MEPs to discuss the German Presidency’s priorities with Angela Merkel
On Wednesday afternoon, MEPs will debate with German Chancellor Angela Merkel the strategy and main goals of the German Presidency during the next six months.

EP to discuss EU budget and recovery with Presidents von der Leyen and Michel
Looking back on the 19 June and forward to the 17 July European Council meetings, MEPs will convey their stance on future EU financing and economic recovery.

Revamping the EU’s public health strategy post-COVID-19
MEPs are to debate a much-needed overhaul of the EU’s public health policy with Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides, on Wednesday.

MEPs to vote on major reform of road transport sector
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MFF: will respect for rule of law become a condition to receive EU support?
MEPs will quiz Council and Commission on making rule of law a binding condition for member states to receive EU funding under the next MFF.

Parliament to call for far-reaching social support for EU firms and workers
In a resolution to be put to the vote on Friday, MEPs are set to call for radical measures to prevent massive job losses and a deep recession.

COVID-19: EU must help rebuild hard-hit European culture
MEPs will ask Commissioner Gabriel to come up with a plan to help the EU’s cultural and creative sector, damaged by the economic impact of mandatory social distancing.
MEPs to call on EU Commission to step up action against dangerous chemicals
In a debate on the upcoming EU chemicals strategy for sustainability on Thursday, MEPs are expected to demand better protection of our health and the environment.

MEPs nominated to new special committees, subcommittee and committee of inquiry
The names of members who will be sitting on a new subcommittee, three special committees and a committee of inquiry will be announced on Friday.

EP to discuss new measures to stop money laundering
On Wednesday, MEPs will discuss the Commission’s Action Plan on how to fight effectively against money laundering and terrorist financing and vote on a resolution on Friday.

Green deal: boost energy storage to help decarbonisation
To increase the share of energy from renewable sources in the European energy mix, MEPs want to step up storage solutions such as hydrogen or home batteries.

Roma integration: towards a post-2020 strategy
On Thursday, MEPs will take stock of the situation of Roma in Europe and discuss the EU’s strategy for the next decade, with Commissioner Dalli and a Council representative.

Persons with intellectual disabilities need better protection during pandemic
COVID-19 has exacerbated persistent segregation and discrimination against persons with disabilities, exposing flaws in support systems, healthcare and education.

Final vote on extending deadlines for European Citizens’ Initiatives
After a swift trilogue and committee approval, the Commission proposal to extend ECI deadlines, including Parliament-driven improvements, will be approved on Thursday.

Parliament to sound alarm over children in Japan taken from EU parents
MEPs will address the high number of parental child abduction cases due to the reluctance of Japanese authorities to comply with international law.

How to stop further erosion of human rights worldwide
MEPs and EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell will discuss the EU’s Human Rights Annual report for 2019, on Thursday morning.

MEPs to vote on Austrian nominee to the European Court of Auditors
On Wednesday, MEPs will vote in a secret ballot on whether to endorse the new Court of Auditors member Helga Berger, nominated by the Austrian government.

MEPs to approve €585 million to support Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries
MEPs will vote on whether to continue to support refugees and host communities in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon in response to the Syrian crisis.

Remembering the victims of Srebrenica
MEPs will pay tribute to the victims of Srebrenica, marking the 25th anniversary of one of Europe’s worst massacres since World War II, on Friday.

Parliament to assess the situation in Venezuela
MEPs are set to take stock of the political and humanitarian situation in crisis-stricken Venezuela, in a resolution to be put to the vote on Thursday.

Debate on Turkey destabilising the Mediterranean
MEPs will discuss the situation in the Mediterranean and Turkey’s problematic role in the region with the High Representative Josep Borrell, on Thursday.

Plenary to decide on the next director of EU bank watchdog
On Wednesday, all MEPs will decide whether the French candidate selected to be Executive Director of the European Banking Authority should be appointed.

Role of cohesion policy in responding to the COVID-19 crisis
MEPs will debate on the role of cohesion policy in tackling the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 with Commissioner Elisa Ferreira, on Friday.

Other topics on the agenda


Newsletter - 8-10 July 2020 - Brussels plenary session
Further information
Final draft agenda
Follow the plenary live
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Press conferences and other events
EP Multimedia Centre
EP Newshub

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MEPs to discuss the German Presidency’s priorities with Angela Merkel

On Wednesday afternoon, MEPs will debate with German Chancellor Angela Merkel the strategy and main goals of the German Presidency during the next six months.

Angela Merkel will be present during the plenary session in Brussels, her first foreign trip since the outbreak of the pandemic, addressing the chamber at around 14.15, followed by interventions of Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Parliament’s political group leaders.

Under the motto “Together for Europe’s recovery”, the German Council Presidency will focus on economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, which includes brokering an agreement on both the Recovery Plan and the EU’s next long-term budget (MFF). Once EU leaders have found common ground on the next MFF, talks with Parliament can start. MEPs need to give their consent on the MFF.

Besides overcoming the consequences of the pandemic, the German Presidency is set to help finalise the terms of the EU’s future relationship with the UK and to step up negotiations on climate change, digitalisation and Europe’s role in the world.

Council and Commission statements

Debate: Wednesday, 8 July

Further information

The EU long-term budget 2020-2027
Germany’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union website
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
EP to discuss EU budget and recovery with Presidents von der Leyen and Michel

Looking back on the 19 June and forward to the 17 July European Council meetings, MEPs will convey their stance on future EU financing and economic recovery.

The debate is scheduled to start at around 15.30, on Wednesday.

On 19 June, EU heads of state or government exchanged views via video conference to discuss the recovery fund plans to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and a new EU long-term budget presented by the European Commission on 27 May 2020 in Parliament. They did not manage to agree on a common position.

EU leaders will meet again, physically, in Brussels on 17 July to try to come to an agreement among themselves based on concrete proposals which Charles Michel, President of the European Council, is expected to present before the summit meeting.

On Thursday, 2 July, the President of the European Parliament David Sassoli said: “Negotiations begin now and the Parliament is ready. President von der Leyen’s decision to activate Article 324 of the EU Treaty highlights that all institutions are ready and committed to providing answers for European citizens. Today I received a mandate from the Conference of Presidents, made up of leaders of political groups in the Parliament, to negotiate the terms for an ambitious agreement.”

Parliament will have a final say (vote by absolute majority) before the 2021-2027 long-term budget (MFF) enters into force.

 Council and Commission statements, without resolution

Debate: Wednesday, 8 July
Further information

Speech by EP President David Sassoli before the European Council on 19 June

Letter from five EP group presidents to EU Heads of State or Governments (18 June)

Statement by the EP negotiating team on the long-term EU budget and Own Resources (27 May)

EP resolution of 15 May 2020 on the new multiannual financial framework, own resources and the recovery plan

Statement by EP's MFF/Own Resources negotiating team: “Recovery plan crucial, but do not trade long-term for short-term” (27 May 2020)

MFF Q&A

EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
- Special European Council, 17 and 18 July 2020
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
- European Council, 19 June 2020
Revamping the EU’s public health strategy post-COVID-19

MEPs are to debate a much-needed overhaul of the EU’s public health policy with Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides, on Wednesday.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed gaps in the way the EU and its member states deal with public health emergencies. On Wednesday evening, Parliament will debate with Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides how to ensure that health systems across the EU are better equipped and coordinated to face future health threats. A resolution will be put to the vote on Friday.

Background

Primary responsibility for public health and, in particular, healthcare systems lies with the member states. However, the EU has an important role to play in improving public health, preventing and managing diseases, mitigating sources of danger to human health, and harmonising health strategies between member states.

Parliament has consistently promoted the establishment of a coherent EU public health policy and in a resolution on the post-2020 EU budget revision and economic recovery plan, MEPs insisted that a new stand-alone European health programme should be created.

The Commission has since presented a proposal for 9.4 billion EUR EU4Health programme for 2021-2027 as part of the Next Generation EU recovery plan.

Procedure: Resolutions on topical subjects (RSP)

2020/2691(RSP)

Debate: Wednesday, 8 July at 20.00

Vote: Friday, 10 July
Further information
Procedure file

EP press release: EU4Health: MEPs welcome proposal for dedicated EU health programme (28.05.2020)

EP press release: “EU Strategy on COVID-19 vaccines must guarantee safety and accessibility for all” (22.06.2020)

Health threats: boosting EU readiness and crisis management

Parliament website on COVID-19

Commission webpage on the EU's response to the coronavirus outbreak

Free photos, video and audio material related to COVID-19

Free photos, video and audio material related to COVID-19
MEPs to vote on major reform of road transport sector

Parliament will have its final say on reforms to improve drivers’ working conditions, provide clarity on posting of drivers and fight illegal practices.

MEPs will vote on Wednesday on amendments to the revised rules for posting of drivers, drivers’ rest times and better enforcement of cabotage rules (i.e. transport of goods carried out by non-resident hauliers on a temporary basis). The reform will help, among other things, to ensure fair remuneration for drivers, prevent systematic cabotage and fight the use of letterbox companies.

The new rules, which have been provisionally agreed with Council, will be considered adopted unless amendments tabled are voted through with an absolute majority in favour (i.e. at least 353 votes).

A press conference on the mobility package with Rapporteurs Henna Virkkunen (EPP, FI), Ismail Ertug (S&D, DE) and Kateřina Konečná (GUE/NGL, CZ) will take place on Thursday, 9 July at 10:00.

MEPs will also adopt new eFreight rules, allowing for paperless cross-border transport as the use of electronic transport documents becomes more widely accepted, which will save time and money.

Procedure: Ordinary Legislative Procedure, second reading

2017/0121(COD) (Konečná ), 2017/0122(COD) (Virkkunen), 2017/0123(COD) (Ertug), 2018/0140(COD) (Deli)

Vote: Wednesday, 8 July

Further information

Press release: Transport Committee approves major reform of road transport sector (08.06.2020)
Free photos, video and audio material
MFF: will respect for rule of law become a condition to receive EU support?

MEPs will quiz Council and Commission on making rule of law a binding condition for member states to receive EU funding under the next MFF.

A mechanism to suspend or reduce EU funds if there are “generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law” in the next EU finance planning period 2021-2027 was proposed by the EU Commission in May 2018.

In January 2019, MEPs adopted their negotiating mandate, agreeing on it in principle but asking for final beneficiaries to be properly protected and for Parliament to be fully involved in the decision-making process on suspension of payments.

Legislative negotiations with the Council have not begun, as member states have not yet been able to agree on a common position.

Council and Commission statements / Ordinary legislative procedure

2018/0136(COD)

Debate: Thursday, 9 July

Further information

- Adopted text on Protection of the European Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the member states
- Press release on EP vote: Member states jeopardising the rule of law will risk losing EU funds committee vote (17.01.2019)
- Procedure file
- Legislative train for a Regulation on the protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the member states
- Free photos, video and audio material
Parliament to call for far-reaching social support for EU firms and workers

In a resolution to be put to the vote on Friday, MEPs are set to call for radical measures to prevent massive job losses and a deep recession.

In a draft report by José Gusmão (GUE/NGL, PT), MEPs push for wages to be subsidised, income support, unemployment benefit schemes to be extended and paid sick leave to cushion the employment and social shock caused by the pandemic. The text calls on the Commission to revise the EU Employment Guidelines in light of the consequences of the pandemic and to be better prepared to respond to future crises.

MEPs also insist that the fight against youth unemployment, homelessness and poverty must be prioritised through a reinforced Youth Guarantee, a strong Child Guarantee and the Housing First approach. They look forward to a proposal on a European permanent unemployment reinsurance scheme, expected towards the end of 2020.

Background

The Employment Guidelines (Article 148 of the TFEU) present strategic objectives for national employment policies in the fields of employment, education and social inclusion. The Council will adopt the act after consulting the European Parliament. The Guidelines serve as a basis for country-specific recommendations (part of the European Semester) in the different areas concerned.

The European Commission presented this year’s revision of the Employment Guidelines in February 2020, in order to integrate the four dimensions of the Annual Strategy for Sustainable Growth (ASGS) and, in particular, the dimension of environmental sustainability to reflect the vision of a strong social Europe for just transitions.

Procedure: non-legislative report (consultation)

2020/0030(NLE)

Vote: Friday, 10 July
Further information

Draft resolution on Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States

EP press release: MEPs demand unprecedented support measures for EU firms and workers (22.06.2020)
EP Research briefing: Mitigating the employment and social effects of the Covid-19 pandemic (09.06.2020)
EP Research briefing: Coronavirus and the world of work (24.04.2020)
Profile of the rapporteur José Gusmão (GUE/NGL, PT)
Procedure file
COVID-19: EU must help rebuild hard-hit European culture

MEPs will ask Commissioner Gabriel to come up with a plan to help the EU’s cultural and creative sector, damaged by the economic impact of mandatory social distancing.

Many cultural and creative sector enterprises are at risk of collapse, being among those hit hardest by the COVID-19 containment measures. Many venues remain closed or have significantly scaled down their activity, whilst future prospects remain unclear.

Background

More flexible state aid rules, adopted as part of the coronavirus response initiative, as well as the “Next Generation EU” recovery plan, have given member states more options to support their cultural enterprises and creators. However, no targeted EU funds have been earmarked for the sector.

Members of the European Parliament’s Culture and Education Committee have been calling for significant help, especially for small businesses and individual actors. They have also been highly critical of the Commission’s proposal to cut financing for the “Creative Europe” programme within the next long-term EU budget.

Commission statement

Debate: Friday, 10 July

Vote: September 2020

Further information

Press release on committee debate “Long-term EU budget: MEPs slam cuts to culture and education” (22.06.2020)

Press release on committee debate “COVID-19: Save European culture and values, MEPs tell Commission” (04.05.2020)

EP Research service: EU support for artists and the cultural and creative sector during the coronavirus crisis
Free photos, video and audio material
MEPs to call on EU Commission to step up action against dangerous chemicals

In a debate on the upcoming EU chemicals strategy for sustainability on Thursday, MEPs are expected to demand better protection of our health and the environment.

MEPs are expected to call for a new strategy that effectively ensures that health and the environment are well protected, minimising exposure to hazardous chemicals.

In a draft oral question to the Commission, MEPs ask the Commission which measures it intends to propose and how it will improve the functioning of REACH to close loopholes in EU legislation.

In the draft resolution to be put to the vote on Friday, MEPs push for further regulatory measures to adequately protect vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant and breastfeeding women and the elderly.

Background

The Commission is planning to present a new EU chemicals strategy for sustainability this autumn. A draft roadmap was open for feedback until 20 June. It is part of the European Green Deal.

Procedure: Oral question with resolution

Debate: Thursday, 9 July 14.30

Vote: Friday, 10 July

Further information
EP press release: “MEPs call on EU Commission to step up action against dangerous chemicals” (30.06.2020)

Draft oral question to the Commission

European Commission: “Hearing: Chemicals – strategy for sustainability (toxic-free EU environment)” (09 05 2020)
MEPs nominated to new special committees, subcommittee and committee of inquiry

The names of members who will be sitting on a new subcommittee, three special committees and a committee of inquiry will be announced on Friday.

MEPs voted by a large majority during the June plenary session to set up a subcommittee on tax matters, a committee of inquiry on animal transport and three special committees, one on cancer, another on artificial intelligence and a third on foreign interference and disinformation in the EU.

European Parliament President Sassoli will now formalise which MEPs will be sitting on each committee by announcing their names during the July part session.

The subcommittee and the committee of inquiry will be composed of 30 members each, whereas each special committee will have 33 members. The procedure to nominate MEPs to a committee is set out in Rule 209 of the EP rules of procedure.

Announcement by the President


Announcement: Friday, 10 July

Further information

European Parliament decision setting up a subcommittee on tax matters
European Parliament decision setting up a special committee on beating cancer
European Parliament decision setting up a special committee on artificial intelligence
European Parliament decision setting up a special committee on foreign interference in the EU
European Parliament decision setting up a committee of inquiry on animal transport
Rules of procedure on the establishment of special committees
Rules of procedure on the establishment of committees of inquiry
Rules of procedure on the establishment of subcommittees
Free photos, video and audio material
EP to discuss new measures to stop money laundering

On Wednesday, MEPs will discuss the Commission’s Action Plan on how to fight effectively against money laundering and terrorist financing and vote on a resolution on Friday.

In a debate with Commission Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis and the Council representative on Wednesday evening, MEPs are likely to address persisting shortcomings when it comes to identifying high-risk countries and letterbox or shell companies in the EU.

Parliament has repeatedly insisted on putting in place a strong preventive policy by blacklisting high-risk jurisdictions and by addressing the deficiencies of beneficial ownership registers. This would allow ownership chains to be traced and eventually lead to taxation or anti-terrorist rules being enforced.

MEPs are also likely to comment on patchy implementation of EU anti-money laundering policies across the EU, which could be addressed by harmonising national rules through regulations and beefing up both EU-level supervision and information-sharing between member states.

The Parliament’s stance will be summarised in a resolution to be put to the vote on Friday afternoon.

Council and Commission statements, with resolution

2020/2686(RSP)

Procedure Code: 2020/2686(RSP)

Debate: Wednesday, 8 July

Vote: Friday, 10 July
Further information
Draft resolution (available soon)
Procedure file

EP Study: Improving anti-money laundering policy (14/05/2020)
Commission action Plan for a comprehensive Union policy on preventing money laundering and terrorist financing

Free photos, video and audio material
Green deal: boost energy storage to help decarbonisation

To increase the share of energy from renewable sources in the European energy mix, MEPs want to step up storage solutions such as hydrogen or home batteries.

In a non-binding resolution to be put to the vote on Friday, MEPs highlight the potential of hydrogen produced from renewable sources (so-called “green hydrogen”). They support the Commission's efforts to create European standards for batteries and to reduce EU dependence on production outside Europe.

MEPs also explore how to develop decentralised storage capacity through home batteries, domestic heat storage, vehicle-to-grid technology and smart home energy systems.

In a separate resolution to be put to the vote on Friday, MEPs will call for EU funding guidelines for key energy projects to be updated to match Europe’s climate policy and the Paris Agreement objectives.

Background

The European Commission estimates that the EU will need to be able to store six times more energy than today to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

2019/2189(INI)

Vote: Friday, 10 July

Further information

Draft report on a comprehensive European approach to energy storage (not available yet)
Press release on committee vote (29.06.2020)
Profile of rapporteur Claudia Gamon (Renew Europe, AT)

Procedure file

EP research: Energy storage and sector coupling - Towards an integrated, decarbonised energy system

Free photos, video and audio material
Roma integration: towards a post-2020 strategy

On Thursday, MEPs will take stock of the situation of Roma in Europe and discuss the EU’s strategy for the next decade, with Commissioner Dalli and a Council representative.

The integration of Roma people and the EU’s post-2020 anti-discrimination strategy will be up for a debate on Thursday afternoon with Commissioner Dalli and a representative from the Council. MEPs are expected to ask for legally binding targets, as well as a monitoring mechanism at EU level to avoid misuse of relevant funds and to look out for systemic discrimination.

While Roma are Europe’s largest ethnic minority, an estimated 80% of them in the nine member states with the largest Roma populations live in poverty. In a recent debate in the Civil Liberties Committee, MEPs spoke out on the deeply rooted anti-Gypsyism prevalent in Europe.

In 2011, the Commission presented its 2011-2020 framework for National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS), which aim to foster equality and social integration through access to education, employment, healthcare and housing. The NRIS were strengthened by a Council Recommendation in 2013, focusing on anti-discrimination and poverty reduction, and the introduction of an annual reporting obligation for member states in 2016.

Council and Commission statements, followed by debate

2020/2692(RSP)

Debate: Thursday, 9 July
Further information
Procedure file

EP resolution on Roma Integration Strategies (12.02.2019)

EP resolution on Fundamental rights aspects in Roma integration in the EU: fighting anti-Gypsyism (25.10.2017)

European Commission: Preparing a post-2020 initiative on Roma equality and inclusion

Overview of the impact of Coronavirus measures on the marginalized Roma communities in the EU (European Commission, 23.04.2020)

EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Persons with intellectual disabilities need better protection during pandemic

COVID-19 has exacerbated persistent segregation and discrimination against persons with disabilities, exposing flaws in support systems, healthcare and education.

In a resolution, MEPs will call on member states to ensure equal and non-discriminatory access to healthcare and social services for persons with intellectual disabilities, as well as psychological support and access to legal recourse during and in the aftermath of COVID-19.

The Commission and member states must take into account the specific needs and circumstances of persons with disabilities, and involve them from the beginning in any measures and preparations for future crises, highlights the draft resolution.

Background information

The pandemic has disproportionately affected persons with intellectual and mental health problems, as highlighted in a petition received by Parliament. Strict lockdown measures have caused further isolation, harmed their mental health and led to the disruption of regular health treatment, personal assistance and distance learning. Information related to the pandemic has been difficult to access and medical facilities offering support services have been closed.

Procedure: Resolutions on topical subjects, Petitions

(2020/2680 (RSP)

Vote: Wednesday, 8 July

Free photos, video and audio material


Further information

Draft resolution (soon available)
Press release on Petitions committee vote (16.06.2020)

Video from the discussion on the petition in the Committee on Petitions on 19 May 2020

Free photos, video and audio material
Final vote on extending deadlines for European Citizens’ Initiatives

After a swift trilogue and committee approval, the Commission proposal to extend ECI deadlines, including Parliament-driven improvements, will be approved on Thursday.

The new legislation will retroactively extend time limits to collect, verify and examine European Citizens’ Initiatives affected by COVID-19. Following the European Parliament’s adoption of improvements on the original Commission proposal, negotiators from the three EU institutions reached an informal agreement on 25 June, largely based on Parliament's position.

Parliament’s proposed improvements focused on allowing the temporary measures to be extended upon approval by only a quarter of EU countries if the situation remains difficult in September. ECI organisers will now also be able to participate remotely in hearings or meetings.

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

2020/0099(COD)

Vote: Thursday, 9 July, 14:30 - 15:45, (results expected at 18:15)

Further information
EP Press Release: Improved text on ECI extensions unanimously passes committee test Procedure file
EP Fact Sheets on the European Union: European Citizens’ Initiative
ECI Webpage
ECI Forum
ECI Day 2020
Free photos, video and audio material
Parliament to sound alarm over children in Japan taken from EU parents

MEPs will address the high number of parental child abduction cases due to the reluctance of Japanese authorities to comply with international law.

In a resolution to be put to the vote on Wednesday, MEPs will express their concerns over children’s wellbeing as a result of children in Japan being abducted by a parent. They will call on the Japanese authorities to enforce international rules on child protection and to introduce changes to their legal system to allow for shared custody.

Background information

Parliament has received a significant number of appeals in the past few years on cases of Japanese parental child abduction and visiting rights, where one of the parents is an EU citizen. Petitioners point out that international court decisions in Japan on the return of the child are not being enforced properly, Japanese law lacks shared custody provisions and that this has harmful effects on the welfare of the child.

Procedure: Resolutions on topical subjects, Petitions

2020/2621(RSP)

Vote: Wednesday, 8 July

Further information

Draft resolution (soon available)
Press release on Petitions committee vote (16.06.2020)

Petitions on international child abduction in Japan discussed in the Committee meeting of the 19 February 2020

Website of the European Parliament Coordinator on children’s rights

Free photos, video and audio material
How to stop further erosion of human rights worldwide

MEPs and EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell will discuss the EU’s Human Rights Annual report for 2019, on Thursday morning.

The EU Annual Report, which Mr Borrell will present to the European Parliament on Wednesday, provides a first-hand insight into the EU’s action during the previous year to stop the pushback against human rights worldwide.

Based on this report, MEPs in the Subcommittee on Human Rights will draw up their own annual report on the same subject, which the European Parliament is expected to vote on at a later stage.

Statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, followed by a debate

Debate: Thursday, 9 July

Further information

EU Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World 2019
Press release: “Pushback against multilateralism poses serious challenge to human rights” (15.01.2020)
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
MEPs to vote on Austrian nominee to the European Court of Auditors

On Wednesday, MEPs will vote in a secret ballot on whether to endorse the new Court of Auditors member Helga Berger, nominated by the Austrian government.

Ms Berger, who is currently Director General of Budget and Public Finances in the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance, has already been endorsed by the EP’s Budgetary Control Committee.

The 27 members of the Court of Auditors are appointed for a renewable term of six years.

Vote: Wednesday, 8 July
Procedure: Consultation

Further information
Draft report on the nomination of Helga Berger as a Member of the Court of Auditors
Press release on committee vote (25.06.2020)
Profile of rapporteur Mikuláš PEKSA (Greens/EFA, CZ)
Procedure file
Free photos, video and audio material
MEPs to approve €585 million to support Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries

MEPs will vote on whether to continue to support refugees and host communities in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon in response to the Syrian crisis.

€485 million are earmarked to keep funding the two main EU humanitarian support actions in Turkey, the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) and the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE).

Host communities and refugees (Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria) in Jordan and Lebanon would be supported with a total of €100 million. This money would be used to fund projects that offer access to education, support livelihoods and provide health, sanitation, water and waste services, as well as social protection.

Detailed information is available in the Commission's proposal and in the draft report by Monika Hohlmeier (EPP, DE).

Procedure: Budgetary procedure

2020/2092(BUD)

Vote: Friday, 10 July

Further information

Video of interview with rapporteur Monika Hohlmeier (EPP, DE)

Committee on Budgets

Procedure file
Remembering the victims of Srebrenica

MEPs will pay tribute to the victims of Srebrenica, marking the 25th anniversary of one of Europe’s worst massacres since World War II, on Friday.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and political group speakers will remember the more than 7,000 Muslim men and boys who were murdered by Bosnian Serb armed forces in July 1995. The massacre took place in the United Nations declared safe area in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the war that erupted in the early 1990s after the fall of Yugoslavia.

In 2014, a Dutch court found the Netherlands liable for the deaths of 350 persons who sought shelter in a UN base defended by Dutch peacekeepers.

Commission statement

Debate: Friday, 10 July

Further information
Free photos, video and audio material
Parliament to assess the situation in Venezuela

MEPs are set to take stock of the political and humanitarian situation in crisis-stricken Venezuela, in a resolution to be put to the vote on Thursday.

The resolution intends to sum up the main messages of the plenary debate held on 18 December last year, as well as to take stock of the latest developments.

On Monday, 29 June, the regime of authoritarian Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro decided to expel the EU ambassador from the country, following new EU sanctions against several Venezuelan officials. The expulsion was later reversed.

The humanitarian situation in Venezuela has prompted millions of people to leave the country in recent years, causing a migration crisis in the region.

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

Debate: Wednesday, 18 December (2019)

Vote: Thursday, 9 July

Further information

Press release: “Venezuelan crisis: MEPs reaffirm their support for Juan Guaidó” (16.01.2020)
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Refugee situations: data on asylum-seekers from Venezuela 2014-2018
Debate on Turkey destabilising the Mediterranean

MEPs will discuss the situation in the Mediterranean and Turkey’s problematic role in the region with the High Representative Josep Borrell, on Thursday.

The EU has repeatedly criticised Turkey in the last few months for its drilling activities in Cypriot waters, the tensions it causes in the Aegean Sea and its engagement in Libya. It is expected that High Representative Borrell will inform MEPs about his recent visits to Greece and Cyprus in June.

Background

After repeatedly warning Turkey to stop illegal drilling activities in Cyprus’ Exclusive Economic Zone, the Council decided that a regime of restrictive measures should be put in place against Turkey.

The situation has been tense in the Aegean Sea too, over Turkish maritime claims and violations of Greek airspace that have led to a significant deterioration in relations between Greece and Turkey.

Turkey has been also accused of continuously interfering in Libya’s internal affairs, violating the UN embargo and undermining the efforts to find a political solution under the auspices of the UN. The EU has denounced the escalating violence in Libya and launched the EU military Operation Irini to monitor the UN arms embargo and contribute to its enforcement.

Last November, Turkey and Libya signed an agreement on maritime boundaries in the Mediterranean Sea, which further complicated its relations with Greece.

Debate: Thursday, 9 July

Further information

The EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey

Free photos, video and audio material
Plenary to decide on the next director of EU bank watchdog

On Wednesday, all MEPs will decide whether the French candidate selected to be Executive Director of the European Banking Authority should be appointed.

François-Louis Michaud was selected by the European Banking Authority’s Board of supervisors to serve as the Executive Director, after Gerry Cross, who was previously nominated for this post, was turned down by the European Parliament in January.

Mr Michaud’s appointment was turned down by Parliament’s Economic and Monetary Affairs committee last Thursday. This opinion must now be confirmed or rejected by the plenary.

*Procedure Code: 2020/0905(NLE)*

*Vote: Wednesday, 8 July*

*Procedure: NLE*
Further information

Profile of rapporteur: Irene Tinagli (S&D, IT)

Procedure file

Press release on rejection of Gerry Cross by plenary (30-01-2020)

Free photos, video and audio material
Role of cohesion policy in responding to the COVID-19 crisis

MEPs will debate on the role of cohesion policy in tackling the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 with Commissioner Elisa Ferreira, on Friday.

The debate will be held following a question for oral answer recently submitted by the Committee on Regional Development.

Background

Cohesion policy has already provided a crucial response to the COVID-19 outbreak, through legislative acts that were adopted in March and in April mobilising EUR 37 billion of structural funds resources for investments in public health systems and in SMEs, as well as for delivering broader flexibility measures.

On 28 May, the European Commission made additional proposals on short- and medium-term cohesion policy actions (EUR 55 billion fresh money through the REACT-EU initiative, amendments to the future regulations on common provisions and ERDF/Cohesion Fund to allow flexibility for the next programming period and a substantial budget increase for the Just Transition Fund).

Debate: Friday, 10 July

Procedure: Question for oral answer

Further information
Press release: COVID-19: Stepping up EU’s response to alleviate the effects of the crisis (17.04.2020)

Questions and answers on REACT-EU, cohesion policy post-2020 and the European Social Fund+ (European Commission)
Other topics on the agenda

Other topics for debate and vote include the following:

- EU budget 2018 report - combating fraud, INI Kuhs
- Role of Cohesion policy in tackling COVID-19 fallout, OQ
- EIB activities 2018/19, INIs Cormand, Eickhout
- European Banking Authority (EBA): appointment of the Executive Director, Tinagli, vote Wednesday
- Situation in Belarus, debate Thursday