

## Newsletter

### 27-30 April 2015

### Strasbourg plenary session

#### **Mediterranean tragedies: MEPs to demand action to save lives**

MEPs will demand concrete action to halt the deaths of Mediterranean migrants and refugees, in a debate with the Commission's President, Jean-Claude Juncker and Council President Donald Tusk on Wednesday at 09.00. Over 1,600 have died since the start of this year, reports the UN Refugee Agency.

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EU countries would be required to reduce the use of the commonest and most polluting plastic bags under draft rules to be put to a vote on Tuesday. Plastic bag pollution of water bodies and aquatic eco-systems is a major environmental problem.

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An informal deal struck by MEPs and ministers on a draft law to cap crop-derived biofuel production and accelerate the shift to alternative sources, such as waste or residues, and new ones, such as seaweed, will be put to a vote on Wednesday. The plan aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions caused by the growing use of farm land for biofuel crops.

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Emergency call devices that automatically alert rescue services to car crashes (eCall) would have to be fitted to all new models of cars and light vans by 31 March 2018 under draft rules to be voted on Tuesday. A vote in favour would confirm an informal deal struck in December with the Council of Ministers, which then formally approved it on 2 March.

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#### **MEPs to call for stronger EU alcohol strategy**

Requiring alcoholic drink producers to state calorie content and ingredients on the label should be considered as a possible aim for the new EU "alcohol strategy", suggests a draft resolution to be voted on Wednesday. The text calls for more effort to reduce alcohol consumption by minors, and EU-wide labelling warnings against drink driving or drinking while pregnant. The European Commission is urged to table the new strategy in 2016 at the latest.

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## **Debate on new "European Agenda on Security"**

MEPs will state their views on the new "European Agenda on Security" in a debate with home affairs Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos on Tuesday afternoon, immediately after the Commission approves it. The security agenda, which updates the EU Internal Security Strategy, sets out key priorities and actions for to fight terrorism, organised crime and cybercrime in 2015-2020.

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<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2015-04-27>

## Further information

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

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# Mediterranean tragedies: MEPs to demand action to save lives

**MEPs will demand concrete action to halt the deaths of Mediterranean migrants and refugees, in a debate with the Commission's President, Jean-Claude Juncker and Council President Donald Tusk on Wednesday at 09.00. Over 1,600 have died since the start of this year, reports the UN Refugee Agency.**

The debate is likely to focus on the ten-point action plan on migration tabled by Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos on 20 April and the outcome of the 23 April extraordinary European Council. It will be followed by a vote on a resolution.

The European Parliament has for years been calling on the EU member states to take their fair share of responsibility and show solidarity with those that receive the most refugees and asylum seekers, both in absolute terms and relative to their populations.

Search and rescue obligations should also be "effectively fulfilled" and "properly funded in the medium and long term", Parliament said in a [resolution](#) approved in December.

*Procedure: : European Council and Commission statements*

*Debate/vote: Wednesday, 29 April #*

*#migration #refugees #asylum #fundamentalrights*

## Further information

Ten point action plan on migration presented by Commissioner Avramopoulos on 20.04.2015  
Press release from the President of the European Parliament - Schulz for renewal of refugee and migration policies (19.04.2015)

President Martin Schulz (20.04.2015)

Video of the press conference with Roberta Metsola and Kashetu Kyenge, co-rapporteurs on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic approach to migration (14.04.2015)

Video recording of the kick-off debate in the Civil Liberties Committee on a strategic own-initiative report on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic approach to migration (14.04.2015, from 11.30 onwards)

Press release from 17.12.2014 - Migration: MEPs call on EU countries to share responsibility

Press release from 30.10.2014 - Civil Liberties Committee Chair statement on Triton

Press release from 16.04.2014 - Migrants: Parliament approves search and rescue rules to prevent deaths at sea

EuroparITV video: Triton - between expectations and reality

EPRS briefing - EU legal framework on asylum and irregular immigration 'on arrival' State of play

## MEPs to clamp down on wasteful use of plastic carrier bags

**EU countries would be required to reduce the use of the commonest and most polluting plastic bags under draft rules to be put to a vote on Tuesday. Plastic bag pollution of water bodies and aquatic eco-systems is a major environmental problem.**

The law would require EU member states to choose between two options: either take measures to ensure that average yearly consumption does not exceed 90 lightweight bags per citizen by 2019 and 40 by 2025, or alternatively, ensure that, by 2018, these bags are not handed to shoppers free of charge.

### **Note to editors**

*In 2010 every EU citizen used an estimated 198 plastic carrier bags, some 90% of which were lightweight. In a business-as-usual scenario, consumption of plastic bags is expected to grow further. Estimates also suggest that over eight billion plastic carrier bags became litter in the EU in 2010.*

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

[2013/0371\(COD\)](#)

*Debate/vote: Tuesday, 28 April*

*Press conference: Tuesday, 28 April, 16.00*

#plasticbags #environment

### **Further information**

[Draft recommendation for second reading](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(31.03.2015\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Margrete Auken \(Greens/EFA, DK\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research: Curbing the use of lightweight plastic carrier bags](#)

## Vote on shift to advanced biofuels

**An informal deal struck by MEPs and ministers on a draft law to cap crop-derived biofuel production and accelerate the shift to alternative sources, such as waste or residues, and new ones, such as seaweed, will be put to a vote on Wednesday. The plan aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions caused by the growing use of farm land for biofuel crops.**

Current legislation requires EU member states to ensure that renewable energy accounts for at least 10% of transport fuel consumption. by 2020. The new draft law says that first-generation biofuels (those made from crops grown on farm land) should account no more than 7% of transport consumption by 2020.

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

[2012/0288\(COD\)](#)

*Debate/vote: Tuesday, 28 April*

*Press conference: Tuesday, 28 April - 15.30*

*#Biofuels #ILUC #fuelquality #reneweableenergy*

### Further information

[Draft recommendation for second reading](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(14.04.2015\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Nils TORVALDS \(ALDE, FI\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research: Biofuels policy and indirect land use change](#)

# Vote on life-saving emergency call system for cars

**Emergency call devices that automatically alert rescue services to car crashes (eCall) would have to be fitted to all new models of cars and light vans by 31 March 2018 under draft rules to be voted on Tuesday. A vote in favour would confirm an informal deal struck in December with the Council of Ministers, which then formally approved it on 2 March.**

The in-vehicle eCall system uses 112 emergency call technology to alert the emergency services to serious road accidents automatically. This enables them to decide immediately on the type and size of rescue operation needed, which in turn helps them to arrive faster, save lives, reduce the severity of injuries and cut the cost of traffic jams.

Each year emergency services across the EU deal with road accidents which in 2014 took 25,700 lives. Once fitted to all vehicles, eCall could reduce the accident death toll by 10% a year.

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

[2013/0165\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Monday, 27 April*

*Vote: Tuesday, 28 April*

*Press conference: Tuesday, 28 April at 14.00 (TBC)*

*#ecall #roadtransport*

## Further information

[Draft eCall in-vehicle system rules \(Council position, reflecting the agreement with European Parliament\)](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(17.03.2015\)](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur Olga Sehnalova \(S&D, CZ\)](#)

[Legislative Observatory file](#)

[eCall \(Commission webpage\)](#)

[Road safety in EU: trends, statistics and main challenges \(Commission information\)](#)

## MEPs to call for stronger EU alcohol strategy

**Requiring alcoholic drink producers to state calorie content and ingredients on the label should be considered as a possible aim for the new EU “alcohol strategy”, suggests a draft resolution to be voted on Wednesday. The text calls for more effort to reduce alcohol consumption by minors, and EU-wide labelling warnings against drink driving or drinking while pregnant. The European Commission is urged to table the new strategy in 2016 at the latest.**

The resolution, drafted by the Environment and Public Health Committee, calls on the European Commission to “immediately begin work on the new EU Alcohol Strategy (2016-2022)”, in order to help national governments to deal with alcohol-related harm. The strategy’s aims should include collecting reliable data, improving prevention and treatment, reducing accidents caused by drink driving and differentiating more clearly within drinking patterns, it says.

It also suggests that the European Commission should assess whether alcoholic drinks should be labelled with information on ingredients and nutritional content.

### **Note to editors**

*Alcohol abuse causes 3.3 million premature deaths worldwide each year, i.e. 5.9% of the total. In the 20-39 age group, roughly 25% of all deaths can be attributed to alcohol abuse. These deaths are often due to accidents, acts of violence or liver disease.*

*Procedure: Oral question to Commission (with resolution)*

[2015/2543\(RSP\)](#)

*Debate: Monday, 27 April*

*Vote: Wednesday, 29 April*

*#AlcoholStrategy*

## Further information

[Parliamentary question](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(31.03.2015\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research: EU Alcohol Strategy revisited](#)

## Debate on new "European Agenda on Security"

**MEPs will state their views on the new “European Agenda on Security” in a debate with home affairs Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos on Tuesday afternoon, immediately after the Commission approves it. The security agenda, which updates the EU Internal Security Strategy, sets out key priorities and actions for to fight terrorism, organised crime and cybercrime in 2015-2020.**

In a December 2014 resolution on the security agenda, MEPs called on EU member states to cooperate more closely and share relevant data and information faster and more efficiently. They also asked the Commission to take stock of current security tools and stressed that existing laws should be properly enforced "before proposing the creation of new ones".

MEPs also reiterated that all instruments should comply with the principles of proportionality and necessity and include appropriate safeguards for data protection, accountability and judicial redress.

The European Agenda on Security still needs to be formally approved by the Council.

*Procedure: Commission statement - decision adopted on the European Agenda on Security (no resolution)*

[2014/2918\(RSP\)](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 28 April*

*#antiterrorism #security #organizedcrime #cybercrime*

### Further information

[EP resolution on EU Internal Security Strategy:](#)

[Press release on plenary vote \(17.12.2014\):](#)

[Plenary debate on "Renewing the EU Internal Security Strategy" \(16.12.2014\)](#)

[Procedure file EP resolution on EU Internal Security Strategy](#)

[Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](#)

[EP Research - Internal Security Strategy: Open and safe Europe \(Dec. 2014\)](#)

## **“Smart border” checks at gateways to the EU: questions to Commission and Council**

**Are the EU’s proposed Entry/Exit System and Registered Traveller Programme for non-EU nationals “appropriate and adequate” to deal with the growing numbers of people crossing its external borders? MEPs will put the question to the Commission and Council on Tuesday. In the ensuing debate, they are also likely to ask about data retention periods, whether law enforcement agencies should be given access to the data, and the costs of these systems.**

Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris Avramopoulos, announced on 3 December last year that the “Smart Borders” proposals tabled in 2013 would be withdrawn and replaced by new ones at the end of 2015 or the start of 2016. A Smart Borders pilot scheme is testing biometric check technology at the main airports in Portugal, Germany, France, Spain, the Netherlands and Sweden from March to September 2015.

### ***Background for editors***

*The Smart Borders package includes proposals for an Entry/Exit System (EES) and a Registered Traveller Programme (RTP), to improve the management of Schengen area external borders, combat irregular immigration and gather data on over-stayers, whilst at the same time making it easier for pre-vetted non-EU nationals who are frequent travellers to cross borders.*

*The planned EES would be used to record the time and place of entry and exit of non-EU nationals crossing EU external borders, calculate the duration of their stay and generate an alert when authorised stay periods are exceeded.*

*The RTP would allow some groups of frequent travellers (e.g. business travellers, family members etc.), from third countries to enter the EU, subject to appropriate pre-screening and simplified border checks, including the use of automated gates.*

*The Civil Liberties Committee rapporteurs on the Smart Borders Package are Agustín Díaz de Mera (EPP, ES), for the EES, and Tanja Fajon (S&D, SL), for the RTP.*

*Procedure: Oral questions to Council and Commission*

[2013/0057\(COD\)](#) - Entry/Exit System (EES) to register entry and exit data of third country nationals

[2013/0059\(COD\)](#) - Registered Traveller Programme (RTP)

*Debate: Tuesday, 28 April*

*#SmartBorders #airports*

## **Further information**

[Oral question to the Council](#)

[Oral question to the Commission](#)

[Information about the Smart Borders Pilot](#)

[Profile of rapporteur on the EES, Agustín Díaz de Mera \(EPP, ES\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur on RTP, Tanja Fajon \(S&D, SL\)](#)

[Procedure file on Entry/Exit System \(EES\)](#)

[Procedure file on Registered Traveller Programme \(RTP\)](#)

## **Ships' CO2 emissions: vote on new reporting rules**

**Draft EU rules requiring ship owners who use EU ports to monitor and report CO2 emissions each year from January 2018 will be put to a vote on Thursday. These rules, already informally agreed with the Council of Ministers, will apply to ships over 5,000 gross tons, no matter where they are registered, as a first step towards cutting their greenhouse gas emissions.**

The rules would establish an EU-wide system for the monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of ships' greenhouse gas emissions. This system is designed to gather data on emissions and engine efficiency and encourage efforts to cut emissions and fuel consumption. Warships and fishing boats would be excluded.

International shipping is the only means of transport not yet included in EU plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Ships using EU ports currently account for 4% of all greenhouse gas emissions from shipping, a figure that is set to rise substantially in future.

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

[2013/0224\(COD\)](#)

*Specialist: Baptiste*

*Debate/vote: Tuesday 28 April*

*#MRV #ships #CO2 #CO2emissions #vessels #maritime*

### **Further information**

[Recommendation for second reading](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(26.03.2015\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur José Inácio FARIA \(ALDE, PT\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research: Monitoring CO2 emissions in maritime transport](#)

## Olive trees: MEPs want answers on how to tackle spread of killer bacteria

**Parliament will quiz the Commission Thursday on plans to tackle the outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa* bacteria, which have infected several thousand hectares of olive plantations in Italy, and prevent it spreading to other EU regions. The Commission will also be asked to say how any growers whose trees have to be destroyed would be compensated.**

MEPs also want the Commission to pursue research to eradicate deadly plant diseases caused by pathogens such as *Xylella fastidiosa* and Black Spot in citrus imports from South Africa. They will ask whether it is ready to tighten restrictions on plant imports.

### **Note to editors**

*Xylella fastidiosa* has already infected thousands of hectares of olive trees in Puglia region in Southern Italy and might also attack other plant species, such as citrus, grapevines and stone fruits (almond, peach, plum), leading, in the most severe cases, to their death.

Italy grows olives on about 1,700,000 ha, making it the EU's second largest grower after Spain. Around 80% of this area is in southern Italy, including about 370,000 ha in the Apulia region alone.

[Question for oral answer to the Commission](#)

Debate:: Thursday, 30 April

Vote: May I plenary

#Xylella #XylellaFastidiosa #olivetrees #Apulia

## Further information

[Question for an oral answer to the Commission](#)  
[European Food Safety Agency: FAQs on Xylella fastidiosa](#)

# Forests: MEPs to demand better management and efficient use of raw materials

**Ideas for boosting competitiveness and creating new jobs in the EU's forest-based industries will be debated on Monday. Parliament will then give its input to the new EU forest strategy in a non-binding resolution to be voted on Tuesday.**

The draft resolution highlights the need for a new joint strategy to tackle cross-border challenges such as forest fires, climate change, natural disasters or invasive alien species, but insists that any specific measure must remain subject to national law.

The new EU forest strategy should replace the one in force since 1998.

## **Note to editors**

*Forests cover some 40% of the EU land surface and absorb and store around 10 % of EU carbon emissions. About 60% of the EU's forests are private property. The EU forest sector currently employs over 3 million people.*

*Procedure: Non-legislative resolution*

[2014/2223\(INI\)](#)

*Debate: Monday, 27 April*

*Vote: Tuesday, 28 April*

[#EUForestStrategy](#) [#ForestStrategy](#) [#Forests](#)

## **Further information**

[Draft resolution on 'A new EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest-based sector'](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(24.03.2015\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Elisabeth Köstinger \(EPP, AT\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[The new EU Forest Strategy \(Commission's website\)](#)

[EP Research: A new impulse for EU forests](#)

## New fisheries policy: MEPs to approve key draft laws on discards and Baltic Sea

**Parliament is set to give fishermen more time to adapt to new rules against discarding unwanted fish at sea, by delaying the entry into effect of sanctions. MEPs will also vote on a multiannual management plan for Baltic cod, sprat and herring stocks. These draft laws are needed to implement the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) which took effect in 2014. Debates on Monday, votes on Tuesday.**

In committee, MEPs made two key changes to the "landing obligation" regulation, which sets out arrangements for enforcing the discard ban, so as to make small fishermen's lives easier. These limited a requirement to keep a log of each species caught and kept on board to catches above 50 kg live-weight equivalent and delayed the entry into effect of sanctions for failure to comply with the ban until 2017.

The multiannual plan for Baltic cod, sprat and herring is the first under the new CFP. Its reliance on long-run management, rather than annual planning, should improve predictability for fishermen. Multiannual plans, a key feature of the new CFP, aim to ensure that catches do not exceed what a given stock can reproduce in a given year.

*Procedures: Co-decision (Ordinary Legislative Procedure), first reading agreement (Landing obligation); Co-decision (Ordinary Legislative Procedure), first reading (Baltic Plan)*

[2013/0436\(COD\) - Landing obligation](#)

[2014/0285\(COD\) - Baltic Plan](#)

*Debate: Monday, 27 April*

*Vote: Tuesday, 28 April*

*#fisheries #BalticSea #Discards #CFPreality #CFPreform #BalticMAP*

## Further information

[Press release on committee vote: "Discard ban - MEPs delay enforcement of sanctions on fishermen who fail to comply" \(29/01/2015\)](#)

[Press release on committee vote: "MEPs pave way for sustainable fishing in the Baltic Sea" \(31/03/2015\)](#)

[Rapporteur Alain Cadec \(EPP, FR\) – Landing obligation](#)

[Rapporteur Jarosław Wałęsa \(EPP, PL\) – Baltic Sea multiannual plan](#)

[Background note on the Common Fisheries Policy reform](#)

[Baltic Plan: PECH committee position to be tabled for the plenary vote:](#)

[Landing obligation: Political agreement between Parliament and Council to be tabled for the plenary vote:](#)

[EP Think Tank: Implementing the landing obligation](#)

[EP Research: Multiannual plan for fisheries in the Baltic Sea](#)

## MEPs to debate student massacre in Kenya and Nasheed arrest in the Maldives

**The 2 April attack by Islamist al-Shabab gunmen on the University College in Garissa, Kenya, which killed 150 students, and the arrest in the Maldives of former President Mohammed Nasheed will be debated on Wednesday afternoon. Resolutions will be voted on Thursday.**

In the debate on developments in Maldives, prompted by Mr Nasheed's arrest on terrorism charges, MEPs are set to call for respect for democratic principles, including the rule of law.

*Statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy - killing of students by terror group Al-Shahaab (with resolution)*

*Debates: Wednesday, 29 April*

*Votes: Thursday, 30 April*

*#Garissa #Maldives*

### Further information

[Opening of April session in Brussels](#)

# Parliament to assess progress of Albania and Bosnia & Herzegovina in 2014

**Parliament debates the reform progress made by Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2014 with Commissioner Johannes Hahn on Wednesday. In its draft resolutions to be voted by the House on Thursday, the foreign affairs committee stresses the need for inclusive, constructive and sustainable political dialogue on reforms and for greater cooperation between the political forces in the two countries.**

Both countries need to advance, inter alia, with their democratic processes, tackle corruption and put in place a professional and depoliticized public administration, foreign affairs MEPs say in the two separate resolutions, one for each country. They also say Albania must establish a solid track record for EU-related reforms and political elites in Bosnia and Herzegovina have to show clear commitment to resuming the reform process and moving closer to the EU.

*Procedure: non legislative resolutions*

*Procedure Code: 2014/2952(RSP), 2014/2951(RSP)*

*Debate: Wednesday, 29 April*

*Vote: Thursday, 30 April*

*#BosniaHerzegovina #Albania*

*#BiH*

## Further information

[Press release after the committee vote](#)

[Knut Fleckenstein \(S&D, DE\) – profile of the rapporteur \(Albania\)](#)

[Cristian Dan Preda \(EPP, RO\) – profile of the rapporteur \(Bosnia and Herzegovina\)](#)

[EP Research: Albania: candidate country status obtained](#)

[EP Research: Bosnia and Herzegovina: a renewed approach?](#)

## Fighting fraud: MEPs to take stock of European Public Prosecutor talks

**The European Public Prosecutor to be named to fight fraud against the EU budget and help retrieve taxpayers' money must be fully independent and democratically accountable, MEPs insist in a draft resolution assessing the progress of EU countries' long-running talks on plans for the post. The text will be debated on Tuesday and put to a vote on Wednesday.**

Once EU member states agree to establish a European Public Prosecutor, Parliament will have to give its consent.

### **Background for editors**

- *The European Commission presented its proposal for a European Public Prosecutor's Office in July 2013*
- *In a resolution voted on 12 March 2014, MEPs urged the Council to involve Parliament in its work and made policy suggestions on key issues for the Prosecutor's office, such as its structure, independence, decision-making process, sphere of competence, investigation tools, admissibility of evidence, judicial review and legal protection*
- *Only 31% of judicial recommendations by EU anti-fraud office OLAF resulted in indictments in 2006-2013*
- *Member states report that every year, around €500 million in EU expenditure and revenue is lost due to suspected fraud*

*Procedure: Interim report (non-legislative)*

[2013/0255\(APP\)](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 28 April*

*Vote: Wednesday, 29 April*

*#EPPO #EU #public #prosecutor*

## Further information

[Draft interim report on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office:](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Monica Macovei \(EPP, RO\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[European Parliament resolution on European Public Prosecutor's Office \(12.03.2014\)](#)

[EP research: The European Public Prosecutor's Office](#)

[European Commission MEMO: Every euro counts - Frequently Asked Questions on the European Public Prosecutor's Office:](#)

[EP reserach: Setting up the European Public Prosecutor's Office](#)

# Nigeria: European Parliament may urge international action against Boko Haram

**Parliament will condemn the recent Boko Haram massacres in Nigeria in a resolution to be voted on Thursday. It is also likely to call on the international community to tackle the causes of terrorism there. MEPs debated this issue with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on 14 January in Strasbourg .**

MEPs called in the January debate for an international inquiry into the recent atrocities which reportedly left 2,000 dead and urged the EU to step up its assistance to help Nigeria to fight terrorism.

*Procedure: Statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security policy (with resolution)*

*Debate: Wednesday, 14 January*

*Vote: Thursday, 30 April*

*#Nigeria #BokoHaram #Haram*

## **Further information**

[Video recording of plenary debate \(14.01.2015\)](#)

[Briefing note on African-led counter-terrorism measures against Boko Haram](#)

[Briefing note on Political situation in Nigeria: before the elections](#)

## EP could refuse to approve spending by four projects, an agency and the Council

**Parliament will consider whether or not to postpone approving spending in 2013 by four EU-private partnerships, the Budapest-based European Institute of Innovation agency, the Council and the European Council, in a debate on Tuesday and a series of votes on Wednesday. It will vote on a total of 52 reports under the "discharge" procedure for scrutinizing EU spending.**

The budgetary control committee has recommended postponing [discharge](#), (i.e. postponing approval of their spending) to the following organisations: the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology](#); the [ARTEMIS](#) Technology Platform, [ENIAC](#) (European Nanoelectronics Initiative Advisory Council); [IMI](#) (Innovative Medicines Initiative); [ITER](#) (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) projects; the Council; and the European Council. The final decision on discharge is made in October, after an assessment of the improvements carried out by the bodies that failed the discharge test in April.

*Procedure: discharge (2013 discharge - 52 reports)*

*Debate: Tuesday, 28 April*

*Vote: Wednesday, 29 April*

*Press conference: Wednesday, 29 April 15:00 with rapporteurs Ingeborg GRÄSSLE (EPP, DE), Ryszard CZARNECKI (ECR, PL) and Anders Primdahl VISTISEN (ECR, DK)*

*#discharge #EUBudget #EIT*

### Further information

[All draft discharge reports and amendments voted on 23-24 March](#)

[The Budgetary Control Committee's 2013 discharge page](#)

[Rapporteur on the European Commission: Ingeborg Grässle \(EPP, DE\)](#)

[Rapporteur on agencies, joint undertakings and institutions: Ryszard Czarnecki \(ECR, PL\)](#)

[Rapporteur on joint undertakings: Anders Primdahl Vistisen \(ECR, DK\)](#)

[EP research: Discharge procedure for the EU budget](#)

## MEPs set to make money market funds more crisis-resilient

**A draft law to make EU money market funds more resilient to financial crises will be debated on Tuesday and put to a vote on Wednesday. These funds hold assets worth €1 trillion and act as short-term lenders to financial institutions, firms and governments. But their “shadow banking” operations are not subject to EU banking rules and they lack direct access to central bank liquidity. The law would also require clearer investor information.**

The draft law, already approved by the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, is being voted on by Parliament as a whole to consolidate its position for three-way talks on the draft with member states and the Commission.

*Procedure: Co-decision (Ordinary Legislative Procedure), vote on mandate for negotiations*

[2013/0306\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 28 April*

*Vote: Wednesday, 29 April*

*#shadowbanking #moneymarket #funds*

### Further information

[Press release on committee vote \(26.02.2015\)](#)

[EPRS Money market funds \(20.04.2015\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Neena Gill \(S&D, UK\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research: Money market funds](#)

## Youth Employment Initiative: vote to make €1 billion available in 2015

**European Social Fund rule changes needed to deliver €1 billion in EU funding this year to help member states get up to 650,000 young people into work will be debated on Tuesday evening and put to a vote on Wednesday. The changes would help kick-start member states' schemes by concentrating up to 30% of EU Youth Employment Initiative payments towards them in 2015.**

The EU Youth Employment Initiative tops up the European Social Fund (ESF) money in member states with regions where youth unemployment exceeds 25%. The changes will be put to the vote without amendments and, pending subsequent formal approval by the Council, should enter into force by July.

### **Note for editors**

*The Youth Guarantee Initiative is a set of measures in member states to accelerate the transition from school to work transitions and help create jobs for young people.*

*The YEI funding for 2014-2020 is €3.2 billion, to be matched by at least €3.2 billion from member states' European Social Fund allocations.*

*The proposal would increase the YEI pre-financing rate in its 2015 budget allocation from 1-1.5% to up to 30%.*

*Beneficiary member states could therefore receive a third of their YEI allocations as soon as the relevant operational programmes are approved. They are Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the UK.*

*Procedure: Ordinary Legislative Procedure, first reading*

*Debate: Tuesday, 28 April*

*Vote: Wednesday, 29 April*

*Press conference: Wednesday, 29 April at 14:30*

*#YouthEmployment #YEI #ESF*

## **Further information**

[Draft report on amending regulation on the ESF, as regards initial pre-financing to programmes of the YEI](#)

[Press release: Debate on front-loading €1 billion for Youth Employment Initiative in 2015 \(10.02.2015\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Elisabeth Morin-Chartier \(EPP, FR\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[European Commission: legislative proposal](#)

[EP Resolution on Youth Employment \(17.07.2014\)](#)

[EPRS: Youth Employment Initiative](#)

[European Commission: Youth Employment Initiative infographic](#)

# MEPs to discuss working conditions in Bangladesh two years after Rana Plaza

**Parliament will mark the second anniversary of the Rana Plaza disaster when the collapse of a textile factory led to over 1,100 deaths. In their debate on Monday, MEPs will also discuss progress since 2013 in improving workers' conditions under the Bangladesh Sustainability Compact. They will vote on a resolution Wednesday.**

The Bangladesh Sustainability Compact is an initiative launched two years ago by the EU, together with the Bangladeshi authorities, the United States and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), with the aim of improving labour, health and safety conditions for workers and encouraging responsible behaviour by companies. It lists short-term and long-term commitments to boosting labour rights, inspections and occupational safety.

*Commission statement - second anniversary of the Rana Plaza building collapse and the state of play of the Sustainability Compact (with resolution)*

*Code: 2015/2589(RSP)*

*Debate: Monday, 27 April*

*Vote: Wednesday, 29 April*

*#RanaPlaza #Bangladesh*

## **Further information**

[The Sustainability Compact](#)

[Briefing note on the workers' conditions in the textile and clothing sector](#)

[Briefing note on the human rights situation in Bangladesh](#)

[EU Trade relations with Bangladesh](#)

## Expo Milan 2015: MEPs to debate food security and how to promote healthy eating

**Measures to improve the security of food supplies, reduce food waste and promote healthy eating will be debated on Thursday. Parliament will then vote a non-binding resolution calling on the EU to use the Expo 2015 event in Milan to promote measures to improve food security worldwide. The draft suggests examples such as encouraging more efficient and sustainable agronomic practices and enforcing transparency and fairness in the food supply chain.**

The draft resolution notes that areas of food insecurity still exist in the EU, where 79 million people live below the poverty line. It also notes that if the world's food supply is to keep pace with its projected population growth, from 7 billion today to 9.1 billion in 2050, then it will need to increase by 70% (UN Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates).

*Procedure: Non-legislative resolution*

[2015/2574\(INI\)](#)

*Debate/vote: Thursday, 30 April*

*Press conference: Wednesday, 29 April at 16.00*

*#foodsecurity #foodwaste #malnutrition #expo2015*

### Further information

[Oral question to the Commission](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(24.03.2015\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Paolo De Castro \(S&D, IT\)](#)

## Human rights and democracy resolutions

**Parliament will hold urgent debates on the following human rights and democracy topics, on Thursday 30 April at 15.00, with the votes following at 16.00.**

- The case of Nadiya Savchenko
- The situation of the Yarmouk refugee camp in Syria
- Imprisonment of human and workers' rights activists in Algeria

*Procedure: Non-legislative resolutions*

*Debate/vote: Thursday, 30 April*

*#humanrights #democracy # Savchenko # Yarmouk #workers #Algeria*

# Other topics on the agenda

**Other topics listed for debates and votes include the following:**

- Bologna process report by ,Krystyna Łybacka *debate Monday, vote Tuesday*
- European Investment Bank annual report 2013 by Ernest Urtasun, *debate and vote Thursday*
- Marrakesh Treaty on copyright exceptions for the visually impaired, Oral question, *debate Wednesday*
- European film in the digital era, report by Bogdan Brunon Wenta, *debate Monday, vote Tuesday*

### Further information

[Report on Follow-up on the implementation of the Bologna Process](#)

[Question for oral answer - Marrakesh Treaty on copyright exceptions for the visually impaired](#)

[Procedure file - Marrakesh Treaty on copyright exceptions for the visually impaired](#)

[Report on European film in the digital era](#)