Alexei Navalny to receive the 2021 Sakharov Prize
Russian opposition politician and anti-corruption activist Alexei Navalny will be awarded the 2021 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in a ceremony on Wednesday at noon.

Putting an end to the unfair practices used by big online platforms
Parliament will vote on its position on the Digital Markets Act, which sets rules on what big online platforms will be allowed to do and not do in the EU.

Gender equality: ease women’s access to the labour market and close the pay gap
MEPs are set to demand that the EU and its member states propose concrete measures to uphold women’s rights and reduce gender inequalities.

Debate on December’s summit and the EU’s response to the resurgence of COVID-19
On Wednesday morning, MEPs will debate with the Commission and the Slovenian Presidency the 16 December European Council and the fight against COVID-19.

The 30th anniversary of the dissolution of the Soviet Union
Thirty years after the end of the Soviet Union, plenary will assess its importance for the future of Russia and Europe.

National recovery plans: Plenary debate with Commission and Council
On Wednesday, MEPs will discuss whether national recovery plans meet the agreed targets as well as the situation in countries that have not yet had their plans approved.

EU values in Slovenia: Parliament set to express concerns on recent developments
On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a resolution taking stock of EU values in Slovenia, focusing on media freedom, judicial independence, and the state of democracy.

MEPs raise questions over emergency change of asylum rules at EU-Belarus borders
On Wednesday, MEPs will quiz the Commission and the Council on the proposal to adapt EU asylum rules in Poland, Latvia and Lithuania to deal with migrants coming from Belarus.

International public procurement: EP wants to end discrimination against EU firms
On Tuesday, MEPs will vote on a new international procurement instrument set up to push third countries to open their procurement markets to EU firms.

President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo, to address European Parliament
On Tuesday 14 December at 12.00 CET, the President of Ghana Nana Akufo-Addo will address MEPs in the Strasbourg hemicycle.

Combating gender-based cyber violence: EU-wide common sanctions, victim support
MEPs are expected to call for more to be done to stop gender-based cyberviolence, in light of the worrisome increase in those affected by it during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MEPs to discuss further threats to fundamental rights in Poland
On Wednesday afternoon, plenary will assess recent events in Poland that might increase the country’s risk of moving further away from European values.

European Year of Youth in 2022 to be given the go-ahead
On Tuesday, MEPs are expected to confirm that next year the EU will put the needs of young people at the forefront of its political action.

Nicaragua’s downward slide into an authoritarian abyss: debate with Borrell
MEPs will assess the deeply worrisome political and human rights situation in Nicaragua with EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell on Tuesday afternoon.

Fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine: MEPS hold debate with Josep Borrell
On Tuesday afternoon, MEPS will discuss the large-scale Russian military build-up along the Ukrainian border with EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell.

Weapons of mass destruction: concern over the state of global disarmament
MEPs will debate on Monday and vote on Wednesday on the challenges facing arms control and disarmament regimes.

**Humanitarian crises: EU aid needs a more robust budget**

MEPs are set to vote for a new approach on humanitarian action, able to deal with climate emergencies, protracted crises, and protecting marginalised groups.

**Western Balkans: MEPs to urge cooperation in the fight against organised crime**

MEPs will push for governments in the region to increase their efforts in the fight against corruption and organised crime in a debate on Tuesday.

**MEPs to debate possible EU ban on the use of wild animals by circuses**

Parliament will quiz the Commission on the options for introducing an EU-wide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses on Thursday morning.

**EU aid for Croatia after earthquakes, and dismissed workers in Spain and Italy**

MEPs are set to approve almost €320 million to assist Croatia after recent earthquakes, and €6.8 million for 1121 workers in Italy and Spain who lost their jobs.

**Human rights and democracy resolutions**

Parliament will hold urgent debates on the following human rights, democracy and rule of law topics on Thursday morning, followed by votes later the same day.

**Other topics on the agenda**

Other topics on the agenda include:

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Alexei Navalny to receive the 2021 Sakharov Prize

Russian opposition politician and anti-corruption activist Alexei Navalny will be awarded the 2021 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in a ceremony on Wednesday at noon.

Mr Navalny is currently imprisoned in Russia and can therefore not attend the award ceremony in the European Parliament's hemicycle in Strasbourg himself. His daughter Daria Navalnaya will receive the prize on his behalf from EP President David Sassoli.

President Sassoli and Leonid Volkov, one of Mr Navalny’s political advisers who served as his chief of staff during Mr Navalny’s 2018 presidential election campaign, are scheduled to hold a press conference after the award ceremony, starting at 12.45 CET, in Parliament’s Daphne Caruana Galizia press conference room.

In addition, Mr Volkov and Ms Navalnaya will both take part in a press seminar organised by the European Parliament on Tuesday 14 December at 15.30.

You can watch both the ceremony and the press conference live via EP Live and EbS.

Read more about the other nominees for the Sakharov Prize this year.

MEPs on the Foreign Affairs and Development committees and on the Subcommittee on Human Rights will hold a discussion with Ms Navalnaya and Mr Volkov on Monday 13 December 19.45 – 21.15.

Background information

The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, named in honour of Soviet physicist and political dissident Andrei Sakharov, is awarded each year by the European Parliament. It was established in 1988 to honour individuals and organisations defending human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Procedure: Award ceremony

Award ceremony: Wednesday, 15 December

Press conference: Wednesday, 15 December, at 12.45 CET, with European Parliament President David Sassoli and Mr Leonid Volkov
Further information
Sakharov Prize Community
EP Multimedia Centre: EU-Russia
EP Multimedia Centre: Sakharov Prize 2021
Putting an end to the unfair practices used by big online platforms

Parliament will vote on its position on the Digital Markets Act, which sets rules on what big online platforms will be allowed to do and not do in the EU.

The draft law, to be debated on Tuesday and put to a vote on Wednesday, blacklists certain practices of large platforms acting as “gatekeepers” and enables the Commission to carry out market investigations and sanction non-compliant behaviour.

The Digital Markets Act (DMA), as amended by the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee on 23 November, sets new obligations and prohibitions directly applicable to such platforms, with a view to ensuring fair competition.

It will apply to the major companies providing so-called “core platform services” most prone to unfair business practices. These include online intermediation services, social networks, search engines, operating systems, online advertising services, cloud computing, and video-sharing services, which meet the relevant criteria to be designated as “gatekeepers”. MEPs also included in the scope of the DMA web browsers, virtual assistants and connected TV.

Other changes introduced to the Commission’s proposal are related to the definition of gatekeepers based on certain thresholds, the list of obligations and prohibitions (“do's and don’ts”), including new provisions on targeted advertising and on interoperability of services, restrictions to “killer acquisitions”, EU enforcement, the role of national competition authorities and fines.

More information in this press release.

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure

Debate: Tuesday, 14 December

Vote: final results on Wednesday, 15 December

Further information
Draft report tabled to plenary
Press release on committee vote (23.11.2021)
Video recording of the press conference by the rapporteur, Andreas Schwab (EPP, DE), on 23.11.2021
Profile of rapporteur Andreas Schwab (EPP, DE)
Procedure file
Free photos, video and audio material
Gender equality: ease women’s access to the labour market and close the pay gap

MEPs are set to demand that the EU and its member states propose concrete measures to uphold women’s rights and reduce gender inequalities.

In a draft report to be debated on Monday and put to a vote on Wednesday, MEPs call on member states to take practical measures to ensure that women have equal access to the labour market, with equal pay and equal labour rights.

Taking into account the rise in violence against women during the pandemic, the draft report also urges member states to make sure that perpetrators of abuse are identified and pursued by the police. To tackle gender-based violence, MEPs will reiterate that Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia should ratify the Istanbul Convention, and that comprehensive EU legislation on this matter is needed.

MEPs will finally recall that access to sexual and reproductive health and rights is a fundamental right that may not be withdrawn, and that the denial of abortion care constitutes a form of violence against women.

Background

According to the European Institute for Gender Equality’s Gender Equality Index, the EU is at least 60 years away from achieving complete gender equality. The EU’s score has increased by only 4.9 points since 2010. In 2021, member states got an average score of 68 out of 100, with more than a third of them registering fewer than 60 points.

Procedure Code: 2021/2020 (INI)

Procedure: own-initiative report

Debate: Monday, 13 December

Vote: Wednesday, 15 December
Further information
Draft report
Procedure file
Profile of rapporteur Sandra Pereira (The Left, PT)
EP Research Service - Topical digest: gender equality (October 2021)
Free photos, video and audio material - Gender Balance
Debate on December’s summit and the EU’s response to the resurgence of COVID-19

On Wednesday morning, MEPs will debate with the Commission and the Slovenian Presidency the 16 December European Council and the fight against COVID-19.

The evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and the EU’s response to both the public health and economic crisis, rising energy prices, security and defence issues and external relations will be the main topics discussed by heads of state or government during their meeting.

MEPs will also discuss with the Council and the Commission the EU’s response to the global resurgence of Covid-19 and the new emerging COVID-19 variants.

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, no resolutions

Debate: Wednesday, 15 December

Further information
Agenda 16 December European Council
Free photos, video and audio material
Press release (Environment Committee): The EU is prepared to tackle ongoing pandemic challenges, says EMA chief (30.11.2021)
COVID-19 latest updates (European Medicines Agency)
COVID-19 situation updates (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control)
The 30th anniversary of the dissolution of the Soviet Union

Thirty years after the end of the Soviet Union, plenary will assess its importance for the future of Russia and Europe.

On Monday afternoon, immediately after the opening of the session, EP President David Sassoli will make a statement on the matter, followed by one round of political groups’ speakers.

Procedure: Statement by the President followed by one round of political groups’ speakers

Debate: Monday, 13 December

Further information


Press release: Europe must remember its past to build its future (19.09.2019)

Free photos, video and audio material
National recovery plans: Plenary debate with Commission and Council

On Wednesday, MEPs will discuss whether national recovery plans meet the agreed targets as well as the situation in countries that have not yet had their plans approved.

During the debate, MEPs are set to enquire whether national recovery plans fully meet the agreed targets for the green and digital transformation as well as for employment and social policies such as health care and education. MEPs will probably stress that the clock is ticking to implement reforms and investments, and are likely to demand solutions from the countries that are lagging behind.

They are also set to point to the lack of visible progress in talks with the Hungarian and Polish governments. Neither have addressed concerns about the rule of law and attacks on the judiciary, primacy of EU law, public procurement, corruption and the unequal treatment of minorities.

Background

Currently 22 of the 26 submitted national recovery plans have been approved. The Dutch plan has not yet been submitted and the Commission has not yet approved the Hungarian, Polish, Swedish and Bulgarian plans. Requested pre-financing of €52.3 billion has already been disbursed to 17 member states. Spain is expected to be the first member state to receive 10 billion euro in grants under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) as the Commission assessed that the country has achieved most of the milestones linked to this first payment request.

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, no resolution

Debate: Wednesday, 15 December

Further information

Hungary and Poland plans should be approved only if concerns are addressed (6.10.2021)  
MEPs quiz Commissioners on state of play of national recovery plans (01.09.2021)  
National recovery plans: historic opportunity for long-term sustainable growth (20.06.2021)  
Free photos, video and audio material
EU values in Slovenia: Parliament set to express concerns on recent developments

On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a resolution taking stock of EU values in Slovenia, focusing on media freedom, judicial independence, and the state of democracy.

During last month’s debate, MEPs criticised the delay in the appointment of prosecutors to the EU Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO), as well as the lack of prosecutors in Slovenia’s judicial system in general. They also expressed concerns about the financial and administrative independence of the judiciary. Others mentioned the hostile tone permeating the country’s political discourse, highlighting online harassment and threats against journalists, as well as SLAPPs, abusive lawsuits to silence critical voices. Although the issue with the Slovenian Press Agency’s funding has been resolved, concerns over its future financing and the state of the media environment remain.

Procedure Code: 2021/2978(RSP)

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, with resolution

Debate: Wednesday, 24 November

Vote: Thursday, 16 December

Further information
Monitoring of the situation in Slovenia - Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group (Civil Liberties Committee)
Media freedom: European Parliament warns of attempts to silence critics and undermine pluralism (25.11.2020)
Free photos, video and audio material (rule of law in Slovenia)
MEPs raise questions over emergency change of asylum rules at EU-Belarus borders

On Wednesday, MEPs will quiz the Commission and the Council on the proposal to adapt EU asylum rules in Poland, Latvia and Lithuania to deal with migrants coming from Belarus.

The European Commission proposed last week to modify the asylum, return and reception rules at the EU borders with Belarus for six months. This would give Poland, Latvia and Lithuania greater flexibility in dealing with the arrival, organised by the Lukashenka regime, of migrants and asylum-seekers at their borders. Authorities would then have longer to register a person’s application for international protection, the border asylum procedure -which imposes stringent restrictions on applicants-, would apply to almost all applicants and could take up to 16 weeks, and return procedures would be faster.

To enter into force, the proposal needs the approval of the Council once it has consulted the European Parliament. In the plenary debate, MEPs are likely to question the merits of adopting this decision given the current humanitarian context, as well as the choice of the legal framework being used to change these rules, which circumvents the Parliament as co-legislator, only giving it a consultative role.

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, without resolution

Debate: Wednesday, 15 December

Further information

Plenary debate video: Situation in Belarus and at its border with the EU and the security and humanitarian consequences (23.11.2021)
Poland-Belarus border: MEPs alarmed by humanitarian and political crisis (10.11.2021)
Multimedia centre
International public procurement: EP wants to end discrimination against EU firms

On Tuesday, MEPs will vote on a new international procurement instrument set up to push third countries to open their procurement markets to EU firms.

The proposed International Procurement Instrument (IPI) introduces measures limiting non-EU companies’ access to the open EU public procurement market if their governments do not offer similar access to public tenders to EU companies seeking business. By fostering reciprocity, the IPI aims to open up these protected markets and to end the discrimination against EU companies in third countries.

International Trade Committee MEPs backed the overall aim of the instrument, but they amended its design, scope and member states’ discretionary powers in its application. For details of the changes, read the press release.

The text adopted in plenary will serve as Parliament’s mandate in the upcoming negotiations with member states.

Procedure Code: 2012/0060 (COD)

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure

Final vote results: Tuesday, 14 December

Further information
Draft report
Profile of rapporteur Daniel Caspary (EPP, DE)
Procedure file
Legislative train
Public procurement in the EU (European Commission)
European Parliament Research Service: EU international procurement instrument (20.10.2021)
President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo, to address European Parliament

On Tuesday 14 December at 12.00 CET, the President of Ghana Nana Akufo-Addo will address MEPs in the Strasbourg hemicycle.

Mr Akufo-Addo assumed office in January 2017.

You can watch the speech live via EP Live and EbS.

Procedure: Formal sitting

Debate: Tuesday, 14 December

Further information
Delegation of the European Union to Ghana
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Combating gender-based cyber violence: EU-wide common sanctions, victim support

MEPs are expected to call for more to be done to stop gender-based cyberviolence, in light of the worrisome increase in those affected by it during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The draft legislative initiative tabled by the Women's Rights and Civil Liberties committees asserts that the EU lacks a legal framework to combat gender-based cyber-violence and a minimum level of protection and reparation for victims. The EU therefore needs a directive that provides a common criminal law definition of cyberviolence to ensure convergence at national and EU level. It should also include harmonised sanctions and protection mechanisms in line with the standards set out in Istanbul Convention, MEPs urge.

The draft text stresses that cyber violence against women and LGBTIQ people is a continuation of gendered violence online, and that problems such as cyber harassment, cyber stalking, violations of privacy, and recording and sharing images of sexual assault need to be addressed urgently.

The debate will take place on Monday, the vote is scheduled for Tuesday.

Procedure: legislative initiative report

Debate: Monday 13 December

Vote: Tuesday 14 December

Further information
Draft resolution on combating gender-based cyber violence
Procedure file
EP Research Service - Combating gender-based violence: Cyber violence
EP Research Service - Gender-based violence as a new area of crime listed in Article 83(1)
TFEU - European added value assessment
Legislative train
European Institute for Gender Equality - Gender-based violence
European Commission - Ending gender-based violence
EP Multimedia centre: free photos, videos and audio material - Violence against women
MEPs to discuss further threats to fundamental rights in Poland

On Wednesday afternoon, plenary will assess recent events in Poland that might increase the country’s risk of moving further away from European values.

In a debate with Council and Commission representatives, MEPs are likely to comment on the 24 November ruling by the Polish constitutional tribunal that declared parts of the European Convention on Human Rights incompatible with the Polish constitution. The ruling followed a previous one issued by the European Court of Human Rights that questioned the legality of the appointment of judges to the Polish Constitutional Court.

MEPs are also worried about the state of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the country and are expected to voice concern over a government proposal to oblige doctors to report all pregnancies and miscarriages in a centralised register. The register could be in place as early as January 2022.

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, no resolution

Debate: Wednesday, 15 December

Further information
Poland: no more women should die because of the restrictive law on abortion (11.11.2021)
Poland: MEPs call for the primacy of EU law to be upheld (19.10.2021)

Free photos, video and audio material
European Year of Youth in 2022 to be given the go-ahead

On Tuesday, MEPs are expected to confirm that next year the EU will put the needs of young people at the forefront of its political action.

According to the deal reached on Monday by the co-legislators, the 2022 European Year of Youth will focus on creating positive prospects for young people after the pandemic and including youth priorities in all relevant EU policy areas.

During the negotiations, MEPs ensured that both member states and the Commission, when designing national plans and the EU-wide agenda, will involve young people and youth organisations in creating activities linked to the European Year of Youth.

Procedure Code: 2021/0328(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure

Debate: Tuesday 14 December

Vote: Tuesday 14 December

Further information
Press release following the conclusion of the trilogue deal (6.12.2021)
Profile of rapporteur Sabine VERHEYEN (EPP,DE)
Procedure file
Free photos, video and audio material
Nicaragua’s downward slide into an authoritarian abyss: debate with Borrell

MEPs will assess the deeply worrisome political and human rights situation in Nicaragua with EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell on Tuesday afternoon.

The discussion will focus on the situation in the country following the rigged presidential elections on 7 November 2021, which leading MEPs condemned as “a farce”, describing them as the sad climax of the country’s continuous slide into an authoritarian abyss.

On behalf of EU member states, Mr Borrell also stated that the elections took place without democratic guarantees and their results lack legitimacy. The plenary debate will be wound up with a resolution to be put to a vote on Thursday.

Procedure: Statement by the EU Foreign Policy Chief, followed by a resolution

Debate: Tuesday, 14 December

Vote: Thursday, 16 December

Further information
European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs
European Parliament Delegation for relations with the countries of Central America
European Parliament Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine: MEPs hold debate with Josep Borrell

On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will discuss the large-scale Russian military build-up along the Ukrainian border with EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell.

Russia has recently moved thousands of troops near Ukraine’s eastern border, even though the Russian government has denied any plans to attack the neighbouring country.

Western leaders, including those of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Italy, have called on Russia to de-escalate current tensions, while signalling their readiness to respond firmly to any Russian aggression, such as by issuing tough economic sanctions.

A resolution will be put to a vote on Thursday.

Procedure: Statement by the EU Foreign Policy Chief, followed by a resolution

Debate: Tuesday 14 December

Vote: Thursday 16 December

Further information

EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Weapons of mass destruction: concern over the state of global disarmament

MEPs will debate on Monday and vote on Wednesday on the challenges facing arms control and disarmament regimes.

Withdrawing from, or abandoning altogether, major arms control treaties would seriously damage the geopolitical stability they have provided, MEPs are likely to warn.

In the current tense geopolitical environment, key arms control treaties that came into force at the end of the Cold War have recently been dismantled. The ongoing erosion of the global non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control architecture is being worsened by the rapid development of new and potentially destabilising technologies such as artificial intelligence-enabled weapon systems, hypersonic missiles, and drone technologies. MEPs are expected to express a conviction that the EU can play a leading role in renewed efforts around weapons of mass destruction disarmament and non-proliferation.

Procedure: own-initiative report

Debate: Monday, 13 December

Vote: Wednesday, 15 December

Further information
Draft report
Press release after the committee vote, 09.11.2021
Rapporteur Sven Mikser (S&D, ET)
Procedure file
European Parliament Study: EU preparedness and responses to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats, 16.07.2021
Humanitarian crises: EU aid needs a more robust budget

MEPs are set to vote for a new approach on humanitarian action, able to deal with climate emergencies, protracted crises, and protecting marginalised groups.

The draft report, to be debated on Tuesday and put to a vote on Wednesday (with results announced on Thursday), states that the EU and its member states must contribute to plugging the international funding gap that exists in global humanitarian action. MEPs are set to demand that the Commission provide a robust annual budget for EU humanitarian aid.

Adopted by the Committee on Development in November 2021, the text highlights the importance of making climate change and environmental crises a central part of any future EU humanitarian action strategy. It also emphasises that working with local communities and indigenous populations will be crucial in supporting vulnerable populations to build up their climate resilience.

Procedure Code: 2021/2163(INI)

Procedure: own initiative report

Debate: Tuesday, 14 December

Vote: Wednesday, 15 December (announcement on Thursday)

Further information
Draft report tabled to plenary
Procedure File
Rapporteur: Norbert NEUSER (S&D, DE)
Commission communication on the EU’s humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles
European Parliament Think Tank: The future of humanitarian aid in a new context full of challenges
Western Balkans: MEPs to urge cooperation in the fight against organised crime

MEPs will push for governments in the region to increase their efforts in the fight against corruption and organised crime in a debate on Tuesday.

In a report approved by the Foreign Affairs Committee and set for a vote/debate in plenary, MEPs say the main factors that make countries in the Western Balkans vulnerable are a lack of employment opportunities, corruption, disinformation, elements of state capture, inequality, and foreign interference from non-democratic regimes such as Russia and China.

In a plenary debate on Tuesday and an accompanying resolution to be put to the vote on Wednesday (results announced Thursday morning), MEPs are likely to call for the acceleration of the EU integration process in the Western Balkans, which would help the fight against organised crime in the region.

Procedure: own-initiative report
Debate: Tuesday, 14 December
Vote: Wednesday, 15 December (announcement on Thursday)

Further information
Press Release after the committee vote, 26.10.2021
Rapporteur Lukas Mandl (EPP, AT)
Procedure file
Multimedia Centre: EU Enlargement - Western Balkans
MEPs to debate possible EU ban on the use of wild animals by circuses

Parliament will quiz the Commission on the options for introducing an EU-wide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses on Thursday morning.

Prior to the debate, MEPs have asked the Commission if it intends to introduce a ban to address in Europe the risks associated with the illegal wildlife trade and to public health and security.

In their oral question, MEPs say use of wild animals in circuses has no educational or cultural value, and add that the welfare of wild animals is severely compromised.

Recently, over one million EU citizens signed a petition demanding the European Commission ban the use of wild animals in circuses.

Procedure Code: 2021/2999(RSP)

Procedure: Commission statement, without resolution

Debate: Thursday 16 December

Further information

Procedure file
Oral question to the Commission on an EU ban on the use of wild animals in circuses
Free photos, video and audio material
EU aid for Croatia after earthquakes, and dismissed workers in Spain and Italy

MEPs are set to approve almost €320 million to assist Croatia after recent earthquakes, and €6.8 million for 1121 workers in Italy and Spain who lost their jobs.

Croatia should receive almost €320 million in financial assistance from the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) following a series of earthquakes between 28 December 2020 and 21 February 2021. This includes an advance of €41 million that has already been paid.

More information in the Commission’s proposal and the Parliament’s draft report by Karlo Ressler (EPP, HR).

EU job-search aid for over 1100 dismissed workers in Italy and Spain

1121 workers in Italy and Spain who lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic should receive €6.8 million in EU aid from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF).

€5.4 million should help 801 workers dismissed from their jobs in air transport and warehousing in Sardinia, Italy, and €1.4 million should go to support 320 workers who lost their jobs in the automotive sector in Spain’s Aragón region.

More information in the Commission’s press releases on Italy and Spain, and in the three draft reports by Janusz Lewandowski, (EPP, PL), for Italy, and Esteban González Pons, for Spain, which you can download here.

Procedure Codes: 2021/0338(BUD) (EGF Air Italy); 2021/0337(BUD) (EGF Italy Porto Canale); 2021/0356(BUD) (EGF Spain Aragón automotive); 2021/0359(BUD) (EUSF Croatia)

Procedure: Budgetary procedure

Vote: Tuesday, 14 December
Further information
Draft reports available here (EGF files)

Draft report on the mobilisation of the EUSF to provide assistance to Croatia in relation to the series of earthquakes starting from 28 December 2020
Procedure file 2021/0338(BUD) (EGF Air Italy)
Procedure file 2021/0337(BUD) (EGF Italy Porto Canale)
Procedure file 2021/0356(BUD) (EGF Spain Aragón automotive)
2021/0359(BUD) (EUSF Croatia)
Free photos, video and audio material
Human rights and democracy resolutions

Parliament will hold urgent debates on the following human rights, democracy and rule of law topics on Thursday morning, followed by votes later the same day.

- Continuous crackdown on civil society and human rights defenders in Russia: the case of human rights organisation Memorial

- The situation in Cuba, namely the cases of José Daniel Ferrer, Lady in White Aymara Nieto, Maykel Castillo, Luis Robles, Félix Navarro, Luis Manuel Otero, Reverend Lorenzo Fajardo, Andy Dunier Garcia and Yunior Garcia Aguilera

- Forced labour in the Linglong factory and environmental protests in Serbia.

Procedure: urgency resolutions

Debate: Thursday 16 December

Vote: Thursday 16 December

Further information
Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Other topics on the agenda

Other topics on the agenda include:

- Deliberations of the Committee on Petitions in 2020, Falca, INI

- The impact of organised crime on own resources of the EU and on the misuse of EU funds with a particular focus on shared management, Zdechovsky, CONT, INI

- Evaluation of preventive measures for avoiding corruption, irregular spending and misuse of EU and national funds in case of emergency funds and crisis-related spending, Rivasi, CONT, INI


- Outcome of Global Summit Nutrition for Growth (Japan, 7-8 December) and increased food insecurity in developing countries, Commission Statement

- Health technology assessment, Wölken, ENVI, 2nd reading

- Barriers to the free movement of goods, Oral Question to the Commission, IMCO

- MeToo and harassment, the consequences for the EU institutions, OQ FEMM, with resolution

- Implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification scheme, oral question, with INTA resolution

- The European Commission Guidelines on inclusive language, topical debate in the presence of the European Commission

- EC/Gabon Fisheries Partnership Agreement: Implementing Protocol, Bilbao Barandica, PECH