

## Newsletter

### 18-21 May 2015

### Strasbourg plenary session

#### **Debate on the European Agenda on Migration for 2015-2020**

MEPs will give their views on the European Agenda on Migration presented by the Commission on 13 May in a debate with Commission Vice-president Frans Timmermans and the Council presidency on Wednesday at 9.00. The four pillars are a stronger common asylum policy, including an EU-wide resettlement scheme and relocation inside the EU in emergencies, fighting trafficking and preventing irregular migration, managing external borders, and a new policy on legal migration.

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#### **Tougher rules on money laundering to fight tax evasion and terrorist financing**

The ultimate owners of companies will have to be listed in central registers in EU countries, open both to the authorities and to people with a "legitimate interest", such as journalists, under a Parliament/Council deal to be debated on Tuesday and put to a vote on Wednesday. The new anti-money laundering directive aims to help to fight money laundering, tax crimes and terrorist financing. New rules to make it easier to trace transfers of funds will also be put to a vote.

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#### **Debate on Hungary**

MEPs will debate the situation in Hungary with Commission Vice-president Frans Timmermans late on Tuesday afternoon. The debate follows Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's remarks on the possibility of reinstating capital punishment in Hungary and a public consultation on immigration launched by the Hungarian government.

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#### **Debate and vote on a law to stem the flow of "conflict minerals"**

A draft law to help stem the flow of revenue to armed groups from sales of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold will be debated on Tuesday and put to a vote on Wednesday. The draft, already approved by the EP Trade Committee, provides for mandatory certification of EU smelters and refiners and voluntary certification of operators who buy, process and use these minerals and metals to make mobile phones, washing machines, fridges, etc.

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#### **Debate on proposed digital single market strategy**

The new EU digital single market strategy, tabled by the European Commission on 6 May, will be analysed in a debate on Tuesday morning. The strategy, which sets out 16 initiatives, including proposals on e-commerce, geo-blocking, telecoms and copyright,

will be presented by Commission Vice-President for the digital single market, Andrus Ansip. VAT rules for ebooks and epapers will be debated separately, on Monday. 10

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### **MEPs to set out blueprint for safer healthcare**

A draft resolution setting out measures to improve patient safety, inter alia by tackling growing microbial resistance to human and veterinary antibiotics, will be discussed on Monday and put to a vote on Tuesday. The draft also sets out MEPs' concerns about healthcare infections, which reportedly affect 8-12% of patients admitted to hospitals in the EU. 11

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### **Counterfeit cigarettes: MEPs to question future of EU deals with tobacco firms**

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## Further information

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[Press conferences and other events](#)  
[EP Audiovisual website](#)  
[EP Newshub](#)

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# Debate on the European Agenda on Migration for 2015-2020

**MEPs will give their views on the European Agenda on Migration presented by the Commission on 13 May in a debate with Commission Vice-president Frans Timmermans and the Council presidency on Wednesday at 9.00. The four pillars are a stronger common asylum policy, including an EU-wide resettlement scheme and relocation inside the EU in emergencies, fighting trafficking and preventing irregular migration, managing external borders, and a new policy on legal migration.**

Parliament has been calling on the European Commission to come up with an "ambitious European agenda on migration, which takes into account all aspects of migration". This call was reiterated in a resolution, voted on 29 April, on the latest tragedies in the Mediterranean and on EU migration and asylum policies.

The Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee is currently drafting a report which will reflect Parliament's medium- and longer-term policy orientations on migration. The co-rapporteurs are Roberta Metsola (EPP, MT) and Kashetu Kyenge (S&D, IT).

*Note to editors*

*Resettlement is the process whereby, at the request of the UN Refugee Agency, based on a person's need for international protection, non-EU nationals are transferred from a non- EU country and established in a member state.*

*Relocation is the transfer of asylum seekers or refugees from one EU member state to another.*

*Procedure: Council and Commission statements followed by debate*

[2015/2648\(RSP\)](#)

*Debate: Wednesday, 20 May*

*#migrationEU #migration*

## Further information

[Civil Liberties Committee Chair, Claude Moraes, statement on the European Agenda on Migration \(13.05.2015\)](#)

[Commission's press release on the European Agenda on Migration \(for colleagues: available in all languages\)](#)

[Press release - Migration: Parliament calls for urgent measures to save lives \(29.04.2015\)](#)

[EPRS - Asylum and irregular immigration in the EU](#)

## Tougher rules on money laundering to fight tax evasion and terrorist financing

**The ultimate owners of companies will have to be listed in central registers in EU countries, open both to the authorities and to people with a "legitimate interest", such as journalists, under a Parliament/Council deal to be debated on Tuesday and put to a vote on Wednesday. The new anti-money laundering directive aims to help to fight money laundering, tax crimes and terrorist financing. New rules to make it easier to trace transfers of funds will also be put to a vote.**

The fourth anti-money laundering directive (AMLD) will for the first time oblige EU member states to keep central registers listing the ultimate "beneficial" owners of corporate and other legal entities, as well as trusts. This provision was included by MEPs in negotiations with the Council. The text also requires banks, auditors, lawyers, real estate agents and casinos, among others, to be more vigilant about suspicious transactions made by their clients.

MEPs will also vote on the deal reached in December on the "transfers of funds" regulation, which aims to improve the traceability of payers and payees and their assets.

Money laundered each year amounts to 2-5% of global GDP.

### **Note to editors**

*A "beneficial" owner actually owns or controls a company and its activities and ultimately authorises transactions, whether such ownership is exercised directly or by a proxy.*

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

*[2013/0025\(COD\)](#) - money laundering and terrorist financing*

*[2013/0024\(COD\)](#) - transfers of funds*

*Debate: Tuesday, 19 May*

*Vote: Wednesday, 20 May*

*#moneylaundersing #AMLDD #taxcrimes #terrorism*

## Further information

[Text of the agreement on the money laundering directive](#)

[Text of the agreement on the transfers of funds regulation](#)

[Press release after the vote in committees \(27.01.2015\)](#)

[Profile of Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee rapporteur on money laundering, Krišjānis Kariņš \(EPP, LV\)](#)

[Profile of Civil Liberties Committee rapporteur on money laundering, Judith Sargentini \(Greens/EFA, NL\)](#)

[Profile of Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee rapporteur on transfers of funds, Peter Simon \(S&D, DE\)](#)

[Profile of Civil Liberties Committee rapporteur on transfers of funds, Timothy Kirkhope \(ECR, UK\)](#)

[Procedure file on money laundering](#)

[Procedure file on transfers of funds](#)

[EPRS study: New EU tools to fight money laundering](#)

# Debate on Hungary

**MEPs will debate the situation in Hungary with Commission Vice-president Frans Timmermans late on Tuesday afternoon. The debate follows Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's remarks on the possibility of reinstating capital punishment in Hungary and a public consultation on immigration launched by the Hungarian government.**

The Civil Liberties Committee held a debate on the possible effects of an EU member state decision to reintroduce the death penalty, including those on its rights and status as a member state, on Thursday 7 May. This debate was prompted by [the Conference of Presidents' decision of 30 April](#) to ask the Civil Liberties Committee to examine the issue "as a matter of urgency".

*Council and Commission statements*

*Debate: Tuesday, 19 May*

*#fundamentalrights #Hungary #immigration*

### Further information

[Video recording of the debate on the death penalty in the Civil Liberties Committee \(07.05.2015\)](#)

[Statement by EP President Martin Schulz after phone conversation with PM Orbán \(30.04.2015\)](#)



## Debate and vote on a law to stem the flow of “conflict minerals”

**A draft law to help stem the flow of revenue to armed groups from sales of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold will be debated on Tuesday and put to a vote on Wednesday. The draft, already approved by the EP Trade Committee, provides for mandatory certification of EU smelters and refiners and voluntary certification of operators who buy, process and use these minerals and metals to make mobile phones, washing machines, fridges, etc.**

Parliament is divided over whether a mandatory certification scheme should apply to everyone in the supply chain of metals and minerals originating in conflict-affected and high-risk areas.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure*

[2014/0059\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 19 May*

*Vote: Wednesday, 20 May*

*#conflictminerals #bloodminerals #metals #minerals*

### Further information

[Draft report a Union system for self-certification of importers of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold originating in conflict-affected and high-risk areas](#)

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

[Profile of rapporteur Iuliu Winkler \(EPP, RO\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EPRS study: Imports of minerals from conflict areas](#)

## Debate on proposed digital single market strategy

**The new EU digital single market strategy, tabled by the European Commission on 6 May, will be analysed in a debate on Tuesday morning. The strategy, which sets out 16 initiatives, including proposals on e-commerce, geo-blocking, telecoms and copyright, will be presented by Commission Vice-President for the digital single market, Andrus Ansip. VAT rules for ebooks and epapers will be debated separately, on Monday.**

### Next steps

Parliament will respond to the proposal with an own-initiative report, drafted in cooperation by several parliamentary committees, including those for industry, the internal market and legal affairs.

### VAT rules for ebooks and epapers

In a separate debate on Monday, MEPs will focus on existing VAT rules for digital books, papers and services in a debate with Commissioner Günther Oettinger, who is in charge of the digital economy. A resolution will be put to the vote on Tuesday.

*Procedure: statement by the Commission (without resolution)*

[2015/2628\(RSP\)](#)

*Debates: Monday, 18 May (VAT) and Tuesday, 19 May (DSM)*

*Vote: Tuesday, 19 May (VAT)*

*#DigitalSingleMarket #ecommerce #geoblocking #telecoms #copyright*

### Further information

[Press release: Digital single market – committee chairs welcome proposal \(07.05.2015\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Commission press release on the Digital Single Market](#)

[EPRS study: TVA sur les livres numériques et journaux en ligne dans l'Union européenne](#)

[EPRS study: Digital Single Market for Europe](#)

## MEPs to set out blueprint for safer healthcare

**A draft resolution setting out measures to improve patient safety, inter alia by tackling growing microbial resistance to human and veterinary antibiotics, will be discussed on Monday and put to a vote on Tuesday. The draft also sets out MEPs' concerns about healthcare infections, which reportedly affect 8-12% of patients admitted to hospitals in the EU.**

Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are a major public health problem in EU member states.

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control figures show that in the EU, 1 in 20 hospital in-patients, i.e. 4.1 million patients annually, suffers an HAI, and 37,000 people die as a result every year. Of these cases, 20%-30% are considered to be preventable by intensive hygiene and control programmes.

Antimicrobial resistance is growing in the EU and worldwide. Some bacterial pathogens are now proving antibiotic-resistant in 25% of cases in some EU member states and HAIs caused by multidrug resistant bacteria are increasing.

The draft measures aim to ensure that existing treatments are used more responsibly and promote innovation.

*Procedure: Non-legislative resolution*

[2014/2207\(INI\)](#)

*Debate: Monday, 18 May*

*Vote: Tuesday, 19 May*

*#PatientSafety #healthcare #veterinary #antibiotics*

## Further information

[Draft report on safer healthcare in Europe: improving patient safety and fighting antimicrobial resistance](#)

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

[Profile of rapporteur Piernicola Pedicini \(EFDD, IT\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

## Counterfeit cigarettes: MEPs to question future of EU deals with tobacco firms

**Should the EU's anti-counterfeiting "tobacco agreements" with four major producers be killed off? Some MEPs say they were rendered obsolete by better tracing and tracking tools introduced by the EU's new tobacco directive. MEPs will debate the issue after a Commission statement on Monday. The first tobacco agreement expires in July 2016.**

The EU's four tobacco cooperation agreements are with Philip Morris International (PMI), Japan Tobacco International (JTI), Imperial Tobacco Limited (ITL) and British American Tobacco (BAT).

Several MEPs say that the tobacco agreements, designed to fight counterfeit cigarette manufacturing and smuggling, should go because they have been rendered obsolete by the mandatory tracing and tracking tools included in the new EU tobacco directive and by the EU's signature of the WHO protocol against illicit tobacco trade.

*Procedure: Commission statement*

[2015/2686\(RSP\)](#)

*Debate: Monday, 18 May*

*#tobacco*

### Further information

[OLAF page on tobacco smuggling and tobacco agreements](#)

[Commission press release: EU to sign the WHO protocol against illicit cigarette trade \(09.12.2013\)](#)

[Press release on agreement on the tobacco directive \(26.02.2014\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EPRS study: Tobacco agreements: Fighting illicit tobacco trade](#)

## MEPs to assess Turkey's 2014 reform progress

**Turkey must step up the fight against corruption, guarantee the freedom of media and of expression and respect the independence of the judiciary, MEPs are likely to stress in a debate on Wednesday. In a draft resolution assessing Turkey's 2014 reform progress, to be voted on Thursday, they urge the Turkish government to commit itself "unequivocally" to democratic rules and principles. The text also calls for more intensive EU-Turkey cooperation on foreign policy.**

Parliament votes on the Foreign Affairs Committee's draft resolution on Thursday.

*Procedure: Council and Commission statements followed by debate (with resolution)*

[2014/2953\(RSP\)](#)

*Debate: Wednesday, 20 May*

*Vote: Thursday, 21 May*

*Press conference: Wednesday, 20 May - 14.00*

*#Turkey*

### Further information

[Profile of rapporteur Kati Piri \(S&D, NL\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EPRS study: Turkey 2014: Work in progress](#)

## MEPs to debate security and defence ahead of June summit

**The EU and its member states must shoulder more responsibility for their security and defence at once, to enable them to cope with new security challenges at EU borders, MEPs are likely to say in a debate with the EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on Tuesday. The debate takes place ahead of the keenly-awaited June European Council on defence. Parliament votes on its annual resolution on the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) on Wednesday**

The draft CSDP resolution, prepared in the Foreign Affairs Committee, urges EU member states to make more effective use of CSDP tools, coordinate their internal and external security actions better and pool resources more closely.

In a separate resolution, also to be voted on Wednesday, MEPs will also make the case for proper funding of the CSDP through increased efficiency and solidarity among member states.

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

[2014/2220\(INI\) - Annual CSDP report](#)

[2014/2258\(INI\) - Financing the CSDP](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 19 May*

*Votes: Wednesday, 20 May*

*Press conference: Wednesday, 20 May - 10.00*

*#CSDP #security #defence #EUCO #CSSP*

## Further information

[Press release on committee vote \(10.03.2015\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Arnaud Danjean \(EPP, FR\) – Annual CSDP Report](#)

[Profile of co-rapporteur Eduard Kukan \(EPP, SK\) – Financing the CSDP](#)

[Profile of co-rapporteur Indrek Tarand \(Greens/EFA, EE\) – Financing the CSDP](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur, Ana Gomes](#)

[Procedure file – Annual CSDP report](#)

[Procedure file – Financing the CSDP](#)

[Interview with rapporteur Ana Gomes on EU-wide defence spending \(VOD\)](#)



## MEPs' expectations for Riga Eastern Partnership summit

**MEPs will set out their expectations for the 21-22 May EU Eastern Partnership summit in a debate with EU Foreign Affairs High representative Federica Mogherini on Wednesday. The summit, in Riga (Latvia) will bring together EU leaders and those of the EU's "eastern neighbourhood" countries.**

The Eastern Partnership countries are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

*Debate: Wednesday 20 May*

*#EaP #EasternPartnership #Ukraine #Russia #Georgia #Moldova #Armenia #Azerbaijan*

### **Further information**

[Step up east-west energy cooperation, urge MEPs and eastern neighbourhood MPs \(18.03.2015\)](#)

## Debate on crisis and killings in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

**MEPs are to debate the political crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which was exacerbated by the recent killings of 14 ethnic Albanians and 8 police officers, with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on Wednesday afternoon. The 22 people died in a day-long police raid on an ethnic Albanian neighbourhood in the north of the country. The government describes the Albanian victims of the gun battle as “terrorists”.**

MEPs will also debate the current situation in Ethiopia, ahead of the 24 May parliamentary elections there, with Federica Mogherini on Wednesday.

*Procedure: statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy*

*Debate: Wednesday, 20 May*

## MEPs set to urge Japan to put its new "scientific whaling" programme on hold

**MEPs are set to urge Japan to put its new Antarctic whaling "research" programme on hold until the International Whaling Commission (IWC) reviews it in September 2016. In a debate on Wednesday, they will point out that the Hague International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled in 2014 that Japan's previous "research" whaling programme was not for genuinely scientific purposes. Japan then announced a replacement programme, to start at the end of 2015.**

In a 2012 resolution, MEPs said that they "seek to end so-called scientific whaling and support the designation of substantial regions of ocean and seas as sanctuaries in which all whaling is indefinitely prohibited". They also noted that "serious divergences" remained between the EU and Japan on fisheries management and whaling issues.

*Procedure: Council statement followed by debate (without resolution)*

2012/2711(RSP)

*Debate: Wednesday, 20 May*

*#whales #Japan*

### Further information

[Resolution on EU trade negotiations with Japan \(25.10.2012\)](#)

## Olive trees: MEPs to demand action to prevent spread of killer bacteria

**Parliament will insist that everything possible must be done to tackle the outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa* bacteria and prevent it spreading to other EU regions, including spending more on research, in a resolution to be voted on Wednesday. *Xylella* has already infected several thousand hectares of olive plantations in Italy, prompting fears in neighbouring states that it could spread further.**

In Parliament's April plenary debate, MEPs asked the European Commission to compensate growers whose trees have to be destroyed due to eradication measures.

They also called on the Commission to pursue research to do away with deadly plant diseases caused by pathogens such as *Xylella fastidiosa* and so-called Black Spot, found in citrus imports from South Africa.

### **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.

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

[2015/2652\(RSP\)](#)

[Debate: Thursday, 30 April 2015](#)

*Vote: Wednesday, 20 May*

*#Xylella #XylellaFastidiosa #olivetrees #Apulia*

## **Further information**

[EP debate on outbreak of Xylella fastidiosa affecting olive trees \(30.04.2015\)](#)

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

[European Food Safety Agency: FAQs on Xylella fastidiosa](#)

## New rules on cross-border insolvency proceedings

**Struggling firms that do business across borders should get some breathing space to restructure their operations and finances so as to avoid going bust, under revised EU rules on cross-border insolvency proceedings to be debated on Tuesday and voted on Wednesday. At the same time, the new rules will clarify which member state has jurisdiction to open the proceedings, so as to prevent insolvency “forum shopping” .**

A vote in favour would confirm an informal deal struck in November 2014 with the Council of Ministers, which formally approved it on 12 March.

The idea of including individuals and households in the scope of the new approach to business failure and insolvency, which aims to give potentially viable firms a second chance, will also be debated with the Commission on Tuesday.

According to the European Commission, 50,000 firms face cross-border insolvency proceedings every year, and about 400,000 people lose their jobs each year due to cross-border insolvencies.

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

[2012/0360\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 19 May*

*Vote: Wednesday, 20 May*

*#Insolvency #crossborder*

### Further information

[Text of the agreement on insolvency proceedings](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Tadeusz Zwiefka \(EPP, PL\).](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research Note on the Reform of the EU Insolvency Regulation](#)

[European Commission, press pack: Insolvency: new proposals give businesses a second chance](#)

[EPRS study: Finalising reform of cross-border insolvency rules](#)

[Commission recommendation of 12.3.2014 on a new approach to business failure and insolvency](#)

# MEPs to urge EU countries to stick to foreign aid commitments

**MEPs will ask member states to respect their Official Development Assistance (ODA) target of 0.7% of national income in a debate on Monday and a resolution to be voted on Tuesday. They are also set to stress the great potential of mobilising developing countries' domestic resources efficiently and the importance of private sector contributions.**

The resolution to be voted will serve as Parliament's contribution to the EU position in July's high-level conference on financing for development in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

The new UN global Sustainable Development Goals (post-2015 development agenda) are to be approved at a UN General Assembly summit in New York in September.

*Procedure: non-legislative resolution*

[2015/2044\(INI\)](#)

*Debate: Monday, 18 May*

*Vote: Tuesday, 19 May*

*#ffd3 #ffd #development*

### Further information

[Draft resolution on financing for development](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(20.04.2015\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Pedro Silva Pereira \(S&D, PT\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[UNGA post-2015 summit](#)

[EP Research briefing note on the post-2015 development agenda](#)

[Study on Financing for Development Post-2015: Improving the Contribution of Private Finance](#)

[Study on Modernising ODA in the Framework of the Post-MDGs Agenda: Challenges and Opportunities](#)

## MEPs set to vote for robust and transparent benchmark setting

**A draft EU law to make the benchmarks used to price EU citizens' mortgages, loans and bonds more trustworthy will be put to vote on Tuesday. It aims to clean up the benchmark-setting process, by curbing conflicts of interest like those that led to the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) rigging scandals of recent years.**

The draft law aims to curb conflicts of interest in setting benchmarks, such as LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate) or EURIBOR (Euro Interbank Offered Rate), which influence financial instruments and contracts which have an average value of at least €500 billion and could thus affect the stability of financial markets across Europe.

All benchmark “administrators” collecting, analysing and processing data that are not publicly available or using a formula or calculation method to determine a benchmark would have to be registered with the ESMA (European Securities and Markets Authority) and would have to publish a “benchmark statement” defining precisely what their benchmark measures and to what extent it is reliable.

The draft law, already approved by the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, is being put to vote 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*

[2013/0314\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Monday, 18 May*

*Vote: Tuesday, 19 May*

*#transparency #benchmarks #mortgages #loans #bonds #LIBOR*

### Further information

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

[Profile of rapporteur Cora van Nieuwenhuizen \(ALDE, NL\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EPRS study: Benchmarks in financial instruments](#)



## EU energy price watchdog needs more staff to prevent market abuses

**EU energy agency ACER has too few staff to monitor EU energy markets properly, so market abuses and unfair price hikes might go undetected, MEPs will warn in a debate with energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete on Thursday. They will ask him whether the Commission plans to boost ACER's 2016 EU budget allocation to remedy the shortage. The agency needs an estimated 45 new full-time staff members, but has been allocated only 15.**

The 2011 EU regulation on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency (REMIT), is designed to prevent abuse in wholesale energy trading. It assigns the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) a key role in screening, analysing and assessing many market transactions as from 7 October 2015.

MEPs have several times raised concerns over a lack of funds to hire sufficient staff to shoulder this responsibility.

*Procedure: oral question to the Commission*

[2015/2627\(RSP\)](#)

*Debate: Thursday 21 May 2015*

*#EUBudget*

### Further information

[Press release: Energy market: wholesale traders will be obliged to disclose deals \(14-09-2011\)](#)

[Oral question about human resources necessary to fulfil ACER's statutory mandate to monitor energy wholesale markets](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators](#)

# Maternity leave: deliver now or start from scratch

**Commission plans to withdraw a draft EU directive on maternity leave, after four years' deadlock in the Council, will be debated in the light of EU Commission and Council statements on Tuesday afternoon. In a draft resolution to be put to a vote on Wednesday, MEPs call on the Council of Ministers to resume talks and state its official position.**

If the European Commission does withdraw the draft law, then MEPs would urge it to table a new legislative initiative quickly, and in any event under the forthcoming Luxembourg Presidency of the Council.

The European Parliament amended the first draft in October 2010 to extend maternity leave from 14 to 20 weeks on full pay and introduce two weeks' fully paid paternity leave.

## **Background note for editors**

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

*The Commission stated its intention to withdraw the draft proposal in line with its Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT).*

*Procedure: Council and Commission statement (with resolution)*

[2008/0193\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 19 May*

*Vote: Wednesday, 20 May*

*#maternityleave*

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## Further information

[Amended proposal on maternity leave - Parliament's 1st reading position \(20.10.2010\)](#)

[Press release \(20.10.2010\)](#)

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

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

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

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

[Procedure file](#)

[EbS+ \(19.05.2015\)](#)

[EPRS study: Revision of the Maternity Leave Directive](#)

## Human rights and democracy resolutions

**Parliament will hold urgent debates on the following human rights and democracy topics on Thursday at 11.00, with the votes following at 12.00:**

- Zimbabwe, the case of human rights defender Itai Dzamara
- The plight of Rohingya refugees, including mass graves in Thailand
- Swaziland, the case of trade union leader Thulani Maseko

Procedure: non-legislative resolutions

Debates/votes: Thursday, 21 May

#humanrights

# Other topics on the agenda

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

- Parliament's calendar of part-sessions 2016, *vote Wednesday*
- Election of a Vice-President of the European Parliament, *vote Wednesday*
- UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, *Commission statement, debate Wednesday, vote Thursday*
- Youth employment initiative, *Oral Question to Council, debate Wednesday*
- Green Growth for SMEs, *debate Monday, vote Tuesday*
- Objection to implementing measures regarding imports of ethyl alcohols of agricultural origin, *vote Thursday*
- Resolution regarding exemptions for cadmium in lighting applications, *vote Wednesday*

### Further information

[Youth Employment Initiative - need for swift implementation at Member State level](#)

[Procedure file - UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

[Report on green growth opportunities for SMEs](#)