

---

## Newsletter

### 25-28 March 2019

### Strasbourg plenary session

#### **Parliament to vote on deal on new copyright rules for the internet**

The provisional deal reached in February on copyright rules for the internet will be put to the House on Tuesday.

5

---

#### **Parliament to greenlight ban on disposable plastics**

MEPs are set to endorse the ban on single-use plastic items such as plates, cutlery, straws and cotton buds sticks from 2021, in a vote on Wednesday.

6

---

#### **Parliament to vote on curbing CO2 emissions from cars**

Plans to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions from cars and vans by 2030, already informally agreed with EU ministers, will be put to a vote on Wednesday.

7

---

#### **Parliament to vote on ending switch between summer and winter time**

On Tuesday, MEPs will vote on the proposal to end the practice of adjusting clocks by an hour in spring and autumn from 2021.

8

---

#### **Parliament to make EU electricity market cleaner and more consumer-friendly**

New rules to create an unhindered European market for electricity and to make it cleaner, more competitive and risk-prepared will be put to a vote on Tuesday.

10

---

#### **Parliament to vote on root and branch reforms to fight financial and tax crimes**

In the wake of recent multi-billion Euro scandals, on Tuesday plenary is set to adopt a detailed roadmap revamping taxation and tackling financial crimes.

12

### **Parliament to adopt its position on reforming road transport sector**

On Wednesday, MEPs will debate and vote to amend rules on posting of drivers, to tackle illegal practices in road haulage sector and amend rules on drivers' rest time. 14

---

### **Parliament to debate Brexit and other EU summit priorities**

MEPs will discuss the outcome of the 21-22 March EU spring summit, including Brexit, with European Council President Donald Tusk on Wednesday morning. 15

---

### **Protecting consumer rights online and offline**

New rules to strengthen consumer rights and facilitate cross-border trade in the EU will be debated and put to the vote on Tuesday. 16

---

### **Better protection of workers from cancer-causing chemicals**

Parliament will vote on Wednesday to limit worker's exposure to chemicals harmful to health. 18

---

### **Vetting EU budget management in 2017**

MEPs will assess how well the 2017 EU budget has been managed in a series of votes on Tuesday. 19

---

### **Drinking water: new plans to improve tap water quality and cut plastic litter**

MEPs will vote Thursday on plans to improve consumers' trust in drinking tap water, a more environmentally friendly and cheaper alternative to bottled water. 20

---

### **Boosting green investments in the EU**

MEPs will vote on setting out criteria for determining whether an economic activity is environmentally sustainable on Thursday. 21

---

### **Parliament to agree on future regional and cohesion funding**

MEPs are set to adopt on Tuesday new funding rules aiming to strengthen the EU's economic, social and territorial cohesion. 22

---

### **External action: more funds for human rights, development and climate change**

EU external action funding should support development, climate and environmental goals, and promote democracy, rule of law and human rights. 23

---

### **Tougher requirements to get funding for countries wishing to join the EU**

EU funding to countries that are aspiring to join the European Union must be distributed on a 'fair share' basis and suspended in cases of rule of law breaches. 24

---

### **Vote on new Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027**

On Thursday, MEPs will vote to triple the 2021-2017 Erasmus+ funds, allowing more people to take part and adapting the grants to the needs of participants. 25

---

### **MEPs to debate shortcomings in the rule of law in Malta and Slovakia**

Plenary will debate the situation of rule of law in the EU, particularly in Malta and Slovakia, on Monday. 26

---

### **MEPs to debate situation in Algeria and Crimea**

On Tuesday, Parliament will discuss recent political protests in Algeria, as well as the situation in Crimea five years after the Russian illegal occupation. 27

---

### **Emergency situation in Venezuela: vote in plenary**

Parliament will vote on a resolution on the emergency situation in Venezuela, on Thursday. 28

---

### **Other topics on the agenda** 29

---

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2019-03-25>

## **Newsletter - 25-28 March 2019 - Strasbourg plenary session**

### **Further information**


[Draft agenda](#)  
[Follow the plenary live](#)  
[EbS+](#)  
[EuroparlTV](#)  
[Press conferences and other events](#)  
[EP Multimedia Centre](#)  
[EP Newshub](#)  
[EPRS Plenary podcasts on key issues](#)

## Contacts

---

Natalie Kate KONTOULIS

Press Officer

 (+32) 2 28 43562 (BXL)

 (+32) 470 88 37 82

 [natalie.kontoulis@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:natalie.kontoulis@europarl.europa.eu)

---

# Parliament to vote on deal on new copyright rules for the internet

**The provisional deal reached in February on copyright rules for the internet will be put to the House on Tuesday.**

Hammered out by negotiators of the European Parliament and the member states over three years, the provisional deal aims to ensure that the rights and obligations of copyright law also apply to the internet. It therefore empowers creatives and news publishers when negotiating licensing agreements with internet platforms such as YouTube and news aggregators such as Google News or Facebook. Numerous safeguards attempt to ensure that the internet also remains a space characterised by freedom of expression.

The deal also aims to make it easier for copyrighted material to be used for research carried out through text and data mining, thereby removing an important competitive disadvantage that European researchers currently face. It stipulates that copyright restrictions will not apply to content used for teaching or illustration.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure*

*2016/0280(COD)*

*Debate/vote: Tuesday 26 March*

*Press conference: Tuesday, 26 March, 15.00*

## Further information

[Press release on deal reached after the trilogue \(13.02.2019\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur: Axel Voss \(EPP, DE\)](#)

[Procedure file \(includes timeline of all important steps\)](#)

[Questions and Answers on issues about the digital copyright directive after 13 February deal](#)  
[Repository of information products by the European Parliament on the copyright directive](#)

[European Commission Questions & Answers on the 13 February deal](#)  
[Free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Parliament to greenlight ban on disposable plastics

**MEPs are set to endorse the ban on single-use plastic items such as plates, cutlery, straws and cotton buds sticks from 2021, in a vote on Wednesday.**

The law, informally agreed with EU ministers, also sets a 90% collection target for plastic bottles by 2029 and by 2025, each plastic bottle should contain 25% of recycled material, increasing to 30% by 2030.

Additionally, it strengthens the polluter pays principle, in particular for tobacco, by introducing an extended producer responsibility (EPR), and an EPR regime for fishing gear to ensure that manufacturers, and not fishermen, bear the costs of collecting nets lost in the sea.

### Background

[According to the European Commission](#), more than 80% of marine litter is plastics. The products covered by the legislation constitute 70% of all marine litter items. Due to its slow rate of decomposition, plastic accumulates in seas, oceans and on beaches in the EU and worldwide. Plastic residue is found in marine species – such as sea turtles, seals, whales and birds, but also in fish and shellfish, and is therefore present in the human food chain.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement*

*2018/0172(COD)*

*Debate/vote: Wednesday 27 March*

### Further information

[Provisional agreement with Council on single-use plastics](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(22.01.2019\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Frédérique Ries \(ALDE, BE\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP research: Single-use plastics and fishing gear: Reducing marine litter](#)

[Plastics in a circular economy: Opportunities and challenges](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Parliament to vote on curbing CO2 emissions from cars

**Plans to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions from cars and vans by 2030, already informally agreed with EU ministers, will be put to a vote on Wednesday.**

MEPs and Council had agreed on a higher target (37,5%) than the European Commission proposed (30%) to reduce EU emissions for new cars by 2030. The legislation also sets a CO2 reduction target for new vans of 31% by 2030.

## **Social impact of a low-carbon transition**

Manufacturers whose average emissions exceed the limits will have to pay an excess emissions premium. By 2023, the European Commission will have to evaluate whether these amounts should be used to fund a fair transition towards zero-emission mobility, and to support developing workers' skills in the automotive sector.

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement*

*2017/0293(COD)*

*Debate: Tuesday, 26 March*

*Vote: Wednesday, 27 March*

## **Further information**

[Provisional agreement with Council](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(22.01.2019\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Miriam Dalli \(S&D, MT\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research - CO2 standards for new cars and vans](#)

[Study - Post 2020 CO2 emission targets for cars and vans: the right level of ambition?](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Parliament to vote on ending switch between summer and winter time

**On Tuesday, MEPs will vote on the proposal to end the practice of adjusting clocks by an hour in spring and autumn from 2021.**

EU countries that decide to permanently keep their summer time should adjust clocks for the last time on the last Sunday in March 2021, says the [draft Parliament position](#). Countries that prefer to keep their standard (winter) time, could change the clocks for the last time on the last Sunday in October 2021.

MEPs also want EU countries to coordinate with each other to ensure that the functioning of the single market is not hampered.

### Background

Responding to citizens' initiatives, in February 2018, Parliament [called](#) on the Commission to assess the summer-time arrangements directive and, if necessary, present a proposal for the directive to be revised.

Following the assessment, which received 4.6 million responses, of which 84% were in favour of ending the clock changes, the Commission tabled the [proposal](#), which will now need to be agreed upon between the Parliament and EU ministers.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading*

*2018/0332(COD)*

*Debate: Monday, 25 March*

*Vote: Tuesday, 26 March*



## Further information

[Draft report on discontinuing seasonal changes of time](#)  
[Press release on committee vote \(04.03.2019\)](#)

[Rapporteur Marita Ulvskog \(S&D, SE\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research \(November 2018\) Discontinuing seasonal changes of time](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material:: discontinuing seasonal changes of time](#)

# Parliament to make EU electricity market cleaner and more consumer-friendly

**New rules to create an unhindered European market for electricity and to make it cleaner, more competitive and risk-prepared will be put to a vote on Tuesday.**

MEPs are expected to adopt four laws related to the EU electricity market on Tuesday and hereby conclude the [Clean Energy for All Europeans package](#).

One of the main objectives of the new rules is to tackle barriers to cross-border trade of electricity, making it easier to trade renewable energy across EU borders and hence support efforts to reach the EU's binding goal of 32 % renewables by 2030.

The most polluting coal power plants in Europe will no longer receive state aid to be on stand-by in case there is a demand peak for electricity e.g. during unusually cold winters.

## **Smart meters, dynamic pricing and changing providers**

In addition, the new laws strive to make the EU's electricity market more competitive and consumer-oriented by giving them access to smart meters, dynamic pricing and the option to switch provider at no cost within a maximum period of three weeks (and 24 hours by 2026).

Finally, to better protect EU citizens against sudden electricity supply shortages, the sector will be better prepared to handle risks and more tasks and power will be given to ACER, the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators to better regulate the EU electricity market.

*Procedure: COD - Ordinary legislative procedure*

*Procedure Code: 2016/0379(COD) - 2016/0380(COD) - 2016/0377(COD) - 2016/0378(COD)*

*Debate: Monday, 25 March*

*Vote: Tuesday, 26 March*

## Further information

[Press release after votes in the Industry Committee](#)

[Provisional agreement on the Internal market for electricity. Recast \(Regulation\)](#)

[Procedure file: Internal market for electricity. Recast \(Regulation\)](#)

[EP Research Briefing: Internal market for electricity \(Regulation\)](#)

[Procedure file: Common rules for the internal market in electricity. Recast \(Directive\)](#)

[Provisional agreement on Common rules for the internal market in electricity. Recast \(Directive\)](#)

[EP Research Briefing: Common rules for the internal electricity market \(Directive\)](#)

[Provisional agreement on Risk-preparedness in the electricity sector](#)

[Procedure file: Risk-preparedness in the electricity sector](#)

[EP Research Briefing: Risk-preparedness in the electricity sector](#)

[Provisional agreement on the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators \(ACER\)](#)

[Procedure file: European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators \(ACER\)](#)

[EP Research Briefing: European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators \(ACER\)](#)

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

[Profile of rapporteur Flavio Zanonato \(S&D, IT\)](#)

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

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Parliament to vote on root and branch reforms to fight financial and tax crimes

**In the wake of recent multi-billion Euro scandals, on Tuesday plenary is set to adopt a detailed roadmap revamping taxation and tackling financial crimes.**

The 70-page report, resulting from the year-long work of the special committee on financial crimes, tax evasion and tax avoidance, calls for thoroughly improving cooperation in all tax and finance-related areas between the national authorities, new legislation, and setting up new bodies at EU and global level, such as an EU financial police force and an EU anti-money laundering watchdog.

The report also flags up seven EU countries - Belgium, Cyprus, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta and The Netherlands - as potentially acting like tax havens and calls for an end to golden visa schemes.

## Background

The special committee was established in March 2018, following continued revelations over the last five years (Luxleaks, the Panama Papers, Football leaks and the Paradise papers). It held 18 hearings dealing with particular topics of interest, 10 exchange of views with finance ministers and European Commissioners, and four fact-finding missions – to the US, the Isle of Man, Denmark and Estonia, and Latvia.

*Procedure: Own initiative*

*2018/2121(INI)*

*Debate: Monday, 25 March*

*Vote: Tuesday, 26 March*

*Press conference: Tuesday 26 March, 15.30*

## Further information

[Draft report on financial crimes, tax evasion and tax avoidance](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(27.02.2019\)](#)

[Luděk Niedermayer \(EPP, CZ\)](#)

[Jeppe Kofod \(S&D, DK\)](#)

Procedure file:

[All documentation related to the work of the special committee](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Parliament to adopt its position on reforming road transport sector

**On Wednesday, MEPs will debate and vote to amend rules on posting of drivers, to tackle illegal practices in road haulage sector and amend rules on drivers' rest time.**

The reform proposals aim to improve enforcement of rules in the road transport sector to better tackle illegal practices, such as use of letterbox companies or operating in national markets beyond existing limits. They would also define for which transport operations the rules on posting of workers, such as those on minimum wage, should apply and amend drivers' rest time.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading*

*2017/0121(COD), 2017/0122(COD), 2017/0123(COD)*

*Debate/vote: Wednesday, 27 March*

## **Further information**

[Draft report on posting of drivers in the road transport sector](#)

[Draft report on drivers rest times](#)

[Draft report on access to the road haulage market](#)

[Mobility package: rapporteurs, procedure files and press releases](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

## Parliament to debate Brexit and other EU summit priorities

**MEPs will discuss the outcome of the 21-22 March EU spring summit, including Brexit, with European Council President Donald Tusk on Wednesday morning.**

EU leaders are meeting on 21-22 March in Brussels for their spring summit, to discuss - in EU 27 format - Brexit developments. Other key topics on the agenda - for all EU 28 leaders - include the strengthening of the EU's economic base; climate change; the upcoming summit with China; and ways to tackle disinformation.

*Debate: Wednesday, 27 March*

*Procedure: Council and Commission statements (without resolution)*

### **Further information**

[Annotated draft agenda, European Council 21-22 March 2019](#)

[Free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Protecting consumer rights online and offline

**New rules to strengthen consumer rights and facilitate cross-border trade in the EU will be debated and put to the vote on Tuesday.**

The two directives provisionally agreed by Parliament and Council negotiators - on [digital content](#) and on the [sales of goods](#) - are part of the Digital Single Market strategy, which aims to ensure better access for consumers and businesses to online goods and services across Europe. The new laws harmonise key contractual rights, such as the remedies available to consumers and the ways to use those remedies.

## **Digital content directive**

Under the first EU-wide “digital content” rules, people who buy or download music, apps, games or use cloud services will be better protected if a trader fails to supply the content or service or provides a defective one. These consumer protection rights will apply in an equal manner to consumers who provide data in exchange for such content or service and to “paying” consumers alike.

## **Sales of goods directive**

The directive on the sales of goods applies to both online and offline (face-to-face) sales, e.g., whether a consumer buys a household appliance, a toy or a computer via the internet or over the counter in a local store. Goods with digital elements (e.g. “smart” fridges, smartphones and TVs or connected watches) are also covered by this directive.

*Procedure: Co-decision, 1st reading agreement*

*2015/0287(COD) and 2015/0288(COD)*

*Debate/vote: Tuesday 26 March*



## Further information

[Text of the provisional agreement on digital content](#)

[Text of the provisional agreement on sales of goods](#)

[Press release on digital content](#)

[Press release on sales of goods](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur from the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee on digital content, Evelyne Gebhardt \(S&D, DE\)](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur from the Legal Affairs Committee on digital content, Axel Voss \(EPP, DE\)](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur from the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee on sales of goods, Pascal Arimont \(EPP, BE\)](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Better protection of workers from cancer-causing chemicals

## Parliament will vote on Wednesday to limit worker's exposure to chemicals harmful to health.

The new law, agreed with EU ministers in January, will improve working conditions and health at work, by adding exposure limit values for five chemicals used in a wide range of sectors, such as nickel-cadmium battery manufacture, zinc and copper smelting, laboratories, electronics, funerals and embalming, construction, healthcare (pathology departments and autopsy rooms), plastics and recycling sectors.

### Background

The third revision of the [Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive](#) (CMD) adds cadmium, beryllium, arsenic acid, formaldehyde and 4,4'-Methylene-bis(2-chloroaniline) (MOCA) to the EU list of harmful substances. According to the [European Commission](#), the new rules will improve working conditions for over 1 million EU workers and prevent over 22 000 cases of work-related illness.

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure (final vote)*

*2018/0081(COD)*

*Vote: Wednesday, 27 March*

### Further information

[Draft report on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(29.01.2019\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur: Laura Agea \(EFDD, IT\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research Service Briefing: Limits on exposure to carcinogens and mutagens at work: Third proposal](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Vetting EU budget management in 2017

## MEPs will assess how well the 2017 EU budget has been managed in a series of votes on Tuesday.

Parliament will vote on 53 discharge reports covering every EU institution, as well as agencies, Joint Undertakings and the European Development Fund.

The Budgetary Control Committee has endorsed the budget management of every institution save [the Council and the European Asylum Support Office](#). Committee MEPs gave [thumbs up to the European Commission](#), which manages the bulk of EU expenditure.

While welcoming the ever-decreasing error rates in EU payments, MEPs raise concern, among other things, about public procurement shortcomings in Hungary and Slovakia, the [Czech Prime Minister's conflict of interest](#) and the distribution of agriculture payments in several member states.

### Background

Discharge is the final approval on how the budget has been spent and implemented for a specific year. The European Parliament can grant, postpone or refuse a discharge. If the discharge is postponed, Parliament may ask the respective institution to provide additional information before voting on a final decision later in the year. Granting discharge closes a specific financial year.

*Procedure: Discharge*

*2018/2166(DEC) - 2018/2219(DEC)*

*Debate: Tuesday, 26 March*

*Vote: Tuesday, 26 March*

*Press conference: Tuesday, 26 March, 18:00 with rapporteur (discharge to the European Commission) [Inés Ayala Sender \(S&D, ES\)](#)*

### Further information

[Procedure files \(53 reports\)](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Drinking water: new plans to improve tap water quality and cut plastic litter

**MEPs will vote Thursday on plans to improve consumers' trust in drinking tap water, a more environmentally friendly and cheaper alternative to bottled water.**

Raising confidence in the quality of tap water for domestic consumption could help households save money and reduce plastic waste. The legislation tightens the maximum limits for certain pollutants such as lead (to be reduced by half), harmful bacteria, and introduces new caps for certain endocrine disruptors. It also monitors the levels of microplastics.

Member states are also encouraged to take measures to provide universal access to clean water in the EU and improve water access in cities and public places.

### Background

With Thursdays' vote, Parliament will close its first reading, having established its position in last October. However, EU ministers did not reach their own position in time to open negotiations before the end of the legislative term.

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading*

*2017/0332(COD)*

*Debate: Wednesday 27 March*

*Vote: Thursday 28 March*

### Further information

[Report on the quality of water intended for human consumption.](#)

[Press release on plenary vote \(23.10.2018\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Michel Dantin \(EPP, FR\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Briefing: revision of the Drinking water directive](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Boosting green investments in the EU

**MEPs will vote on setting out criteria for determining whether an economic activity is environmentally sustainable on Thursday.**

The aim of the legislation is to gradually develop an EU taxonomy for climate change, environmentally and socially sustainable activities to provide economic actors and investors with clarity on which activities are considered sustainable, thereby allowing them to take decisions that are more informed.

## Background

The regulation is part of a [package of three measures](#) presented by the European Commission in May 2018 as a follow-up to its [EU Action Plan on Sustainable Finance](#).

\* \* \*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure (1st reading)**

**2018/0178(COD)**

**Debate: Thursday, 28 March**

**Vote: Thursday, 28 March**

## Further information

[Draft report on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(12.03.2019\)](#)

[Profile of the co-rapporteur: Bas Eickhout \(EFA/Greens, NL\)](#)

[Profile of the co-rapporteur: Sirpa Pietikainen \(EPP, FI\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Parliament to agree on future regional and cohesion funding

**MEPs are set to adopt on Tuesday new funding rules aiming to strengthen the EU's economic, social and territorial cohesion.**

The updated rules, which will apply from 2021 to 2027 to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF), will cover all regions, with special focus on less developed communities, urban areas and outermost regions.

MEPs are expected to agree on spending a significant part of the ERDF, which is by far the largest public EU fund, on smart growth and the green economy. The draft text stipulates that regions should spend at least 30% to 50% of the funding received on a smart, innovative Europe, and at least 30% on the fight against climate change and for the circular economy. The Cohesion Fund should continue to focus on investment in environmental and transport infrastructure.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading*

*2018/0197(COD)*

*Debate: Tuesday, 26 March*

*Vote: Wednesday, 27 March*

## **Further information**

[Draft resolution](#)

[Press release on the committee vote \(14.02.2019\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Rapporteur profile: Andrea Cozzolino \(S&D, IT\)](#)

[Committee on Regional Development](#)

[What Europe does for me?](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# External action: more funds for human rights, development and climate change

**EU external action funding should support development, climate and environmental goals, and promote democracy, rule of law and human rights.**

On Wednesday, Parliament is set to adopt its position on the proposed [Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument \(NDICI\)](#).

The new financial instrument would, once agreed by both Parliament and EU ministers, be used to distribute a large part of EU external action funding, with a proposed budget of € 93.154 billion in current prices for the 2021-2027 period, an increase of almost EUR 4 billion compared to the EU Commission's proposal.

Once in force, it will be the EU's main tool to foster cooperation with non-EU countries in the neighbourhood and beyond, and to implement its international commitments deriving from the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure*

*2018/0243(COD)*

*Debate: Tuesday, 26 March*

*Vote: Wednesday, 27 March*

### Further information

[Press release on the committee vote \(04.03.2019\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Study: The European Parliament and the new external financing instruments \(November 2018\)](#)

[Profile of co-rapporteur Frank Engel \(EPP, LU\)](#)

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

[Profile of co-rapporteur Pier Antonio Panzeri \(S&D, IT\)](#)

[Profile of co-rapporteur Charles Goerens \(ALDE, LU\)](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Tougher requirements to get funding for countries wishing to join the EU

**EU funding to countries that are aspiring to join the European Union must be distributed on a ‘fair share’ basis and suspended in cases of rule of law breaches.**

The European Parliament is set to adopt its position on the third Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) on Wednesday. EU pre-accession funds help countries aspiring to join the EU to reform their political, economic and legal systems, in order to prepare them for possible EU membership.

MEPs in Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee have proposed to allocate 14.66 billion euros in current prices to the new instrument’s fund (2021-2027).

### Background

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) is an EU programme for countries wishing to join the EU that was established for the 2007 to 2013 programming period, that replaced several former pre-accession assistance programmes.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure*

*2018/0247(COD)*

*Debate: Tuesday, 26 March*

*Vote: Wednesday, 27 March*

### Further information

[Press release on the committee vote \(04.02.2019\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Profile of co-rapporteur José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra \(EPP, ES\).](#)

[Profile of co-rapporteur Knut Fleckenstein \(S&D, DE\)](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)



# Vote on new Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027

**On Thursday, MEPs will vote to triple the 2021-2017 Erasmus+ funds, allowing more people to take part and adapting the grants to the needs of participants.**

The Parliament focuses on people with fewer opportunities, proposing a detailed set of measures to lift all economic, social, cultural barriers and allow more people to take part in different learning mobility schemes. These measures could include: adapting the level of funding to the needs of participants, regularly reviewing and adjusting living and subsistence costs, as well as simplifying the application procedure.

MEPs also propose that pre-school and early education staff, young athletes and sport coaches could be offered the possibility to participate in mobility schemes (not possible under the current programme).

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure*

*2018/0191(COD)*

*Debate: Thursday, 28 March*

*Vote: Thursday, 28 March*

## LINKS

### Further information

[Draft resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing 'Erasmus'](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(20.02.2019\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Milan ZVER \(EPP, SI\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: audiovisual material on Erasmus](#)

# MEPs to debate shortcomings in the rule of law in Malta and Slovakia

## Plenary will debate the situation of rule of law in the EU, particularly in Malta and Slovakia, on Monday.

The draft conclusions of the working group set up within the Civil Liberties Committee to monitor rule of law in the EU state that democracy is at risk in Malta and Slovakia. They also denounce the efforts of some EU member states to weaken the rule of law, the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary. The text underlines the “chilling effect on journalists” across the EU following the assassinations of Ms Caruana Galizia, Mr Kuciak and Ms Kušnírová.

A resolution will be put to the vote during the next part session.

*Procedure: Oral question to the Commission and the Council, with resolution*

*Debate: Monday, 25 March*

*2018/2965 (RSP)*

### Further information

[Mission report following the joint ad-hoc Delegation to Malta \(30 November - 1 December 2017\)](#)

[Report on the ad hoc delegation to Slovakia \(7-9 March 2018\)](#)

[Mission report following the ad-hoc delegation to Slovakia and Malta \(17-20 September 2018\)](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: multimedia material](#)

# MEPs to debate situation in Algeria and Crimea

**On Tuesday, Parliament will discuss recent political protests in Algeria, as well as the situation in Crimea five years after the Russian illegal occupation.**

This week saw thousands of protesters take to the streets in Algeria once again, calling on the country's president Abdelaziz Bouteflika to step down. The demonstrations, while also being a call for more democracy, originally started earlier this year because of Mr Bouteflika's plan to seek a fifth term, despite his declining health.

MEPs will also debate the current situation in Crimea. Five years after Russia's annexation of the peninsula in 2014, no political solution to the diplomatic crisis is currently in the pipeline.

The illegal occupation of Crimea and Moscow's deliberate destabilisation of Ukraine are also the main reasons behind current EU sanctions on Russia.

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

*Debate: Tuesday, 26 March*

### **Further information**

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Emergency situation in Venezuela: vote in plenary

## Parliament will vote on a resolution on the emergency situation in Venezuela, on Thursday.

MEPs will assess the latest events in the political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis that Venezuela is going through, including the electricity blackout that plunged the country into darkness for several days.

This will be the second plenary resolution on Venezuela this year, after the one passed on 31 January, in which the [EP recognised Juan Guaidó as interim President](#) and called on the EU to follow suit.

*Statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy followed by a non-legislative resolution*

*Debate: Tuesday, 12 March*

*Vote: Thursday, 28 March*

### Further information

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Other topics on the agenda

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

- Fundamental rights of people of African descent, resolution, vote Tuesday
- Establishing the Creative Europe programme (2021 to 2027), Costa, vote Wednesday
- Visa exemption Kosovo, Fajon, vote Thursday
- Interoperability between EU information systems, Melo/Lenaers, vote Thursday
- EU Switzerland Institutional Framework Agreement, Frunzulica, vote Tuesday
- European Crowdfunding Service Providers, Fox, vote Wednesday
- Delegated Regulation establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, vote Wednesday
- Objection establishing as part of the Internal Security Fund, the instrument for financial support for external borders and visa, vote Wednesday
- Time limit for the implementation of the special rules regarding maximum length in case of cabs delivering improved aerodynamic performance, energy efficiency and safety performance, Delli vote Tuesday
- Representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers, Didier, debate Mon, vote Tuesday
- Labelling of tyres with respect to fuel efficiency and other essential parameters, Boni, debate Mon, vote Tuesday
- EU marked fertilising products, Turcanu, debate Wed, vote Thursday