

Plenary sessions

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Press Service, Directorate General for Communication
European Parliament - Spokesperson: Jaume Duch Guillot
Press switchboard number (32-2) 28 33000

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<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2021-03-08>

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Further information

[Draft agenda](#)
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[Press conferences and other events](#)
[EP Multimedia Centre](#)
[EP Newshub](#)

Contacts

Natalie Kate KONTOULIS

Press Officer

☎ (+32) 2 28 43562 (BXL)
☎ (+32) 470 88 37 82
✉ natalie.kontoulis@europarl.europa.eu
✉ press-EN@europarl.europa.eu

Andreas KLEINER

Press Officer / Editorial Coordinator

☎ (+32) 2 28 32266 (BXL)
☎ (+33) 3 881 72336 (STR)
☎ (+32) 498 98 33 22
✉ andreas.kleiner@europarl.europa.eu

Conference on the Future of Europe: EU Presidents to sign joint declaration

The signature on Wednesday will set the Conference in motion, in order to address challenges old and new, while strengthening European solidarity.

The joint declaration on the Conference on the Future of Europe will be signed on Wednesday at 13.00 by President Sassoli on behalf of the Parliament, Prime Minister Costa for the Council and Commission President von der Leyen.

This begins the process that will enable citizens to participate in reshaping the EU's policies and institutions. The declaration includes the EU institutions' commitment "to listen to Europeans and to follow up on the recommendations made by the Conference" in line with their respective competences enshrined in the Treaties.

Using an inclusive, open and transparent approach, people of all backgrounds, civil society representatives and stakeholders at European, national, regional and local level will participate and set the Conference's tone and agenda in line with their concerns, in a multitude of events and through a multilingual digital platform.

Read the [statement made by Parliament's Conference of Presidents](#) following their decision to approve the joint declaration.

Procedure: Formal Sitting

Signing ceremony: Wednesday, 10 March

Further information

[European Parliament resolution of 17.04.2020 on EU coordinated action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences](#)

[Statement by EP Conference of Presidents on the Schuman Declaration anniversary \(07.05.2020\)](#)

[EP Research briefing: Conference on the Future of Europe \(11.06.2020\)](#)

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

MEPs to mark International Women's Day in plenary

President Sassoli and Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern will address MEPs during Parliament's International Women's Day celebration on Monday.

In her pre-recorded video message on women's leadership in COVID-19 times, Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand, is likely to share her experience in dealing with the pandemic as a political leader. She is also likely to stress that women have been on the frontline in this battle, and that they need to be included in leadership and decision-making at all levels to ensure that the response to the pandemic meets everyone's needs. EP President David Sassoli will also deliver a speech on this occasion just before the session officially opens.

Social media events

Earlier that day, at 11.00, Women's Rights Committee Chair Evelyn Regner (S&D, Austria) will be live on Facebook to answer citizens' questions about the current state of play on gender equality in the EU and how the pandemic has exacerbated the many difficulties that women face. Watch this Facebook Live [here](#).

At 12.00, she will also have a live Instagram exchange with Polish model and activist Anja Rubik. Watch this Instagram Live [here](#).

IWD celebration: Monday, 8 March

Further information

[EP resolution on the gender perspective in the COVID-19 crisis and post-crisis period \(21.01.2021\)](#)

[News - International Women's Day 2021](#)

[EP Research Service - Achieving gender equality in the face of the pandemic and existing challenges \(January 2021\)](#)

[EP Research Service - COVID-19: The need for a gendered response \(February 2021\)](#)

[EP Research Service - Women in politics in the EU: State of play \(February 2021\)](#)

[EP Research Service - Thematic digest: Women leading the fight against Covid-19 \(March 2021\)](#)

[EP Research Service - Infographic: The coronavirus crisis: an emerging gender divide?](#)

[Audiovisual Infoclip - Women and the impact of the COVID-19 crisis](#)

[IWD2021 FEMM Committee webpage](#)

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

MEPs to vote on InvestEU programme for strategic and innovative investments

Parliament is set to adopt the new InvestEU programme, which will mobilise public and private investments and guarantees simplified access to financing.

The debate and vote will take place on Tuesday, with results announced the same day at 19.00.

With €26 billion (in current prices) set aside in the EU budget as a guarantee, InvestEU is expected to mobilise €400 billion to be invested across the European Union for 2021-27.

The programme, which was provisionally agreed in December, aims to boost strategic investments into manufacturing pharmaceuticals, medical devices and supplies as well as the production of Information and Communication Technology, components and devices in the EU. Additionally, EP negotiators from the Budgetary and Economic and Monetary Affairs committees ensured that capital support will be provided to SMEs that have been negatively affected by the crisis caused by the pandemic.

InvestEU, which is a part of the €750 billion [Next Generation EU](#) recovery package, will also contribute to financing sustainable projects that can prove they make a positive environmental, climate and social impact.

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

[2020/0108\(COD\)](#)

Debate, vote and results: Tuesday, 9 March

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Dedicated InvestEU website with examples of projects supported by the EU](#)

[EP Think Tank briefing: The InvestEU programme: Continuing EFSI in the next MFF](#)

[Rapporteur for the Committee on Budgets José Manuel Fernandes \(EPP, PT\)](#)

[Rapporteur for the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee Irene Tinagli \(S&D, IT\)](#)

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

EU4Health: Parliament set to adopt new EU health programme

MEPs will debate and cast their final vote on the €5.1 billion EU4Health programme for 2021-2027, aimed at better preparing EU health systems for future threats.

The debate on Tuesday morning will be followed by a vote on the provisional agreement reached with the Council on 14 December 2020, with the result announced at 19.00.

According to the [compromise text](#), the EU4Health programme will contribute where the EU can clearly add value, such as addressing cross-border health threats, making medicines and medical devices more available, accessible and affordable, as well as supporting the creation of a European “health data space”. More details on the specific provisions are available [here](#).

Background

In May 2020, the Commission put forward a new stand-alone [EU4Health Programme for 2021-2027](#), as a response to the COVID-19 crisis. EU4Health aims to help the EU to be better prepared for major cross-border health threats and to make national health systems more resilient. This should enable the EU to face not only future epidemics, but also long-term challenges such as an ageing population and health inequalities.

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure

[2020/0102\(COD\)](#)

Debate: Tuesday, 9 March

Vote and results: Tuesday, 9 March

Further information

[Press release following the trilogue deal \(14.12.2020\)](#)
[Procedure file](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur Cristian-Silviu Buşoi \(EPP, RO\)](#)
[EP Research Briefing: EU4Health programme \(3.02.2021\)](#)

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

[related to EU4Health](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material related to EU4Health](#)

MEPs set to call for carbon levy on EU imports to raise global climate ambition

Parliament will tackle how to raise global climate ambition and prevent ‘carbon leakage’ through a carbon levy on imports into the EU from less climate-ambitious countries.

MEPs will debate and vote on the draft resolution on a WTO-compatible EU carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM), which underlines that the EU’s increased ambition on climate change must not lead to ‘carbon leakage’ as global climate efforts will not benefit if EU production is simply moved to non-EU countries that have less ambitious greenhouse gas emissions rules.

All countries in the world should be encouraged to raise their climate ambitions to reach the objectives of the [Paris Agreement](#), MEPs are set to say. In order to create an incentive for EU and non-EU trade industries to decarbonise, they are expected to suggest placing a carbon price on imports of certain goods from outside the EU, if they come from countries that are not ambitious enough. However, the carbon levy must not be misused as a trade protectionism tool, MEPs are set to say.

Background

The Commission is expected to present a legislative proposal on a CBAM in the second quarter of 2021 as part of the [European Green Deal](#) as well as a proposal on how to include the revenue generated to finance part of the EU budget.

Parliament has played an important role in pushing for more ambitious EU climate legislation and declared a [climate emergency](#) on 28 November 2019.

Procedure: INI - Own-initiative procedure

[2020/2043\(INI\)](#)

Debate: Monday, 8 March

Vote and results: Wednesday 10 March

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Draft report towards a WTO-compatible EU carbon border adjustment mechanism](#)

[European Commission Impact assessment on an EU carbon border adjustment mechanism](#)

[EP press release: “EU climate law: MEPs want to increase emission reductions target to 60% by 2030” \(08.10.2020\)](#)

[EP Research: Climate change and climate action](#)

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

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

Companies must protect human rights and environment within their value chains

MEPs are set to call for binding EU rules that set the standard for responsible business conduct and hold companies accountable for harm caused to people and planet.

The draft legislative initiative on ‘Corporate due diligence and corporate accountability’, prepared by the Legal Affairs Committee, calls on the Commission to urgently present a law that ensures companies are held accountable and liable when they harm - or contribute to harming - human rights, the environment and good governance. The new rules should better protect the rights of victims, guarantee access to legal remedies and apply to all companies that want to access the EU internal market, including those established in third countries.

The debate will take place on Monday, and the vote on Wednesday.

Background

A Commission [study published](#) in February 2020 found that only one in three companies in the EU is currently taking due diligence measures, while around 70% of European businesses surveyed support EU-wide due diligence rules. During an [exchange of views](#) with the Committee on Legal Affairs, Justice Commissioner Reynders vowed that the upcoming legislative proposal from the European Commission, expected in the first half of the year, will be an integral part of the European Green Deal and the European Recovery Plan.

Procedure: Legislative initiative procedure

[2020/2129\(INL\)](#)

Debate: Monday, 8 March 2020

Vote and results: Wednesday 10 March

Further information

[Draft report on corporate due diligence and corporate accountability](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(27.01.2021\)](#)

[EP Research Service: Towards a mandatory EU system of due diligence for supply chains \(22.10.2020\)](#)

[EP Research Service: Corporate due diligence and corporate accountability \(20.10.2020\)](#)

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

Media freedom under attack in Poland, Hungary and Slovenia

On Wednesday, MEPs will debate with Council and Commission the attempts by Polish, Hungarian and Slovenian authorities to silence independent media.

Hungary's media regulator decided not to renew opposition-leaning *Klubrádió* station's licence, which expired on 14 February. A court upheld the decision, even though the reasons cited by the Media Council (i.e. that it had not been duly informed of the station's music programming) have been described by [Reporters Without Borders](#) as "trivial". In the debate, MEPs are expected to focus on the independence of the Media Council and how media freedom has been deteriorating for several years.

In Poland, the government's plans to impose a levy on media advertising revenue to support healthcare and culture have been criticised as disproportionately targeting independent outlets. Many of them participated in a "media blackout" last month: black screens and looped audio recordings raised awareness against the impact of stifling media freedom. Publishing groups signed an open letter, stating that they are "firmly opposed to the use of the epidemic as an excuse to introduce yet another, new, exceptionally heavy burden on the media".

Slovenian journalists face widespread online harassment and threats, not least from the country's Prime Minister Janez Janša, while reports that public and private media are subject to political interference keep emerging. In their [open letter](#) of October 2020, 22 Slovenian editors warned that they "are subjected to direct lying, insinuations, manipulation and insults from those in power, starting with the top of the government". Slovenia will take over the Council of the EU's rotating presidency in July 2021.

Council and Commission statements followed by debate

[2021/2560\(RSP\)](#)

Debate: Wednesday, 10 March

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[MEPs warn of deteriorating fundamental rights in the EU \(26.11.2020\)](#)

[Media freedom: EP warns of attempts to silence critics and undermine pluralism \(25.22.2020\)](#)

[European values must prevail, even in a state of public emergency, MEPs say \(13.11.2020\)](#)

[EP Research Service - The impact of coronavirus on media freedom \(8.5.2020\)](#)

[EP webpage: protecting press freedom during the Covid-19 pandemic](#)

[Rule of law concerns in member states: how the EU can act \(infographic\)](#)

[European Commission - 2020 Rule of law report](#)

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

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

Parliament set to declare the EU an “LGBTIQ Freedom Zone”

In a debate on Wednesday and a vote on Thursday , MEPs are expected to call for the EU to be an “LGBTIQ Freedom Zone”, in response to “LGBTIQ-free zones” in Poland.

Two years after the first Polish county declared itself “free of LGBTIQ ideology”, followed by dozens of other counties, municipalities and regions since then, Parliament is set to declare the EU an “LGBTIQ Freedom Zone”, stressing that any type of discrimination against LGBTIQ persons is in clear breach of European fundamental values.

In a [resolution](#) adopted in December 2019, MEPs strongly condemned the establishment of “LGBTI-free zones” in Poland, as well as all types of attacks in other member states on LGBTI rights.

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

2021/2557(RSP)

Debate: Wednesday, 10 March

Vote and results: Thursday, 11 March

Further information

[Press Release - Parliament strongly condemns “LGBTI-free zones” in Poland \(18.12.2019\)](#)

[Press Release - Poland: Council has to finally act to protect minorities and the rule of law \(17.09.2020\)](#)

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

“OpenLux” tax investigation discussed in plenary

MEPs will discuss the recent findings by investigative journalists and ways to stop tax avoidance in the EU following the OpenLux revelations.

The debate on Wednesday afternoon will allow MEPs to discuss with Council and Commission the implications and lessons to be learnt from the journalists’ findings, both at the EU and national levels.

Statements from Council and Commission followed by a debate

[2021/2558\(RSP\)](#)

Debate: Wednesday, 10 March

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research Service briefing on advances in administrative cooperation in the field of taxation](#)

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

Focus more on social policy in post-pandemic recovery plans, MEPs are set to say

MEPs will debate and vote on the priorities for this year's European Semester, stressing the importance of social policy and structural reforms for recovery.

This year's Sustainable Growth Strategy, debated on Wednesday morning and put to the vote on Thursday, is closely linked to the new Recovery and Resilience Facility, set up to support post-pandemic recovery in Europe. MEPs are expected to underline that national reform plans should focus on social priorities, such as employment, education and skills and health. Indicators on social progress should help to monitor these priorities. MEPs are also set to underline that the national recovery plans should be assessed against the relevant country-specific recommendations.

Referring to the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, MEPs are set to highlight that the European Semester process will have to be adjusted in order to properly launch the RRF. They are also expected to stress that once the crisis is over, this process will be key in better coordinating the EU's budgetary, economic, social and employment policies, including projects contributing to the green and digital transition.

Procedure: Own-initiative reports

[2021/2004\(INI\) and 2020/2244\(INI\)](#)

Debate: Wednesday, 10 March

Vote and results: Thursday 11 March

Further information

[Draft resolution on European Semester for Economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Strategy 2021](#)

[Press release on the debates in the European Parliamentary Week 2021:](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Enikő Győri \(EPP, HU\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Lina Gálvez Muñoz \(S&D, ES\)](#)

[Procedure file 1](#)

[Procedure file 2](#)

[European Commission communication on the Annual Growth Strategy 2021](#)

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

Parliament to adopt its position on new EU Fisheries rules

MEPs will debate and define their position for upcoming negotiations on the rules that will govern fishing activities in the EU for the next fifteen years.

One of the most controversial proposals on the Fisheries Control regulation addresses the use of CCTV on board vessels. The Fisheries Committee proposed that the use of such devices should be voluntary and incentivised through measures such as additional fishing quotas, rather than compulsory, as proposed by the Commission.

Parliament is expected to also call for the use of geolocation devices and electronic logbooks to be mandatory for all vessels, as well as for stricter rules to trace fish and aquaculture products throughout the whole food chain to increase transparency for consumers. Members might also propose that checks should be standardised across the EU and a European register of fishing infringements should be set up to monitor the penalty points system more effectively.

The debate will take place on Tuesday afternoon. With the vote on Wednesday, Parliament will be able to start negotiations as soon as the Council is ready to do so.

Background

The Committee on Fisheries adopted its position on 5 February. The regulation, proposed by the European Commission on 30 May 2018, updates five existing regulations in order to harmonise fisheries control and inspection systems across EU countries. The current rules were put in place before the 2013 reform of the [Common Fisheries Policy](#) (CPF).

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)

[2018/0193\(COD\)](#)

Debate: Tuesday, 9 March

Vote and results: Wednesday, 10 March

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Press release following adoption by committee: Modernising EU fisheries control system \(05/02/2021\)](#)

[Legislative Train](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur: Clara AGUILERA \(S&D, ES\)](#)

[Committee on Fisheries](#)

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

MEPs to call for higher standards for construction products

Parliament will discuss on Monday how to improve EU rules on construction products, insisting on a transition to a sustainable and more circular economy.

In the [draft resolution](#), MEPs call on the European Commission to find a quick and viable way to improve and speed up the standardisation process for construction products. Of the 444 existing harmonised standards for construction products, only 12 new ones have been issued since the Construction Products Regulation was adopted in 2011, hindering the free movement of products in the EU.

The draft resolution, which will be put to the vote on Wednesday, additionally supports aligning the construction product regulation with other environmental product policies. MEPs call for products to be sourced, manufactured, reused and recycled in a more sustainable manner. They also stress that health, safety and environmental aspects should be considered in future information and performance requirements.

Procedure: own-initiative report

[2020/2028\(INI\)](#)

Debate: Monday, 8 March

Vote and results Wednesday, 10 March

Further information

[Press release on the Committee vote: MEPs insist standardisation process for construction products must be improved \(28.01.2020\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

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

European Ombudsman's activities in 2019

On Tuesday afternoon, Parliament will debate with European Ombudsman Emily O'Reilly the annual report on the body's main activities throughout 2019.

On Wednesday (results announced on Thursday), MEPs will then adopt their position on the outcome of the Ombudsman's inquiries and its collaboration with Parliament during 2019. In its [draft report](#), the Committee on Petitions endorses the Ombudsman's continued effort to ensure the "EU delivers the highest standards of administration, transparency and ethics", remains accessible and provides a quality service to citizens.

In 2019, the Ombudsman's office handled 2201 complaints, opened 458 inquiries of which two were on its own initiative, closed 552 inquiries and 8 own-initiative investigations.

Background

The European Ombudsman is an independent and impartial body, established in 1995 to hold the EU's institutions and agencies (excluding the Court of Justice) to account and to promote the principles of good administration.

The 2019 report was the final report of Emily O'Reilly's first term. She was [re-elected](#) by the European Parliament in the same year. Last autumn, the Office of the European Ombudsman [celebrated its 25th anniversary](#).

Procedure: Own-initiative procedure

2020/2125(INI)

Debate: Tuesday 9 March

Vote: Wednesday 10 March, results Thursday 11 March

Further information

[Draft report on the activities of the European Ombudsman – annual report 2019](#)
Rapporteur Sylvie Guillaume (S&D, FR)

[Press release on committee vote \(26.01.2021\)](#)

[Website of the European Ombudsman](#)
[Free photos, video and audio material](#)

Children's rights: ensure right to education, fight poverty and abuse, say MEPs

EU member states should invest more in education, healthcare, housing, family support and childcare, and ensure that these services reach all children.

MEPs [will quiz the Commission](#) on Wednesday on the future EU strategy on children's rights before voting on a resolution on Thursday. The [draft text prepared by the Civil Liberties Committee](#) warns of the huge toll that the COVID-19 crisis is taking on children. It is further exacerbating the risk of poverty, severely affecting their access to education, compromising their physical and mental health and increasing the danger of being subjected to violence and abuse.

The need to protect migrant and refugee children, especially unaccompanied ones, guaranteeing the right to education for all children, including Roma and children with disabilities, and the urgent need to adopt measures to fight child sexual abuse on- and off-line are also likely to be raised by MEPs.

Procedure: oral question to the Commission, with resolution

[2021/2523\(RSP\)](#)

Debate: Wednesday, 10 March

Vote and results: Thursday, 11 March

Further information

[Procedure File](#)

[EP resolution of 26.11.2019 on children's rights on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)

[The European Parliament Coordinator on Children's Rights](#)

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

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

Better cooperation between national authorities on taxation of digital trading

Parliament will comment on new EU rules requiring member states to automatically exchange information on income generated by sellers on digital platforms.

MEPs will provide their opinion on how to structure these new EU rules, which will help to better trace and tax 'taxable events' that take place on ever-growing digital platforms. They are expected to recommend that tax authorities share information with each other more quickly than proposed by the Commission, and that platforms that do not fulfil their obligations should face harmonised sanctions.

The rules amend a directive from 2011 that sets out a structure for tax authorities to cooperate with each other and sets aside EU funds to facilitate this.

The debate will take place on Monday, and the vote on Wednesday.

Procedure: Consultation

[2020/0148\(CNS\)](#)

Debate: Monday, 8 March

Vote and results: Wednesday 10 March

Further information

[Draft report on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation](#)

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

[Procedure file](#)

[EP study on advances in administrative cooperation in the field of taxation](#)

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

MEPs to call for equal employment opportunities for people with disabilities

Parliament will debate and vote on a report calling for better workplace facilities and equal working conditions for persons with disabilities.

Only 50% of people with disabilities are employed. To help change this, MEPs are set to call on member states to ensure employers make reasonable adjustments for employees with disabilities in the workplace, and to stop employing them in sheltered workshops, where they often lack employee status, access to labour rights, and a guaranteed minimum wage.

Since employers often do not know what is needed to enable people with disabilities to work on an equal basis with others, the report also calls for clear EU guidelines detailing possible arrangements that could be made.

The [draft resolution](#) contains an [easy-to-read](#) section for people with intellectual disabilities.

The debate will take place on Monday, and the vote on Wednesday.

Procedure: Own-initiative report

[2020/2086\(INI\)](#)

Debate: Monday, 8 March

Vote and results: Wednesday 10 March

Further information

[Draft resolution on establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation in light of the UNCRPD](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(27.01.2021\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Katrin Langensiepen \(Greens, DE\)](#)

[Procedure: file](#)

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

[Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation](#)

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

MEPs expected to seek an end to remaining geo-blocking restrictions

Even though EU rules to stop unjustified geo-blocking have applied for over two years, many problems persist, say MEPs, who will discuss the way forward on Thursday.

Following the first evaluation of the [Geo-Blocking Regulation](#), Parliament will seek answers from the European Commission on the remaining restrictions on the sale of goods and services within the EU due to a shopper's geographic location. MEPs are expected to highlight the significant delays in implementing the rules and to say that the limitations on delivering shopping for geographical reasons still affect many consumers attempting to shop cross-border.

MEPs are also set to underline that the demand for cross-border access to audiovisual services is growing rapidly, yet this is one of the main areas where geo-blocking still continues. Audiovisual services are currently not included in the Geo-Blocking Regulation, thus MEPs will ask the Commission how this problem can be solved.

Procedure: Question for oral answer without resolution

Debate: Thursday

Further information

[Question for oral answer](#)

Activate the rule of law conditionality mechanism, MEPs are set to say

To protect the EU's budget, MEPs are expected to call on the Commission to use the new mechanism against breaches of the rule of law, without delay.

On Thursday, MEPs will ask the Commission why it has not yet used the mechanism to protect the EU budget from generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law since its [entry into force on 1 January](#). Following up on their [December 2020 resolution](#), they are expected to reiterate that the provisions on the mechanism are legally binding, in contrast to the [European Council's conclusions](#) on the matter, which carry no legal effect.

According to the [rules approved in December 2020](#), the Commission, after establishing that there has been a breach, will propose that the conditionality mechanism should be triggered against an EU government, and subsequently either cut or freeze payments to that member state from the EU budget. The Council will then have one month to vote on the proposed measures (or three months in exceptional cases), by a qualified majority.

Commission statement followed by debate

Procedure Code: 2018/0136(COD) (mechanism) & 2020/2858(RSP) (resolution)

Debate: Thursday, 11 March

Further information

[European Council conclusions \(quoted in the text, available in all the languages\)](#)

[Procedure file \(mechanism\)](#)

[Procedure file \(resolution\)](#)

[EP Research Service - Protection of the Union's budget in case of 'rule of law' deficiencies \(December 2020\)](#)

[Legislative train](#)

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

Tackling the economic impact of COVID-19

On Tuesday, MEPs will debate with the Commission ways to address the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic through investment, competitiveness and skills.

MEPs will discuss what strategies should be put in place to support economic recovery, to tackle challenges like public debt, bankruptcy and redundancies, and to prepare Europe for the post-pandemic economy, notably through continued and smart investment.

Commission statement followed by a debate

Debate: Tuesday, 9 March

LINKS

Further information

[EP research: Opportunities of post Covid-19 European recovery funds in transitioning towards circular and climate neutral economy](#)

[EP research: The ECB's Monetary Policy Response to the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

[EP research: Impact of state aid on competition and competitiveness during the COVID-19 pandemic: an early assessment](#)

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

MEPs to debate the Syrian conflict, ten years after the uprising

On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will discuss the conflict in Syria and its aftermath with EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell.

Ten years after the Syrian uprising and the war that followed, MEPs will examine the devastating humanitarian situation and how a political solution can be found for the conflict in Syria with EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell.

MEPs are also expected to raise the issue of impunity in Syria, how war criminals should be dealt with and human rights breaches in the country, with more than 100 000 political prisoners jailed by the Assad regime.

A resolution will be put to the vote on Thursday.

On 29-30 March 2021, the European Union will host the fifth Brussels Conference on “Supporting the future of Syria and the region”.

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

Debate: Tuesday, 9 March

Vote and results: Thursday, 11 March

Further information

[European Union to host Brussels V Conference on Syria](#)

[MEPs approve €585 million to support refugees from Syria, 24.06.2020](#)

[EP Research Service: State of play on existing instruments for combating impunity for international crimes,](#)

[14.08.2020](#)

MEPs to debate how to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights

On Wednesday, MEPs will discuss the action plan for the European Pillar of Social Rights with Council and Commission.

The action plan should serve as a roadmap for the implementation of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) and will be the basis for the agenda of the [Porto Summit](#) taking place 7-8 May. In a [report adopted in December last year](#), MEPs set out their priorities for an ambitious Porto agenda, focussing on decent work and wages, social justice and equal opportunities, robust social welfare systems, and fair labour mobility.

Council and Commission Statements

Debate: Wednesday, 10 March

Further information

[European Pillar of Social Rights](#)

[European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#)

[EP press release: Fair transition to digital and green economy: a new social agenda for Europe](#)

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

MEPs to debate the tense political situation in Georgia with Josep Borrell

On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs and EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell will take stock of the tense political situation in Georgia.

Following years of political polarisation, relations between the ruling Georgian Dream coalition and the political opposition have been acutely tense since last autumn's parliamentary elections.

Georgia's Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia resigned on 18 February after a court ordered the detention of opposition leader Nika Melia, citing worries that the arrest would exacerbate tensions and poses a threat to democracy in the country.

MEPs will take stock of the latest developments in the country in a debate on Tuesday afternoon, with EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell.

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

Debate: Tuesday, 9 March

Further information

[Joint Statement by MEPs Marina Kaljurand \(S&D, ET\) and Sven Mikser \(S&D, ET\) on the political situation in Georgia](#)

[Press release: "Parliament welcomes the continuous deepening of EU-Georgia relations" \(16.09.2020\)](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: 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.

- The situation in Eastern Congo and the assassination of Italian ambassador Luca Attanasio and his colleagues;
- The human rights situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in particular the cases of death row inmates and human rights defenders;
- The mass trials against the opposition and civil society in Cambodia

Procedure: urgency resolutions

Debate: Thursday, 11 March

Vote and results: Thursday, 11 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:

Votes on requests for urgent procedure (Rule 163), Monday

- Equivalence of forest reproductive material produced in the UK 6 (COD)
- Equivalence of field inspections and equivalence of checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties of agricultural plant species carried out in the UK (COD)
- EU Pledge for Afghanistan at 2020 Geneva Conference Commission, *Oral question, debate Thursday*
- Requests for waiver of the immunity of Valter Flego, Nuno Melo, Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó, Antoni Comín i Oliveres and Clara Ponsatí Obiols, *vote Monday*
- Long-term vision for rural areas, *debate Thursday, Oral question - Commission,*
- Respecting the partnership principle, in the preparation and implementation of National Recovery and Resilience Plans, and ensuring good governance of the spending, *Debate Thursday, Commission statement*
- Programme to upgrade customs checks and cooperation between authorities. *debate Wednesday*