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<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2017-09-11>

## update in progress...

### Further information


[Final draft agenda](#)  
[Follow the plenary live](#)  
[EuroparlTV](#)  
[Press conferences and other events](#)  
[EP Audiovisual website](#)  
[EP Newshub](#)  
[EPRS Plenary podcasts on key issues](#)

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# State of the Union debate: shaping the EU's future

## update in progress...

Jean-Claude Juncker is expected to unveil his views on the future of Europe based on five scenarios presented earlier this year. Political group leaders will set out the priorities that they want the EU27 to deliver on before the June 2019 European elections. President Juncker will react.

The full debate and post-debate statements by political group leaders will be live-streamed on [EP Live](#) and [EbS+](#).

To embed the debate on external websites, use

```
<iframe src="https://cdn.vuplay.co.uk/ep/embed/embed.html?event=20170213-1702-PLenary-64&language=EN&autoplay=true&logo=true" name="EP Player" seamless="seamless" frameborder="0" width="560" height="315" allowfullscreen="false" webkitallowfullscreen="false" mozallowfullscreen="false" scrolling="no"></iframe>
```

Users can customize the player video dimension (by default **600 x 300** dpi) and the language (replace "...defaultLanguage=xx" by language code (ex. "...defaultLanguage=en" for English, "...defaultLanguage=de" for German, etc.).

*Procedure: Statement by the President of the European Commission*

*Debate: Wednesday, 13 September*

*#SOTEU*

### Further information

[Interactive live coverage SOTEU 2017 dashbord](#)  
["Future of Europe" – European Parliament's priorities](#)  
[Audiovisual material SOTEU 2017](#)  
[Audiovisual archives on SOTEU](#)  
[EP Research: State of the Union debates](#)  
[EC whitepaper Future of Europe](#)  
[State of the Union 2017 - Video teaser](#)

# WiFi4EU: final vote on free internet access in public areas

## update in progress...

The scheme is a pilot project paving the way towards free internet spots in public places for all EU citizens and forms part of efforts to create a Digital Union.

EU funding for the scheme would have to be deployed in a “geographically balanced manner” across member states, on a “first come, first served” basis.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure*

[2016/0287\(COD\)](#)

*Debate/vote: Tuesday, 12 September*

#WiFi4EU

### Further information

[Press release at the end of the interinstitutional negotiations \(29.05.2017\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur : Carlos Zorrinho \(S&D, PT\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Digital Economy and Society Index \(DESI\)](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Securing gas supply across the EU

## update in progress...

Any EU country faced with a gas supply crisis will be able to alert the others and thus trigger cross-border assistance to prevent cuts.

The emergency alert regulation is the second piece of Energy Union legislation to come before Parliament. The first, laying down [common rules](#) on EU member states' energy deals with third countries, was approved by Parliament in March.

The new rules should take effect before winter sets in.

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure*

[2016/0030\(COD\)](#)

*Debate/vote: Tuesday, 12 September*

#Energyunion

### Further information

[Press release at the end of the interinstitutional negotiations \(27.04.2017\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur : Jerzy Buzek \(EPP, PL\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Eggs scandal: speeding up EU-wide warnings on food risks

## update in progress...

MEPs will quiz the Commission and the Council on measures taken so far to ensure food safety and discuss how to improve the functioning of the EU's rapid alert system for food and feed and restore consumer trust in EU egg products.

Parliament's Agriculture Committee [discussed](#) the eggs scandal with the Commission on 31 August. Many MEPs stressed during the debate that the EU needs faster information exchange on food safety risks and stricter sanctions against fraudsters.

### Quick Facts

Fipronil, an insecticide used among other things to kill fleas and mites, is [classified](#) by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as moderately hazardous. Its use in the EU is prohibited for all food-producing animals.

The illegal use of Fipronil on poultry farms was first [reported](#) to the European Commission through the EU's rapid alert system for food and feed (RASFF) on 20 July. Most of these farms were located in the Netherlands and Belgium. Millions of chicken eggs have already been withdrawn from the EU market.

*Procedure: Council and Commission statements (no resolution)*

*Debate: Tuesday, 12 September*

*#fipronil*

### Further information

[Press release on committee debate \(31.08.2017\)](#)

[Video-recording of the committee debate \(31.08.2017\)](#)

[Audiovisual material: Fipronil in eggs - extracts from the debate](#)



# Disabled people to get easier access to products and services

## update in progress...

Around 80 million people in the EU are affected by a disability to some degree. As a result of population ageing, it is expected that in 2020 around 120 million will have multiple and/or minor disabilities.

The draft “European Accessibility Act” (EAA) sets out requirements to make a number of products and services more accessible. The list includes ATMs, ticketing and check-in machines, PCs and operating systems, phones and TV equipment, consumer banking services, e-books, transport and e-commerce. MEPs added other items to the list, such as payment terminals, e-book readers, websites and mobile device-based services offered by audiovisual media.

The accessibility requirements would also cover the “built environment” where a service is provided, including transport infrastructure, in case member states do not already have such requirements in place, MEPs said.

Parliament will vote on a mandate to start negotiations with Council, which has yet to agree on its position.

*Procedure: Co-decision (Ordinary Legislative Procedure), 1st reading*

[2015/0278\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Wednesday, 13 September*

*Vote: Thursday, 14 September*

*#EuropeanAccessibilityAct*

## Further information

[Draft report on accessibility requirements for products and services](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(25.04.2017\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Morten Løkkegaard \(ALDE, DK\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research: European Accessibility Act](#)

[Video: extracts from the vote in committee and statement by the rapporteur](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Boosting CO<sub>2</sub> absorption by forests to fight climate change

## Plans to boost forests' absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> and cut greenhouse-gas emissions as a way to tackle climate change will be put to a vote on Wednesday.

EU countries that cut down forests must compensate by planting new trees or by improving the way they manage existing forests, croplands and grasslands, to ensure an equivalent absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

MEPs say that member states should do more, by boosting CO<sub>2</sub> absorption so that it offsets emissions by 2030, in line with the EU's long-term objectives and the Paris Agreement.

EU forests absorb the equivalent of nearly 10% of total EU greenhouse gas emissions each year.

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure*

[2016/0230\(COD\)](#)

*Debate : Monday 11 September*

*Vote: Wednesday 13 September*

*Press conference: Wednesday 14.30*

#LULUCF

### Further information

[Draft report and amendments on the inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry into the 2030 climate and energy framework](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(11.07.2017\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Norbert Lins \(EPP, DE\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research: Land use under the EU 2030 climate and energy framework](#)

[European Commission fact sheet: Proposal to integrate the land use sector into the EU 2030 Climate and Energy Framework](#)

[Infographics](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Special counter-terrorism committee to start work

**The list of candidate MEPs to form the 30-strong special committee on counter-terrorism (TERR) is up for a vote on Tuesday. Its first meeting is scheduled for Thursday.**

[Parliament decided in July](#) to set up a [special committee](#) to address practical and legislative shortcomings in the fight against terrorism across the EU. During its 12-month tenure, the committee is to deliver a mid-term and a final report setting out its factual findings, plus recommendations.

Following the plenary vote on the list of committee members, the committee will choose its chair and rapporteur(s) at its constitutive meeting on Thursday morning in Strasbourg.

### ***Procedure***

### ***Code***

***Vote: Tuesday, 12 September***

***#counterterrorism ≠TERRcommittee***

### **Further information**

[EP study: The European Union's policies on Counter-terrorism: Relevance, Coherence and Effectiveness](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# North Korean nuclear threats

**A series of missile and nuclear tests by North Korea, causing growing international tensions, will be debated with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on Tuesday.**

In an [October 2016 resolution](#), MEPs condemned the nuclear tests and urged North Korea “to refrain from further provocative actions by abandoning its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes”.

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

*Debate: Tuesday, 12 September*

*#NorthKorea @FedericaMog*

### **Further information**

[EP resolution on nuclear security and non-proliferation \(27.10.2017\)](#)

[Study on nuclear proliferation in North East Asia \(March 2017\)](#)

[EP Research Note on sanctions against North Korea \(July 2016\)](#)

# The future of EU-Turkey relations

## update in progress...

Back in July, MEPs [voiced their concern regarding EU accession talks with Turkey](#), calling on the EU Commission and the EU national governments “to formally suspend the accession negotiations with Turkey without delay if the constitutional reform package is implemented unchanged.”

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

*Debate: Tuesday, 12 September*

*Vote: October I session (2-5 October)*

#Turkey

### Further information

[EP resolution on the 2016 Commission Report on Turkey \(06.07.2017\)](#)

[Press release on Turkey report \(06.07.2017\)](#)

[Interview with EP rapporteur on Turkey Kati Piri \(S&D, NL\)](#)

# Migration across the Mediterranean: debate with Federica Mogherini

**Ways to stem migration flows into the EU, particularly via the Mediterranean route, will be debated with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on Tuesday.**

Stepping up cooperation with African countries and helping them to manage their borders better, a review of EU legislation on migration and asylum and efforts to stabilise Libya are among the policy measures being discussed.

After the closure of the Balkans route and the EU-Turkey deal on migration, Italy became the main EU entry point for migrants and asylum-seekers. A record 181,436 migrants and asylum-seekers reached its shores last year, and [99,742 have arrived there so far in 2017](#).

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), [2,537 persons have lost their lives](#) trying to cross the Mediterranean this year:

Three out of four Europeans want the EU to do more to tackle the migration crisis, according to the latest [Eurobarometer survey](#).

*Statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (without resolution)*

*Debate: Tuesday, 12 September*

*#migration #refugees*

## Further information

[Mediterranean migration route: help for Italy and long-term solutions \(EP press release, 12.07.2017\)](#)

[Joint declaration following the Paris migration summit with African leaders on 28.08.2017 \(European Commission, in French\)](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# MEPs set to call for stricter EU arms export controls

**EU member states must ensure that their arms export control decisions are consistent, MEPs are set to say on Wednesday. If necessary, an EU supervisory body should be set up, they add.**

Parliament will assess on Tuesday how well the member states' [Common Position](#) on arms export control, which relies on minimum requirements, is working, and advocate improvements in a resolution to be voted on Wednesday.

Proposals include widening the list of arms export criteria to oblige member states to assess the risk that an arms transfer could spur corruption and imposing sanctions on member states that fail to comply with the Common Position.

The EU28 member states are the world's second largest arms supplier (26% of global arms exports), after the USA (33%) and before Russia (23%). Between 2012 and 2016, international transfers of "major" weapons, such as missiles, warplanes and submarines, reached their highest volume for any five-year period since the end of the Cold War.

*Procedure: Non-legislative resolution*

[2017/2029\(INI\)](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 12 September*

*Votes: Wednesday, 13 September*

*#armscontrol*



## Further information

[Draft resolution on arms export](#)

[EP rapporteur Bodil VALERO \(Greens, SV\)](#)

[EU's Common Position on arms export control](#)

[The results of the EP workshop on arms export control \(May 2017\)](#)

[EP Research Service infographics on arms export \(2015\)](#)

[EP Research Service note on arms export \(2015\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

# Making trade work for human rights and against inequality

## European Parliament proposals to make trade fairer, so as to help prevent workers being exploited in the world's poorest countries, will be debated on Monday and put to a vote on Tuesday.

As global trade patterns have changed markedly in recent decades and the unequal distribution of its benefits has come under growing public scrutiny, MEPs are proposing a series of measures to protect workers and the environment worldwide by reforming so-called “global value chains”.

They are set to advocate measures to boost corporate social responsibility, include enforceable chapters on labour and human rights in trade deals, protect whistle-blowers in forced labour cases and make the “social impact of production” visible on goods, e.g. by labelling, to raise consumer awareness.

### Quick facts

Production processes that span several countries can enable new firms and employees to contribute, but may also complicate and obscure liability for products and accidents, note MEPs.

They argue that the EU must update its trade deals and policies help to prevent tragedies such as the collapse of the Rana Plaza clothing factory in in Bangladesh in 2013. Some 21 million people worldwide are victims of forced labour, generating USD 150 billion a year in illegal profits (source: International Labour Organisation estimates).

*Procedure: non-legislative resolution*

[2016/2301\(INI\)](#)

*Debate: Monday, 11 September*

*Vote: Tuesday, 12 September*

*#EUTrade #GVCs*

## Further information

[Draft resolution on tabled for plenary](#)

[EP Research Briefing: Improving global value chains key for EU trade \(June 2016\)](#)

[Press Release - Textile imports: development MEPs call for rules to curb worker exploitation \(March 2017\)](#)

[EP Research Briefing: Workers' conditions in the textile and clothing sector: just an Asian affair? \(August 2014\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Maria Arena \(S&D, BE\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Anti-corruption drive to curb human rights abuses

## update in progress...

Corruption is "one of the most neglected causes of human rights violations", MEPs will argue on Tuesday afternoon. In a resolution to be voted on Wednesday, they are set to urge the European Union to foster international cooperation on anti-corruption strategies.

*Procedure: Non-legislative resolution*

[2017/2028\(INI\)](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 12 September*

*Vote: Wednesday, 13 September*

*#humanrights*

### Further information

[Draft report on corruption and human rights in third countries](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(20.06.2017\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur: Petras Auštrevičius \(ALDE, LT\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research Briefing "Towards a binding international treaty on business and human rights"](#)

[EP study "Cost of Corruption in Developing Countries – How Effectively is Aid Being Spent?"](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Aviation emissions: MEPs to back ETS exemption for intercontinental flights

**With a worldwide scheme to offset CO2 emissions in air transport pending, MEPs will vote on Wednesday to extend an exemption from paying for emissions on intercontinental flights.**

MEPs want the exemption to end on 31 December 2020, however. From 2021 onwards, the aviation sector should receive only 50 % of its ETS (Emissions Trading System) allowances for free, say MEPs, against 85 % as it stands today.

The Environment Committee also wants EU member states to earmark the revenue generated by auctioning emissions allowances for climate change policies.

## Quick facts

Aviation accounts for approximately 2.1 % of global CO2 emissions. International flights account for around 1.3 % of emissions. With the anticipated growth in air traffic, emissions in 2050 are expected to be seven to ten times higher than in 1990, according to ICAO projections. In the EU, direct CO2 emissions from aviation account for about 3 % of total emissions.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure*

[2017/0017\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Monday, 11 September*

*Vote: Wednesday, 13 September*

*#EUETS*

## Further information

[Draft report on the proposal to continue current limitations of scope for aviation activities and to prepare to implement a global market-based measure from 2021](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(11.07.2017\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Julie Girling \(ECR, UK\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research Briefing: CO<sup>2</sup> emissions from aviation](#)

[Audiovisual material for professionals](#)

# Dieselgate: focus on public health and consumer rights

**MEPs will discuss latest developments in the Dieselgate scandal, and in particular recent actions taken by EU member states like Germany and Austria, on Wednesday.**

Parliament urged the EU Commission and member states to clean up their act and improve tests and checks on new cars on EU roads, after Parliament's special committee on the Volkswagen emissions scandal [completed its work](#) in April 2017.

MEPs concluded that although the Commission and member states had been aware for more than a decade that the nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions of diesel cars in laboratory tests differ markedly from those measured on the roads, they had failed to act appropriately to protect air quality and public health.

A more realistic emissions testing procedure finally came into force on 1 September.

*Procedure: Topical debate (Rule 153a)*

*Debate: Wednesday, 13 September*

*#Dieselgate*

### Further information

[Car emissions scandal: MEPs call for stricter and clearer oversight](#)

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

[EP study: legal obligations relating to emission measurements in the EU automotive sector](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Fire safety in buildings: how to prevent further tragedies?

## update in progress...

The fire resistance of façades, tests carried out under real-life conditions and smoke toxicity of construction products are likely to be discussed with Council and Commission on Wednesday afternoon.

In a debate in July, Internal Market Committee MEPs pointed out that the fire safety of buildings is a national affair and asked the EU Commission to help member states share knowledge and best practices.

*Procedure: Council and Commission statements followed by debate*

[2017/264\(RSP\)](#)

*Debate: Wednesday, 13 September*

*#FireSafety*

## Further information

[Video recording of the debate in the Internal Market Committee on Construction Products Regulation and fire safety, on 12 July 2017 \(from 16h37 onwards\)](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Easing access to capital for innovative and socially beneficial companies

**European venture capital funds (EuVECA) and European social entrepreneurship funds (EuSEF) should become more attractive to investors under new rules to be put to the vote on Thursday.**

Uniform fund registration rules, enhanced supervision of the funds by the EU and national authorities and cross-border marketing of these funds should help broaden the range of companies to find investors on European capital markets.

## Background

EuVECA and EuSEF are two voluntary funds within the Capital Market Union Action Plan, aiming to raise and invest capital in innovative SMEs and social undertakings in the EU.

The Capital Market Union aims to improve access to finance for such companies, so they do not exclusively depend on bank loans, but can complement those with alternative sources of finance. The CMU is designed to enhance investors' confidence to back a more risky investment or socially engaged firms.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure*

[2016/0221\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Wednesday, 13 September*

*Vote: Thursday, 14 September*

[#EuVECA](#) [#EuSEF](#) [#CMU](#)

## Further information

[Draft resolution on European venture capital funds on European social entrepreneurship funds](#)

[Rapporteur: Sirpa PIETIKÄINEN \(EPP, FI\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)



# MEPs to call on Norway to stop whaling

**Norway must halt its whale hunting and the EU must not facilitate trade in whales of species which are protected by EU law, a resolution to be voted Tuesday says.**

In a debate with the European Commission in July, MEPs urged the Commission to persuade Norway to end the practice and to provide data on the quantity of whale meat transiting through EU ports. A ban on such transits could be envisaged.

MEPs note that despite a worldwide moratorium on commercial whaling, Norway continued whaling and fully resumed commercial whaling in 1993. Several NGOs reported that Norway's exports of whale meat have increased sharply in recent years.

*Procedure: question for oral answer, with resolution*

[2017/2712\(RSP\)](#)

*Vote: Tuesday, 12 September*

*#whaling*

### Further information

[Question for oral answer to the Commission: whale hunting in Norway](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research: fisheries in Norway](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# North Sea fisheries: ensuring sustainable stocks and livelihoods

## Plans to tackle overfishing and provide more secure livelihoods for North Sea fishermen by introducing multiannual fishing quotas will be put to the vote on Thursday.

The second multiannual fisheries plan under the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) would apply to demersal species (those living near the sea floor), which make up 70% of catches in the [North Sea \(zones IIa, IIIa and IV\)](#).

The plan covers various species and is tailored to the complexity of North Sea mixed fisheries, which makes it impossible to target and catch only one species.

Ensuring that these stocks are exploited sustainably in the long run should guarantee the security of fishing opportunities and livelihoods.

MEPs will start negotiations with the Council following the plenary vote.

### **Quick facts**

*North Sea demersal fishing employs several thousand vessels from at least seven EU member states (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK). Demersal catches were worth more than €850 million in 2012, with the highest total value of landings by species for sole, followed by plaice, Norway lobster (also called Nephrops), cod, saithe, haddock, turbot, anglerfish, whiting and lemon sole.*

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure (vote on the mandate)*

[2016/0238\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Wednesday, 13 September*

*Vote: Thursday, 14 September*

#NSMAP #CFP

## Further information

[Draft report on a multi-annual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(12.07.2017\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Ulrike Rodust \(S&D, DE\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP briefing on the multiannual plan for North Sea demersal fisheries \(October 2016\)](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Venezuela's escalating crisis

## MEPs will debate the profound political and economic crisis and latest developments in Venezuela with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on Tuesday afternoon.

Venezuela has been in crisis for months, with almost daily demonstrations against Nicolas Maduro's regime across the country.

The election of a controversial constituent assembly with no opposition members and which has replaced the opposition-controlled legislative assembly has generated growing international criticism of Maduro's government.

In May, MEPs expressed [solidarity with Venezuela's National Assembly Speaker Julio Borges's](#) efforts to restore peace and human dignity in Venezuela. In a resolution voted in June, the [European Parliament condemned the "brutal repression" by the Venezuelan security forces](#) and urged Venezuela's government to ensure the full restoration of the democratic order.

In another debate on Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will discuss strengthening the EU-Latin American strategic partnership with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and will vote on their recommendations on Wednesday.

*Procedure: Non-legislative resolution*

[2017/2027\(INI\)](#)

*Debates: Tuesday, 12 September*

*Vote: Wednesday, 13 September*

*#LatinAmerica @FedericaMog*

## Further information

[European Parliament resolution on the situation in Venezuela \(27.04.2017\)](#)

[Committee press release 'MEPs debate situation in Venezuela with National Assembly Speaker Julio Borges' \(31.05.2017\)](#)

[EP President Tajani statement on the arrests of opposition leaders in Venezuela](#)

[Draft report on EU political relations with Latin America](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(11.07.2017\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur: Javi López \(S&D, ES\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP DG EXPO Study "The EU-Latin American Strategic Partnership: state of play and ways forward"](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Stronger EU ties with India

**A stronger EU partnership with India, including a new impetus to free trade talks, will be debated on Tuesday and voted Wednesday.**

In the draft resolution on EU political relations with India, MEPs highlight potential areas for closer cooperation, such as trade, investment, development, regional stability, crisis management or maritime security.

The EU is India's largest trading partner, and talks on an EU-India free trade deal began in 2007.

*Procedure: Non-legislative resolution*

[2017/2025\(INI\)](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 12 September*

*Votes: Wednesday, 13 September*

*#India*

### Further information

[Draft resolution on EU political relations with India](#)

[EP rapporteur Cristian Dan Preda \(EPP, RO\)](#)

[EP Research Service note on India and challenges ahead in the Indo-Pacific region \(May 2017\)](#)

[Procedure file on India](#)

# EU to boost trade with Iceland

## Two agreements aiming to increase trade in agricultural products between the EU and Iceland will be put to a vote on Tuesday.

Almost 90 % of EU agricultural products would have duty-free access to the Icelandic market, if MEPs endorse a deal to further liberalise trade flows. The EU would benefit from increased quotas, in particular for cheese, beef, pig meat and poultry, whereas Iceland will gain additional access to the market for its skyr (a special dairy product) exports. Under a separate agreement, the EU secured protection for its geographical indications (certain products possessing qualities and a reputation due to their geographical origin) for food and drinks sold in Iceland.

In 2015, EU agricultural exports to Iceland were worth EUR 290 million, while the value of imports reached EUR 44 million. The main EU export products are fruit, vegetables and cereals. Imports from Iceland are chiefly seaweed and algae, sheep meat, live horses and fur skins.

*Procedure: Consent*

*Procedure Code: 2016/0293(NLE) 2016/0252(NLE)*

[2016/0293\(NLE\) - additional trade preferences in agricultural products](#)

[2016/0252\(NLE\) - protection of geographical indications](#)

*Vote: Tuesday, 12 September*

*#EUTrade*

### Further information

[Draft recommendation additional trade preferences in agricultural products between the EU and Iceland](#)

[Draft recommendation on the protection of geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs](#)

[Profile of rapporteur David Borrelli \(EFDD, IT\)](#)

[Procedure file for additional trade preferences with Iceland](#)

[Procedure file for the protection of geographical indications with Iceland](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Earthquakes in Italy: €1.2 billion in EU repair aid

## update in progress...

Infrastructure was severely damaged and businesses, including farms and tourism firms, were significantly affected. The €1,196,797,579 from the [EU Solidarity Fund \(EUSF\)](#) – the biggest-ever single EUSF payment – can be used to pay for reconstruction, emergency and clean-up work, and to protect landmarks.

### Background

The EUSF was set up in 2002 in response to disastrous flooding in central Europe in the summer of that year. Since then, repair work after 76 disasters – including floods, forest fires, earthquakes, storms and drought – in [at least 24 EU countries has received EUSF aid totalling more than €5 billion](#).

*Procedure: Budgetary*

[2017/2101\(BUD\)](#)

*Vote: Wednesday, 13 September*

*Press conference: Wednesday, 14.00 with the rapporteur Giovanni La Via (EPP, IT)*

[#EUBudget](#) [#EUBudget2017](#) [#EUSF](#)

### Further information

[Press release on committee vote \(30.08.2017\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Giovanni La Via \(EPP, IT\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)



# €3.5 million EU aid to former workers at Microsoft Finland and suppliers

## update in progress...

Most of the redundancies, attributed to worldwide competition and loss of mobile phone market share, were in the Helsinki-Uusimaa, Länsi-Suomi and Etelä-Suomi regions

The measures, co-financed by the [European Globalisation Adjustment Fund](#) (EGF), include career coaching and individual guidance, employment and business services, vocational training schemes, services for new entrepreneurs and start-up grants, hiring incentives, training-related allowances, subsidies and contributions towards removal costs. The Fund's annual ceiling is €150 million.

This particular EGF aid was approved by the Council of Ministers on 17 July 2017.

*Procedure: Budgetary*

[2017/2098\(BUD\)](#)

*Vote: Wednesday, 13 September*

[#EUBudget](#) [#EGF](#) [#EUFunds](#)

or

### Further information

[Press release on committee vote \(30/08/2017\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur: Petri Sarvamaa \(EPP, FI\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Extra €500 million to fight youth unemployment

## update in progress...

During last week's [vote in the Budgets Committee](#), MEPs called on the Commission and Member States to ensure that the whole additional €500 million is fully allocated by the end of 2017.

### Background

The [Youth Employment Initiative](#) was launched in 2013 to support young people who are not in education, employment or training, aged below 25 and living in regions where youth unemployment was higher than 25% in 2012.

[According to the European Commission](#), since 2013 the YEI has provided direct support to over 1.4 million young people.

Related country-by-country information can be [downloaded here](#). A report on the first results of the YEI was [published in October 2016](#).

*Procedure: Budgetary*

[2017/2078\(BUD\)](#)

*Vote: Wednesday, 13 September*

[#EUFunds](#) [#EUBudget](#) [#EUBudget2017](#) [#YEI](#)

### Further information

[Draft resolution on increasing the budgetary resources of the Youth Employment Initiative](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(30.08.2017\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Jens Geier \(S&D, DE\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Erasmus+ programme at risk?

## update in progress...

Parliament is concerned that the Commission is set to divert Erasmus+ money to new policy initiatives, even though a significant number of high-quality Erasmus+ projects are being denied funding due to insufficient resources.

*Procedure: Oral question with resolution*

[2017/2740\(RSP\)](#)

*Debate: Wednesday, 13 September*

*Vote: Thursday, 14 September*

*#ErasmusPlus*

### Further information

[Question for oral answer to the Commission \(O-000062/2017\)](#)

[EP Research - At a glance - Implementation of Erasmus+](#)

[Erasmus+ programme](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# MEPs want more transparency in law-making

## update in progress...

Members also want to extend the “cooling-off period” for former European Commissioners to three years, to prevent them from taking part in lobbying activities too soon after leaving office.

*Procedure: non-legislative resolution*

[2015/2041\(INI\)](#)

*Debate: Monday, 11 September*

*Vote: Thursday, 14 September*

*#EUtransparency*

### Further information

[Draft resolution on transparency, accountability and integrity in the EU institutions](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(21.03.2017\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Sven Giegold \(Greens/EFA, DE\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# MEPs may oppose plan to relax radioactivity checks on food from around Fukushima

**MEPs fear that the proposal could lead to an increase in exposure to radioactively contaminated food.**

MEPs are set to call on the EU Commission to drop plans to relax radioactive contamination checks on EU imports of certain foodstuffs harvested near Japan's Fukushima power plant. The resolution will be voted on Wednesday.

Radioactivity checks are currently mandatory for food imports from twelve Japanese prefectures, all of which were exposed to radioactive fallout from the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima plant in 2011.

However, the plans would, without justification, allow foods such as rice, certain fish and molluscs from the Fukushima region to be imported into the EU without checks, sampling or analysis.

*Procedure: non-legislative resolution (objection)*

*Vote: Wednesday, 13 September*

*#Fukushima*

## Further information

[Profile of rapporteur Michèle Rivasi \(Greens/EFA, FR\)](#)

[Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Hurricane Irma: help needed

## update in progress...

Hurricane Irma, a category 5 hurricane, reached the northern Leeward Islands (FR), Barbuda and Saint Martin (FR, NL), British and US Virgin Islands on 6 September. Heavy rain, very strong winds and a storm surge caused the deaths of at least ten people, with many others injured and thousands displaced. 95% of the houses in Barbuda were damaged.

The centre of Irma is expected to pass north of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Haiti on 7-8 September, south of the Turks and Caicos (UK) and the Bahamas on 8-9 September, and north of Cuba on 9-10 September. It could reach southern Florida (USA) on 10-11 September.

*Procedure: Commission statements with debate*

*Debate: Wednesday 13 September*

*#IRMA*

### **Further information**

[Audiovisual material for professionals](#)

# Human rights: MEPs to denounce Rohingya crisis in Myanmar

**Parliament will discuss the fate of Rohingyas in Myanmar, the repression of the Gabonese opposition and other human rights breaches in Cambodia and Laos on Thursday morning.**

MEPs will hold urgent debates on the following human rights, democracy and rule of law topics on Thursday, at around 10.00, with the votes following at 12.00.

- Cambodia: notably the case of Mr. Kem Sokha
- Gabon: repression of the opposition
- Laos: notably the cases of Somphone Phimmasone, Lod Thammavong and Soukane Chaithad
- Myanmar, in particular the situation of Rohingyas

Nearly 125,000 people have been fleeing Myanmar's Rakhine state for Bangladesh, according to United Nations.

*Procedure: non-legislative resolutions*

*Debates/votes: Thursday, 14 September*

#humanrights

# Other topics on the agenda

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

- Franchising in the retail sector, *De Jong (INI)*, vote Tuesday
- Modernize EU-Chile agreement + organic food agreement, *Rodriguez (INI; Consent)*, debate Wednesday, vote Thursday
- Uniform format of resident permits for third country nationals, *Halla-Aho (COD)*, vote Wednesday
- Budget 2018: presentation by the Council, *debate Tuesday*
- Objection to GMO soybean DAS-68416-4, *vote Wednesday*
- Objection to labelling rules for total diet replacement, *vote Wednesday*