrated internal electricity market could save EU consumers €12-40 billion a year by 2030. It says that the 10% interconnection by 2020 target needs to be supplemented by other, more ambitious and evidence-based targets, to be achieved by 2030.

*Procedure: non-legislative resolutions*

*Procedure Code: 2015/2113(INI) (Energy Union); 2015/2108(INI) (interconnectors target)*

*Debate: Monday, 14 December*

*Votes: Tuesday, 15 December*

*#energyunion #energysecurity #climatechange #electricity*

### Further information

[Draft report - Towards an European Energy Union](#)

[Press release - committee vote \(10.11.2015\)](#)

[Procedure file - Energy Union](#)

[Draft report - on achieving the 10 % electricity interconnection target – Making Europe's electricity grid fit for 2020](#)

[Press release - committee vote \(10.11.2015\)](#)

[Procedure file - interconnectors target](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur /Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ \(ECR, CZ\) \(Energy Union\)](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur \(Interconnection target\) - Peter Eriksson \(Greens/EFA, SE\)](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur \(Energy Union\) - Marek Józef GRÓBARCZYK \(ECR, PL\)](#)

## Eurozone governance: Debate with Eurogroup president Dijsselbloem

**Eurogroup president Jeroen Dijsselbloem will take part in a plenary debate for the first time, on Tuesday morning, when he joins MEPs and Commission and Council representatives to discuss the EU's economic and social priorities for 2016, set out by the Commission in the Annual Growth Survey, and specific recommendations for the euro area as a whole, all presented by the Commission on 26 November.**

The [euro area recommendation](#) provides tailored advice to member states in the euro area on issues relevant to the functioning of the euro zone as a whole, such as policies related to correcting macro-economic imbalances, the euro area's fiscal stance and the completion of economic and monetary union (EMU).

On the completion of EMU – initially scheduled as a stand-alone debate – MEPs are likely to say the [Commission's proposals](#), presented on 21 October, are insufficient to address the current shortcomings in the institutional framework of the euro area. They will make a pledge for more parliamentary oversight and public debate, so as to ensure democratic accountability and get citizens on board.

MEPs will also call on the Commission to launch negotiations on an agreement between Parliament, Council and the Eurogroup on European economic governance – as foreseen in the [Five Presidents' report](#) – including the [European Semester](#) and the ongoing macroeconomic adjustment programmes, such as the one in Greece.

On Thursday, Parliament will also vote on a resolution containing its position on the Commission's proposals for completing EMU, adopted by economic and monetary affairs committee on 1 December.

*Procedure: Oral Question followed by a debate (with resolution on EMU)*

*Debate: Tuesday, 15 December*

*Vote: Thursday, 17 December*

*#eurozone #EMU #monetarypolicy*

## **Further information**

[Annual Growth Survey and European Semester 2016 explained](#)

[Press release after committee vote on draft resolution "completing the EMU" \(01.12.2015\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur for the resolution, Roberto Gualtieri \(S&D, IT\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

## Modernising trade mark legislation: final step

**Updates to make registering trade marks cheaper, quicker and more reliable for firms will be debated on Monday and are likely to be approved on Tuesday. These new rules, informally agreed with the Council of Ministers in April, would also make it possible to impound counterfeit goods in transit through EU territory.**

The updated rules would retain the dual system of national and EU trade marks covering all 28 member states, whilst streamlining and further harmonising national and EU trade mark registration procedures and modernising registration requirements, e.g. by making it easier to register new types of trade marks, such as sounds.

A new, better tailored fee structure for EU trade mark registration would also make trade mark protection cheaper, for example by reducing renewal fees.

*Procedure: Co-decision (ordinary procedure), second reading agreement*

[2013/0089\(COD\)\(Directive\)](#)

[201380088\(COD\) \(Regulation\)](#)

*Debate: Monday, 14 December*

*Vote: Tuesday, 15 December*

*#TradeMark #counterfeit*

### Further information

[Draft directive - Trade marks: approximation of the laws of the Member States](#)

[Draft regulation - European trade mark](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Cecilia Wikström \(ALDE, SE\)](#)

[Procedure file - European trade mark \(Regulation\)](#)

[Procedure file - Trade marks: approximation of the laws of the Member States \(Directive\)](#)

[European Commission - Fact Sheet: Package to modernise the European Trade Mark System – FAQ](#)

## Member states must apply arms export controls more rigorously, say MEPs

**MEPs will call in a debate on Wednesday on member states to apply the EU's eight-point code on arms exports more strictly, pointing to the changed security environment in the EU's neighbourhood and stressing that these trade flows are not in the direct security interests of the EU, in a draft resolution tabled for a vote on Thursday.**

In 2013, the EU member states exported arms worth a total value of EUR 26.7 billion to third countries.

*Procedure: Non-legislative resolution*

[2015/2114\(INI\)](#)

*Debate: Wednesday, 16 December*

*Vote: Thursday, 17 December*

*#ArmsExports #ATT*

### Further information

[Draft resolution on arms exports implementation of Common Position 2008/944/CFSP  
Common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment  
\(2008/944/CFSP\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Bodil Valero \(Greens/EFA, SE\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research: The EU framework for arms exports](#)

## Plant breeding: patent threat to food security?

**A European Patent Office decision to allow patents even on plant traits that are obtained by conventional breeding techniques, such as crossing, could hamper innovation and endanger global food security, warn Agriculture and Legal Affairs MEPs. On Thursday they will ask the EU Commission to clarify EU rules on patents, so as to preclude patent restrictions on plant breeders' access to biological material and thus promote genuine innovation and fairness to small breeders.**

The European Patent Office's (EPO) Enlarged Board of Appeal decided on 25 March 2015 in the tomato ([G0002/12](#)) and broccoli ([G0002/13](#)) cases that even though essentially biological processes for the production of plants, such as crossing, cannot be patented, the resulting plants or plant material, such as a fruit, may get EU-wide protection.

Members of the Agriculture and Legal Affairs committees say that the EPO decision reflects a narrow interpretation of current EU rules - particularly of [Article 53\(b\)](#) of the European Patent Convention and Article 4 of the [EU's Biotech directive](#) - and call for their urgent clarification to avoid negative impact on EU's competitiveness and creation of monopolies on the food market. Parliament called on the EPO to exclude from patenting all products derived from conventional breeding already in its [non-legislative resolution of 10 May 2012](#).

*Procedure: Oral question to Commission with resolution*

[2015/2981\(RSP\)](#)

*Specialist: Jan & Nina*

*Debate/vote: Thursday, 17 December*

[#plantbreeding](#) [#patents](#) [#tomato](#) [#broccoli](#) [#agriculture](#) [#EPO](#)

### Further information

[Oral question to the Commission](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Parliament's resolution on the patenting of essential biological processes \(10.05.2012\)](#)

[European Patent Convention - Art 53](#)

[EU's Biotech directive](#)

## International police cooperation: MEPs vote on two new agreements

**Parliament votes on two new agreements on police cooperation between Europol and Bosnia and Herzegovina, on Wednesday and between Europol and the United Arab Emirates, on Tuesday. Under current rules, Parliament is merely consulted before the Council establishes agreements with new partners but it has insisted that in future the rules will include a review clause on all such agreements, in which it will have a say.**

*Note to editors*

*Parliament's negotiators on the new Europol rules insisted on a review clause to ensure that all existing international agreements between the agency and third countries are assessed within five years after the entry into force of the new regulation in order to check that they comply fully with data protection standards and meet EU standards on policing.*

*Under the Lisbon Treaty, Parliament decides on an equal footing with Council on Europol. Once the new Europol regulation enters into force, Parliament is required to give the green light to new international police agreements.*

*Procedure: Consultations*

[2015/0808\(CNS\) - Bosnia-Herzegovina](#)

[2015/0809\(CNS\) - United Arab Emirates](#)

*Debate: Monday, 14 December (on the agreement with United Arab Emirates)*

*Votes: Tuesday, 15 December (Mussolini), Wednesday, 16 December (Fontana)*

*#terrorism #counterterrorism #Europol #UAE*

## Further information

[Draft resolution on the Council implementing decision on cooperation Europol - United Arab Emirates](#)

[Draft resolution on the Council implementing decision on cooperation agreement Europol - Bosnia-Herzegovina](#)

[Profile of rapporteur on Bosnia-Herzegovina: Lorenzo Fontana \(ENF,IT\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur on UAE: Alessandra Mussolini \(EPP, IT\)](#)

[Procedure file - United Arab Emirates](#)

[Procedure file - Bosnia-Herzegovina](#)

# MEPs to call for closer ties with China to tackle global challenges

**The EU and China must cooperate more closely to address global challenges and threats, such as counter-terrorism, illegal migration, global and regional security, climate change and global financial and market governance, MEPs will say in a debate on Tuesday.**

In a draft resolution, tabled for a vote on Wednesday, MEPs also say that the strategic partnership between the EU and China must be strengthened in today's multipolar and globalised world and call for talks to be accelerated on a new partnership and cooperation agreement "based on trust, transparency and respect for human rights."

*Procedure: Non-legislative resolution*

[2015/2003\(INI\)](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 15 December*

*Vote: Wednesday, 16 December*

*#China #cooperation #counterterrorism # migration #security #climatechange #finance*

## Further information

[Draft resolution on EU-China relations](#)  
[Profile of rapporteur Bas Belder \(ECR, NL\)](#)  
[Procedure file](#)  
[EP Research study on EU-China relations](#)

## MEPs to take a stand on the detention and use of force against asylum seekers

**Recent declarations by the President of the European Council on the detention of asylum seekers will be debated with Council and Commission on Wednesday afternoon. The use of force against them will also be discussed. MEPs are likely to point out that EU rules already approved by the EU Council of Ministers, as well as by Parliament, require EU member states to keep detention as a measure of last resort, for a period as short as possible, and to respect asylum seekers' fundamental rights.**

Detailed common rules on the detention of asylum seekers while their applications are examined, including an exhaustive list of grounds for detention, are laid down in the "Reception Conditions Directive" - part of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) - approved by Parliament and the Council in 2013. These rules are designed to prevent arbitrary practices and keep detention periods as short as possible.

The detention of irregularly- staying third-country nationals until they are returned home is regulated by a separate legal instrument, the so-called "Returns Directive" (not part of the CEAS), approved by Parliament and Council in 2008.

### **Background**

*Under the Reception Conditions Directive, as a general rule, if asylum seekers are detained, then they must be placed in specialised detention facilities. However, if an EU country cannot provide accommodation in such facilities and is obliged to place the asylum seeker in a prison instead, (s)he will have to be kept separate from ordinary prisoners and given access to open-air spaces. Detained asylum seekers will also have to be given information explaining their rights and obligations in a language that they understand "or are reasonably supposed to understand".*

*Unaccompanied minors may be detained only "in exceptional circumstances" and must not be held in prisons. They must be placed in centres with staff and facilities suited to their needs and also kept separate from adults.*

*Procedure: Council and Commission statements followed by debate*

*Debate: Wednesday, 16 December*

*#MigrationEU #refugeecrisis #detention #asylumseekers*

## **Further information**

[Directive 2013/33/EU laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection](#)

[Press release - Parliament gives green light to the new European asylum system \(12.06.2013\)](#)

[EP background note on the Common European Asylum System](#)

[Commission's factsheet on A Common European Asylum System](#)

[Directive 2008/115/EC on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals](#)

# MEPs to call for measures to protect victims of terrorism

**What measures does the Commission plan to take to ensure protection and support for the victims of terrorism in the EU? In the context of the Union's strategy to fight terrorism, MEPs will call on the Commission on Monday to address the specific needs of the victims of terrorist attacks.**

## *Note to editors*

*The EU adopted a directive establishing minimum basic rights across the EU for victims of crime, including those of terrorist attacks, in October 2012, with a three-year period for transposing it into domestic law in the member states.*

*Debate: Monday, 14 December*

*Procedure: Commission statement, followed by debate*

*#terrorism*

## **Further information**

[Directive of 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime](#)

[EP press release after the approval of the directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime \(12.09.2012\)](#)

## Objections to weedkiller-tolerant GMO maize and alien invasive species list

**Two draft resolutions, one objecting to an EU Commission decision authorising the use of glyphosate weedkiller-tolerant GM maize NK603xT25 in food and feed, and the other pointing out that some invasive alien species (IAS) are missing from a draft list of 36 of EU concern, will be put to a vote on Wednesday.**

The draft resolution on the 4 December decision authorising the use of GM maize NK603xT25 and MON87427 maize in food and feed, urges the Commission to suspend any further authorisations for GM food and feed as long as the procedure, currently under review, has not been improved.

### **Invasive species priority list**

MEPs will also vote Wednesday on a draft list of 36 invasive alien species (IAS) of European concern. This list was proposed by the European Commission within the new legislative framework for preventing their introduction and managing their spread. Many of the most problematic invasive alien species are missing from the draft, while at the same time, some species that are incapable of causing significant negative impacts are listed, says the second draft resolution.

Procedure: Non-legislative resolution

Debate: Monday, 14 December (on maize)

Votes: Wednesday, 16 December

#NK603 #invasives #GMO #maize

### **Further information**

[Press release on the committee vote: Environment MEPs oppose new GM maize authorization](#)

# Including and enforcing human rights clauses in international deals

**Human rights clauses should be included in all EU international agreements and enforced in the event of gross breaches, urges a draft resolution on the annual report on human rights and democracy in 2014, to be voted on Thursday. The EU should also step up its dialogue with third countries to tackle the root causes of the migration crisis, it adds.**

*Procedure: non-legislative resolution*

[2015/2229\(INI\)](#)

*Debate: Wednesday 16 December*

*Vote: Thursday 17 December*

*#humanrights #UNHRC*

## **Further information**

[Draft resolution on EU's Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World 2013](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Cristian Preda \(EPP, RO\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Website of the United Nations Human Rights Council \(UNHRC\)](#)

## MEPs to urge EU to help base metals/steel industry

**The EU should do more to help its base metals and steel industry, including revising its trade defence instruments, urges a draft non-legislative resolution to be voted on Wednesday. The industry needs more predictable energy prices, a clear legal framework for electricity supply, a harmonisation of the state aid-based compensation regime for indirect costs, and schemes to transfer skills between generations of workers, it says.**

*Procedure: Non-legislative resolution*

[2014/2211\(INI\)](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 24 November*

*Vote: Wednesday, 16 December*

*#metals*

### Further information

[Draft resolution on "Developing a sustainable European industry of base metals"](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(13.10.2015\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Edouard Martin \(S&D, FR\)](#)

[Procedure file - "Developing a sustainable European industry of base metals"](#)

[Debate - base metals and steel industry \(25.11.2015\)](#)

[Catch up with the debate here](#)

## Vote on €3 million in job search aid for redundant Finnish and Irish workers

EU aid worth €2.6 million to help find new jobs for 1,200 redundant IT workers in Finland and €400,000 for 108 redundant aircraft repair workers in Ireland will be put to a vote on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively. A cluster of Finnish computer programming firms let staff go when Nokia software development orders ceased, while Ireland's PWA International aircraft repair and maintenance firm closed when it lost out to its Asian competitors.

Country	Company	Number of beneficiaries	Amount paid (€)	Sector	Rapporteur
Finland	69 enterprises	1,200	2,623,200	Computer programming	Marco Zanni (EFDD, IT)
Ireland	P W A International and 1 supplier	108	442,293	Aircraft maintenance and repair	Victor Negrescu (S&D, RO)

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) aid also needs to be approved by the EU Council of Ministers, on 14 December.

*Procedure: budgetary*

[2015/2298\(BUD\) - Finland](#)

[2015/2295\(BUD\) - Ireland](#)

*Vote: Tuesday, 15 December (Finland), Wednesday, 16 December (Ireland)*

[#EUBudget](#) [#EGF](#) [#Finland](#) [#Ireland](#) [#PWA](#)

## Further information

[Press release on committee vote \(10.12.2015\)](#)  
[Profile of rapporteur Marco Zanni \(EFDD, IT\)](#)  
[Profile of rapporteur Victor Negrescu \(S&D, RO\)](#)  
[Procedure file \(Finland\)](#)  
[Procedure file \(Ireland\)](#)  
[The Commission's EGF page](#)  
[EP Research: introduction to the EGF](#)

# Stop the violence in Burundi and protect Virunga National Park say MEPs

**MEPs will call for measures to halt the escalation of violence in Burundi and assist the tens of thousands of Burundi refugees in neighbouring countries in a resolution to be voted on Thursday. In another resolution on Thursday they will call for measures to protect Virunga National Park, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to the endangered mountain gorillas.**

## **Burundi conflict**

The House debated the situation in Burundi on 25 November, calling on the EU and the international community to take urgent action to prevent genocide and to bring all possible pressure to bear on those responsible for the escalation of violence, persecutions, imprisonments and human rights violations. They also appealed for measures to assist the tens of thousands of refugees fleeing from Burundi to neighbouring countries and for development aid to be re-directed to those who really need it.

## **Protect Virunga National Park**

MEPs called at their sitting on 2 December for measures to help protect Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a World Heritage Site since 1979, from the dangers posed by oil exploration, armed conflict and corruption. They called on the Commission to take action and devise viable strategies to help protect the park and to support sustainable development in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

*Procedure: non-legislative resolutions*

*2015/2973(RSP)-Burundi,*

*2015/2728(RSP)-Virunga*

*Debate: Wednesday 25 November (Burundi), Wednesday 2 December (Virunga)*

*Vote: Thursday 17 December*

*#humanrights #Virunga #DRC #Burundi*

## Further information

[Watch the recording of the Virunga Park debate](#)

[Watch the recording of the Burundi debate](#)

[European Commission Memo on Virunga Park](#)

[UNESCO site](#)

[EP Research Briefing note on Burundi](#)

# Parliament to take a stand on the state of Hungary's democracy

**Parliament will assess the EU Commission's work on monitoring the state of democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights in Hungary in a resolution to be voted on Wednesday. This wraps up the 2 December debate on whether the Commission's rule of law framework, set up to prevent a systemic threat, should have been activated in response to political developments in Hungary.**

The Commission said on 2 December that it did not see a systemic threat to democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights in Hungary, although several EU infringement procedures were or are underway against it and more are expected.

Some MEPs criticised the Commission's purely "legislative" approach and asked for more political action.

*Procedure: non-legislative resolution*

[2015/2935\(RSP\)](#)

*Vote: Wednesday, 16 December*

*#Hungary #ruleoflaw #fundamentalrights*

## Further information

[Resolution on the situation in Hungary \(10.06.2015\)](#)

[Question to Commission on the follow-up of the 10.06.2015 resolution \(02.12.2015\)](#)

[Press release after the debate \(02.12.2015\)](#)

[Video recording of the debate \(02.12.2015\)](#)

[The rule of law framework](#)

[Procedure file](#)

## Human rights and democracy resolutions

**Parliament will hold urgent debates on the following human rights and democracy topics on Thursday 17 December at around 11.00 with the votes following at 12.00.**

- Ibrahim Halawa, potentially facing the death penalty
- Situation in the Maldives
- Malaysia

*Procedure: non-legislative resolutions*

*Debate: Thursday, 17 December*

*Vote: Thursday, 17 December*

*#humanrights #Halawa #Maldives #Malaysia*

# Other topics on the agenda

## Other topics for debate and vote include the following:

- Political Partnership with Vietnam – a human rights framework for the upcoming free trade deal with Vietnam, *Lochbihler, Kalniete (COD) debate Wednesday, vote Thursday*