

## Newsletter 26-29 April 2021 plenary session

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<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2021-04-26>

## Newsletter - 26-29 April 2021 - plenary session

### Further information

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

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# Parliament to decide whether to give its consent to EU-UK agreement

**MEPs will vote on giving their consent to the agreement that sets the rules for the future EU-UK relationship, on Tuesday, with the result announced on Wednesday morning.**

They will also debate and vote on a resolution assessing the agreement, in which they insist on its full implementation along with the Withdrawal Agreement, and stressing Parliament's role in scrutinising the practical application of the deals. The result of the votes will be announced at 9:00 on Wednesday.

On 24 December 2020, EU and UK negotiators agreed on the [Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#) establishing the terms for future EU-UK cooperation on free trade without quotas and tariffs, on fisheries, energy, internal security and fair competition standards. To minimise disruption, the agreement has been provisionally applied since 1 January 2021 and will lapse on 30 April 2021. [Parliament's consent](#) is necessary for the agreement to enter into force permanently.

The draft text, prepared by the political groups in the [UK Coordination Group](#) and by the [Conference of Presidents](#), calls the UK's departure from the EU a "historical mistake". It welcomes the trade and cooperation agreement, but condemns recent unilateral UK actions in breach of the [Withdrawal Agreement](#) and demands that the agreed terms of the deal be fully implemented.

## Next steps

With Parliament's consent, the agreement will enter into force once Council has voted on it.

*Procedure: consent*

[2020/0382\(NLE\)](#)

*Debate and vote: Tuesday, 27 April*

*Vote announcement: Wednesday 9:00, 28 April*

*Press conference: Tuesday, 27 April at 14:00, with rapporteurs Andreas Schieder (S&D, AT), Christophe Hansen (EPP, LU), and committee chairs David McAllister (EPP, DE) and Bernd Lange (S&D, DE) (tbc)*

## Further information

[Draft recommendation for consent](#)

[Draft resolution on the outcome of EU-UK negotiations](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(15.04.2021\)](#)

[Rapporteur of the Committee on Foreign Affairs: Andreas Schieder \(S&D, AT\)](#)

[Rapporteur of the Committee on International Trade: Christophe Hansen \(EPP, LU\)](#)

[Procedure file - consent](#)

[EP Think Tank: EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement \(April 2021\)](#)

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

# Digital Green Certificate: EP to adopt its position for talks with EU countries

**MEPs will discuss and vote on the Commission's proposal for a Digital Green Certificate, after which they can swiftly start negotiations with member states.**

Once Parliament has amended the legislative proposal and thus finalised its mandate for negotiations, talks with member states can promptly start in order to adopt the Digital Green Certificate by the summer. Council adopted its [negotiating mandate](#) on 14 April 2021.

In the debate preceding the vote, MEPs are expected to underline the importance of facilitating free movement without discrimination with a secure and interoperable certificate in digital or paper format, containing information on a person's vaccination status, COVID-19 test results or recovery status.

MEPs are also expected to call for affordable and accessible COVID-19 testing in order to avoid potential discrimination against those not vaccinated, and for high data protection standards. How to handle those inoculated with vaccines currently not approved in the EU, the lack of scientific consensus regarding acquired immunity as well as clarifications on the possibilities of member states using the EU certificate at national level, and how long the document should be in use, are among the issues likely to be raised.

The debate and vote on Parliament's negotiating position for talks with EU countries will take place on Wednesday, with results announced on Thursday morning. MEPs will also assess, in the same debate, the accessibility and affordability of COVID-19 testing. A resolution on the matter will be put to the vote on Thursday.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading, plus resolution*

[021/0068\(COD\)](#) and [2021/0071\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Wednesday, 28 April*

*Vote: Wednesday, 28 April, result Thursday, 29 April*

## Further information

[Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](#)

[Procedure file \(EU citizens\)](#)

[Procedure file \(Third-country nationals\)](#)

[European Data Protection Board \(EDPB\) and the European Data Protection Supervisor \(EDPS\): Joint opinion on the Proposals for a Digital Green Certificate \(6.4.2021\)](#)

[EP Research Service: At a glance : Digital green certificate](#)

[COVID-19 digital certificate: extracts from the exchange of views in Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](#)

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



## Russia: MEPs to discuss latest developments with Josep Borrell

**Alexei Navalny, Russian military build-up around Ukraine and the recent Czechia-Russia diplomatic row will be debated with EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell on Wednesday.**

Mr Navalny, who was imprisoned earlier this year, was recently hospitalised. He began a hunger strike weeks ago, after the Russian authorities denied him access to medical personnel of his choice to examine physical pain and numbness he was experiencing in prison.

MEPs will also debate the latest Russian military build-up around Ukraine and the recent diplomatic row between Czechia and Russia. The Czechia-Russia spat began after Czech authorities accused Russian intelligence officers of being involved in an explosion in an ammunition storage depot in Czechia in 2014, which killed two people. Following the row, several diplomats from both countries have been expelled.

The plenary debate will be wound up with a resolution to be put to the vote on Thursday.

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

*Debate: Wednesday, 28 April*

*Vote and result: Thursday, 29 April*

### **Further information**

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

[EP Multimedia Centre: EU – Russia](#)

# European Council and EU-Turkey meeting: debate with Michel and von der Leyen

**MEPs will assess the outcome of the 25-26 March European Council and the recent EU-Turkey meeting in Ankara with Presidents Michel and von der Leyen.**

The joint plenary discussion will take place on Monday afternoon.

[At their meeting](#), EU leaders discussed the latest developments in the COVID-19 pandemic and the EU's vaccination strategy. The single market, as well as the EU's industrial, digital and economic policies were also in the agenda. Regarding foreign affairs, they took stock of the tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean and with Russia.

MEPs will also comment on the trip made by Presidents Michel and von der Leyen to Ankara on 6 April. They discussed with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan how Turkey can re-engage with the European Union and give the relationship new momentum. Both sides expressed their interest in strengthening economic ties and in co-operating on topics such as the fight against climate change, vaccination against COVID-19, as well as on refugees and migration. Presidents Michel and von der Leyen also stressed that respect for fundamental rights and the rule of law in Turkey are crucial for the European Union.

*Council and Commission statements, without resolution*

*Debate: Monday, 26 April*

## Further information

[Statement of the members of the European Council \(25.03.2021\)](#)

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

[EP Multimedia: EU – Turkey](#)

# Parliament to debate Chinese sanctions against MEPs

**MEPs and EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell will debate the recent Chinese sanctions against several European entities and politicians, on Wednesday.**

The Chinese sanctions imposed in March on several European entities and political representatives, including five Members of the European Parliament and [the Subcommittee on Human Rights](#), were a retaliatory act in response to the [EU decision to enact restrictive measures](#) against four Chinese officials over human rights abuses against the Muslim Uyghur minority in the Xinjiang region.

The MEPs in question are [Reinhard Bütikofer](#) (The Greens/EFA, Germany), [Michael Gahler](#) (EPP, Germany), [Raphaël Glucksmann](#) (S&D, France), [Ilhan Kyuchyuk](#) (Renew Europe, Bulgaria) and [Miriam Lexmann](#) (EPP, Slovakia).

Others targeted by China's sanctions include academics, national Members of Parliament and the [European Union's Political and Security Committee \(PSC\)](#).

In a [statement](#) after the sanctions were imposed, the Chinese Foreign Ministry declared that the individuals concerned are banned from entering mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao. The statement also said that these individuals, "companies and institutions associated with them are also restricted from doing business with China".

The plenary debate will be wound up with a resolution to be put to the vote during the May session.

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

*Debate: Wednesday, 28 April*

*Vote: May session*

## Further information

[Videoclip: David SASSOLI, EP President, meets with MEPs blacklisted by China in response to sanctions on alleged human rights abuses in the Xinjiang region: arrivals, roundtable and statements](#)

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

# MEPs to adopt landmark research programme Horizon Europe

**The 2021-2027 research programme will help the EU's health systems prepare for future pandemics and its industry to decarbonise and innovate.**

Horizon Europe, to be debated on Monday and put to the vote on Tuesday, will have an overall budget of €95.5 billion, including €5.4 billion from the EU's Next GenerationEU recovery plan, and an extra reinforcement of €4 billion from the EU's multiannual financial framework (MFF). The research programme secures short- and long-term financing for research and innovation relating to global challenges such as the fight against climate change, digitalisation, and the coronavirus pandemic. Horizon Europe incorporates the highest budget ever for digital-related research and digitalisation, as well as providing support for innovative SMEs, European research infrastructure, and an additional €1 billion for basic research channelled through the European Research Council.

## European Institute of Technology

On Tuesday, MEPs will also vote on the new priorities for the European Institute of Technology (EIT), which aims to better transform European fundamental research into successful practical applications.

Those priorities include the European Green Deal, the European post-COVID-19 recovery plan, strategies for small businesses and industry, the European Union's strategic autonomy and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure*

*Horizon Europe: [2018/0224\(COD\)](#) [2018/0225\(CNS\)](#)*

*EIT: [2019/0152\(COD\)](#) , [2019/0151\(COD\)](#)*

*Debate: Monday, 26 April*

*Vote and result: Tuesday 27 April*

## Further information

[Draft report on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe](#)

[Draft report on the draft Council decision on establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Dan Nica \(S&D, RO\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Christian Ehler \(EPP, DE\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Legislative train schedule: Horizon Europe](#)

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

# Rail passengers' rights: more help for stranded travellers

**MEPs are set to adopt new rules that would better protect and assist train travellers facing delays, cancellations or discrimination.**

Parliament will debate on Wednesday and vote on Thursday on the revised rules on rail passengers' rights, which were agreed between Parliament and Council in October 2020. The rules are set to guarantee rerouting and help passengers when there are delays and cancellations, to improve access and assistance to people with reduced mobility, and help to create more dedicated spaces for bicycles.

If there is a delay of over 60 minutes, passengers can choose to either have the cost of their ticket fully reimbursed, continue on their journey or be re-routed under comparable conditions, but without facing additional costs. They must also be able to travel in the same class as their original ticket. If needed, meals and refreshments must be provided and accommodation costs reimbursed.

Travellers with reduced mobility will have more flexibility when making travel arrangements, as they will be obliged to notify the operator of their travel plans 24 hours in advance (under current rules, they have to notify the operator 48 hours in advance).

*Procedure: co-decision, 2nd reading*

[2017/0237\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Wednesday, 28 April*

*Vote and result: Thursday, 29 April*

## Further information

[Draft rules on rail passengers' rights and obligations](#)

[Press release on provisional agreement \(01.10.2020\)](#)

[EP rapporteur Bogusław Liberadzki \(S&D, PL\)](#)  
[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research Service briefing on rail passengers' rights and obligations in the EU \(April 2021\)](#)

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

# Terrorist content online: final vote to ensure removal within one hour

**On Thursday, plenary is set to give its green light to new rules preventing the dissemination of terrorist content online.**

Internet platforms will have one hour to remove flagged content or disable access to it in all member states. This may be texts, images, sound recordings or videos that incite, solicit or contribute to terrorist offences, provide instructions for such offences or solicit people to participate in a terrorist group. In line with the definition included in the [Directive on combating terrorism](#), it will also cover content providing guidance on how to make and use explosives, firearms and other weapons for terrorist purposes.

Content uploaded for educational, journalistic, artistic or research purposes, or used to raise awareness, will be exempt. [EP and Council negotiators also agreed](#) that companies will not be obliged to monitor all the content they upload, and no automatic filters will be imposed.

The new rules will apply 12 months after their entry into force.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, second reading agreement*

*2018/0331 (COD)*

*Debate: Wednesday, 28 April*

*Vote: Thursday, 29 April*

### Further information

[Position of the Council at first reading on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(12.01.2021\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur: Patryk Jaki \(ECR, PL\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research Service: Addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online \(09.04.2021\)](#)

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

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

# MEPs ready plans for fundamental change to international tax rules

**On Wednesday, MEPs will debate resetting outdated international tax rules, including introducing a minimum effective corporate tax rate.**

The debate will conclude with a vote on a resolution, which will clearly set out MEPs' priorities on these rules, with changes coming at what may be a pivotal moment in the shift towards root and branch reform of global tax policy.

MEPs have long said that international tax rules designed in the early 20th century are wholly inappropriate for the digital age, leading to a significant loss in revenues for national governments. They have also repeatedly said that if international negotiations do not yield a satisfactory result, the EU should take the lead and go it alone.

*Procedure: Own initiative resolution*

[2021/2010\(INI\)](#)

*Debate: Wednesday, 28 April*

*Vote: Wednesday, 28 April, result Thursday, 29 April*

## Further information

[Draft resolution on Digital taxation: OECD negotiations, tax residency of digital companies and a possible European Digital Tax](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(23.03.2021\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur, Andreas Schwab \(EPP, DE\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur, Martin Hlaváček \(Renew, CZ\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research department study: Taxation of the digital economy: Latest developments](#)

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



# MEPs set to approve European Defence Fund programme

**The Defence Fund is the first EU programme to finance common defence-related research and development (R&D) in order to save costs.**

The 7,9 billion Euro [European Defence Fund](#) (EDF) will finance projects jointly agreed by member states that are compatible with the European Union's defence priorities, taking into consideration member states' cooperation within other regional and international organisations such as NATO. The legislation setting up the programme will be debated and put to the vote on Thursday.

The Fund will invest in projects involving at least three participants from three member states, provide co-funding for common prototypes and promote cross-border activities of small and medium-sized enterprises by making more financing available.

The Fund also aims to contribute to strengthening the interoperability of the defence systems used by European armed forces.

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure*

[2018/0254\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Thursday, 29 April*

*Vote and result: Thursday, 29 April*

## Further information

[Recommendation for second reading on the Council position at first reading with a view to the adoption of a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Defence Fund](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Zdzisław Krasnodębski \(ECR, PL\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Legislative train schedule: European Defense Fund](#)

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

# MEPs to approve deal to invest €5.4 bn in climate and environmental projects

**The 2021-2027 programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) will become the EU's most ambitious climate and environmental programme.**

The total budget allocated for LIFE in the [compromise on the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework](#) is EUR 5.4 billion (current prices), of which EUR 3.5 billion will go to environmental activities and EUR 1.9 billion to climate action.

The programme will contribute to mainstreaming climate actions and to achieving the overall target of spending at least 30 % of the EU's budget on climate objectives. LIFE will also support many biodiversity projects and contribute to spending 7.5 % of the annual EU budget on biodiversity objectives from 2024 and 10 % in 2026 and 2027.

The debate and vote will take place on Thursday.

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure*

[2018/0209\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Thursday, 29 April*

*Vote and results: Thursday 29 April*

## Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[EP press release: "LIFE: Deal reached to invest €5.4 billion in climate and environmental projects" \(17.12.2020\)](#)

[Legislative train schedule: "LIFE programme for 2021-2027"](#)

[More information about the LIFE programme](#)

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

# MEPs to vote on European digital transformation programme

**EU plans to deploy digital technologies like artificial intelligence, supercomputing and data platforms more widely will be debated and put to the vote on Thursday.**

The Digital Europe programme, worth €7.5 billion, will fund the deployment of European supercomputers and data processing capacities (€2.2 billion), and make supercomputing more accessible in the health, environmental, and security sectors and industry, and in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

It will strengthen and support artificial intelligence testing and trials in the health and mobility sectors, and encourage member states to cooperate in this area, with the aim of setting up a European data space. Businesses and public administrations will also be able to use artificial intelligence more (€2 billion).

€1.6 billion are also dedicated to cybersecurity, to strengthen coordination between member states, boost Europe's capabilities and support the deployment of cyber-security technology through initiatives such as the EU [cybersecurity competence centre and network](#).

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure*

[2018/0227\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Thursday, 29 April*

*Vote and result: Thursday, 29 April*

## Further information

[Draft report on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Digital Europe programme for the period 2021-2027](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Valter Flego \(Renew Europe, HR\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Legislative train schedule: Digital Europe](#)

[EP Research Service: Digital Europe programme - Funding digital transformation beyond 2020](#)

[EP Research Service: Digital sovereignty for Europe](#)

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

# Improved EU prevention, preparedness and response to disasters

## Parliament is set to adopt the reformed EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), building on lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The civil protection mechanism aims to ensure that the EU and its member states will be better prepared to respond to large-scale emergencies, especially when these affect several countries simultaneously. In order to deploy crisis relief more swiftly, the Commission will be able to directly acquire, under specific conditions, the necessary resources via [rescEU](#).

1.263 billion EUR will be allocated to the UCPM to be used during the 2021-2027 financing period, supplemented by 2.056 billion EUR from the [EU Recovery Instrument](#).

### Background

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) was set up in 2013 as a voluntary system to help member states deal with increasingly frequent natural disasters. Since 2019, when [rescEU](#) was created, the EU has been able to jointly procure resources to assist countries hit by disasters when national capacity is overstretched. A new strategic rescEU medical reserve, currently hosted by nine EU countries, allows the EU to react faster to crises.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure*

[2019/0070\(COD\)](#)

*Vote and result: Tuesday, 27 April*

### Further information

[Press release: COVID-19 lessons learnt: boosting EU civil protection \(8.02.2021\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur: Nikos ANDROULAKIS \(S&D, Greece\)](#)

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

# MEPs set to approve provisions for a common mandatory Transparency Register

**The interinstitutional agreement will reinforce a common culture of transparency for Parliament, Council and Commission.**

Parliament's co-negotiators [Katarina Barley \(S&D, DE\)](#) and [Danuta Hübner \(EPP, PL\)](#) reached a political agreement with the Council and the Commission [last December](#). The introduction of these new measures signifies a major change to the existing structure: interest representatives will have to register in order to be able to carry out certain activities, vis-a-vis all three signatory institutions, while each institution will now also put in place complementary transparency measures to encourage registration.

The accompanying report, drafted by Ms Hübner and [endorsed by the Constitutional Affairs Committee](#), welcomes that the Council of the EU will no longer be just an observer to the [public register for interest representatives](#) set up between Parliament and Commission in 2011. The text also comments on the outcome of the negotiations, addresses how the agreement can be improved in the future, and looks into how Parliament can apply the new internal rules stemming from the agreement - for example, in relation to indirect lobbying activities, which have become more prevalent due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The vote will take place on Tuesday.

*Procedure: interinstitutional agreement*

[2020/2272\(ACI\)](#)

*Vote: Tuesday, 27 April*

## Further information

[Draft report on the conclusion of an interinstitutional agreement on a mandatory transparency register](#)

[Inter-institutional negotiations on the Transparency Register](#)

[Press conference by Katarina BARLEY, Danuta HÜBNER, Michael ROTH, and Věra JOUROVÁ \(15.12.2020\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Legislative train](#)

[FAQ - Parliament's organisational aspects \(accredited lobbyists\)](#)

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

# Up to €1.86 billion for promoting democracy and fundamental rights in the EU

**MEPs are set to confirm the allocation of up to €1.86 billion for promoting democracy, rule of law, judicial cooperation and fundamental rights across the EU for 2021-2027.**

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme, worth € 1.55 billion, aims to protect the fundamental EU values of democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights (enshrined in [Article 2 of the EU Treaty](#)) by supporting civil society organisations across Europe at local, regional, national and transnational levels.

It will promote equality - including gender equality - and non-discrimination, encourage citizens' engagement and participation in the democratic process, and fight all forms of violence, with a focus on violence against children, young people, women and other groups at risk.

## **Justice Programme**

Parliament is also set to adopt the Justice Programme, worth €305 million, which aims to strengthen judicial cooperation, promote a common judicial culture which upholds the rule of law, and make recourse to justice more accessible (with a specific focus on the rights of victims). The Programme also aims to promote gender mainstreaming and non-discrimination in EU member state legal systems.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure*

[2018/0207\(COD\) - Rights and values programme](#)

[2018/0208\(OLP\) - Justice Programme](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 27 April 2021*

*Vote and result: Wednesday, 28 April*

## **Further information**

[Procedure file - Rights and values programme](#)

[Procedure file - Justice Programme](#)

# Protection of EU budget moves up a gear with the new anti-fraud programme

**Parliament is set to back the agreement on a crucial reform of the EU anti-fraud system for 2021-2027.**

MEPs will debate and vote on the EU anti-fraud programme, which aims to boost the fight against fraud and corruption detrimental to the EU budget.

The new programme with an annual budget of 29 million euros until 2027, puts together the three existing tools in a more efficient and consistent system: the EU Commission's Irregularities Management System (IMS), the only existing data base of irregularities; the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), for a biometric identification; and the Hercule programme, which funds hundreds of actions, projects and initiatives run by the members states every year.

The Parliament, the Council and the Commission reached an agreement on the project in December 2020. MEPs are expected to follow the Budgetary Control Committee's positive recommendation on the issue.

The debate and the vote will take place on Thursday.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure*

[2018/0211\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Thursday, 29 April*

*Vote and result: Thursday, 29 April*

## Further information

[EP Live](#)

[EbS+ \(05.02.2013\)](#)

[EPRS Legislative train schedule of the EU Anti-Fraud Programme](#)



# MEPs to approve update of the EU's space programme

**The €14.8 billion programme will improve flagship initiatives such as Galileo, Copernicus and the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS).**

The 2021-2027 EU space programme, to be debated on Tuesday and put to the vote on Wednesday, will fund projects that provide high-quality space-related data as well as services with key socio-economic benefits and potential to create jobs.

It also aims to strengthen Europe's strategic autonomy, its security and its role in the space sector.

## Background

On 6 June 2018, the European Commission presented the new Space Programme. It aims to ensure investment continuity in EU space activities, encourage scientific and technical progress, and support the competitiveness and innovation capacity of the European space industry.

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure*

[2018/0236\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 27 April*

*Vote: Wednesday, 28 April*

## Further information

[Profile of rapporteur Massimiliano Salini \(EPP, IT\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Legislative train schedule: EU space programme](#)

[EP research: EU space programme](#)

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

# MEPs to support a more reactive and accessible European Globalisation Fund

**On Wednesday, Parliament will vote on the renewed European Globalisation Adjustment Fund. The updated Fund will allow more European workers to receive financial support.**

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) helps people who have lost their jobs because of globalisation, technological, or environmental changes to retrain and find alternative, quality employment.

The text, provisionally agreed with Council in December 2020 introduces: a lower threshold for applications of support from the EGF (from 500 jobs lost down to 200); a one-time investment of €22 000 to start a business; and special measures like a childcare allowance for child carers to access when taking part in training or looking for a job.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement*

[2018/0202\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 27 April*

*Vote and result: Wednesday, 28 April*

## Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur: Vilija BLINKEVIČIŪTĖ \(S&D, LT\),](#)

[EP Think Tank: Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund – Technical assistance](#)

[European Globalisation Adjustment Fund \(European Commission\)](#)

# MEPs to approve €4.2 billion Single Market Programme

**Parliament is expected to adopt a programme to strengthen the EU's internal market by supporting a wide range of activities, from improving food safety to helping SMEs.**

The overarching goal of the €4.2 billion Single Market Programme for 2021-2027 is to foster cooperation within, and improve the sustainability of, the internal market. The programme will support EU businesses, improve governance of the internal market (e.g. better market surveillance to remove unsafe or counterfeit products) and strengthen consumer protection (including promoting sustainable consumption). It will also help guarantee health and food safety (improving veterinary and phytosanitary controls, endorse safe food production), and gather comparable data to allow for reliable European statistics. More details [here](#).

## Background

The Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee will vote on its second reading recommendation on Monday, 26 April. Parliament is expected to endorse the programme in plenary on Wednesday.

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure*

[2018/0231\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Tuesday, 27 April*

*Vote and result: Wednesday, 28 April*

## Further information

[Press release on political agreement \(08.12.2020\)](#)

[Rapporteur Brando Benifei \(S&D, IT\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

# MEPs want climate-neutral maritime sector by 2050

**To decarbonise maritime transport, Parliament is set to call for a substantial emissions reduction, clean ports, and a ban on the use of heavy fuel oil.**

The draft resolution on cleaner and more efficient maritime transport is pushing for a climate-neutral transition by 2050, significant cuts in shipping emissions, the phasing out of the use of heavy fuel oils, and decarbonising European ports.

Other proposals that MEPs will vote on to make the maritime sector considerably less carbon-intensive and more efficient, include the digitalisation and automatisisation of ports and ships, vessel speed optimisation, innovation in hydrodynamics, and the introduction of new propulsion measures.

International shipping emits around 940 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually and is responsible for approximately 2.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The vote will take place on Tuesday.

*Procedure: non-legislative resolution*

[2019/2193\(INI\)](#)

*Vote: Monday, 26 April*

*Vote and result: Tuesday, 27 April*

## Further information

[Draft resolution](#)

[EP rapporteur Karima Delli \(Greens/EFA, FR\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research service briefing: Decarbonising maritime transport \(October 2020\)](#)

# 2019 budget discharge: Parliament set to postpone approval of Frontex accounts

**Parliament will debate and decide whether to sign off on the 2019 accounts of 52 EU institutions and bodies.**

In its [recommendations](#), the Budgetary Control Committee advocates postponing Parliament's decision to clear the accounts of the Warsaw-based European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), arguing that additional clarification on a series of issues is needed. The Committee also recommends not signing off on spending by the European Council and the Council of Ministers, because of these institutions' persistent failure to supply Parliament with the necessary figures and information to do so.

Regarding the accounts of the other 49 institutions and bodies, Budgetary Control Committee MEPs suggest signing off on all of them.

The debate will take place on Tuesday, the votes are scheduled for Wednesday, and results are to be announced on Thursday.

## Background

The European Parliament is the sole discharge authority vetting spending of the EU annual budget and the European Development Fund. At the end of a budgetary year, it may grant, postpone or refuse a discharge required for the formal closure of institutional accounts.

*Procedure: Discharge*

*Debate: Tuesday, 27 April*

*Vote results: Thursday, 29 April*

## Further information

[EP Live](#)

[EbS+ \(27.04.2021\)](#)

[EP reports in relation with the discharge 2019](#)

[Discharge Procedure](#)

[EP Research Service: Political scrutiny of budgetary implementation](#)

# EU must step up efforts to combat child poverty, MEPs are set to say

**MEPs will quiz the European Commission and the Council on how they intend to meet the new EU target to lift at least five million children out of poverty by 2030.**

In a debate on Wednesday, MEPs will discuss the European Child guarantee, a proposal that should ensure access to quality and free healthcare, education, childcare, decent housing and adequate nutrition for every child in poverty. Parliament had been calling for this instrument for years, due to rising levels of child poverty and policymakers failing to address this issue.

Members are likely to demand how the Commission and the Council plan to finance the Child Guarantee, which will be done mainly through the new [ESF+](#), but also via other funds such as the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#), the [European Regional Development Fund](#), [ReactEU](#) and [Invest EU](#). MEPs are also set to ask for details on how the policies will be planned and monitored, in particular the national action plans that should be drawn up by member states.

A resolution will be put to the vote on Thursday.

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

*Debate: Wednesday 28 April*

*Vote: Thursday, 29 April*

### Further information

[Proposal for a European Child Guarantee:](#)

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

# Rule of law in Malta: deep concern over recent revelations

## Parliament set to call for justice in the Daphne Caruana Galizia case and related investigations, and for further steps to protect EU values in Malta.

Following the confession by convicted criminal Vincent Muscat of the murder of Maltese anti-corruption investigative journalist and blogger Daphne Caruana Galizia, MEPs are set to express their deep concern regarding the possible involvement of ministers and political appointees in the case. The draft text acknowledges the progress made in the investigation and welcomes the steps taken by the Maltese authorities to protect independent journalism. However, in the resolution MEPs will point to persisting and new issues relating to media freedom and EU values in the country.

It asks for all potential incidents of corruption to be investigated and prosecuted by the authorities with the necessary rigour and highlights serious and persistent threats to the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights in Malta, including on issues of media freedom, the independence of law enforcement and judiciary from political interference, and the freedom of peaceful assembly.

The vote will take place on Wednesday, and results will be announced on Thursday.

### Background

Daphne Caruana Galizia was murdered on 16 October 2017. She reported on government corruption, allegations of money laundering, and organised crime.

*Procedure: Non-legislative resolution*

[2021/2611\(RSP\)](#)

*Vote: Wednesday, 28 April, result Thursday 29 April*

## Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Catch up with the recent debate on the same subject \(25.03.2021\)](#)

[EP launches Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism on anniversary of her murder \(15.10.2020\)](#)

[Malta: investigation risks being compromised while Prime Minister is in office \(18.12.2019\)](#)

[Malta and Slovakia: MEPs warn of lack of judicial independence and corruption \(28.03.2019\)](#)

[EP Research Service - Protecting EU common values within the Member States: An overview of monitoring, prevention and enforcement mechanisms at EU level \(25.09.2020\)](#)

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

[\(press freedom in Malta\)](#)



# Colombia: Parliament to express firm support for peace process

**MEPs will assess the situation in Colombia as the country approaches the fifth anniversary of the signing of the peace agreement.**

In a debate on Wednesday afternoon with EU Foreign Affairs Chief Josep Borrell, MEPs are expected to strongly support the Colombian peace process. However, they are set to express concerns about the slow implementation of the peace agreement and the continuing high level of violence and impunity in the country. MEPs will vote on a resolution on the issue on Thursday.

## Background

The Colombian government and the country's largest guerrilla organisation, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), signed a peace agreement in 2016, ending five decades of armed conflict. As the country approaches the fifth anniversary of the signing of the agreement, the peace process is under strain from ongoing political opposition, failures in implementation and an escalating [human rights crisis](#).

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

*Debate: Wednesday, 28 April*

*Vote and results: Thursday, 29 April*

## Further information

[Committee on Foreign Affairs](#)

# EU-India: stronger ties needed between the world's two biggest democracies

**MEPs are set to stress the need to tap into the potential of EU-India relations, calling for both parties to work together on geopolitical challenges.**

On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a set of recommendations for the European Union on improving its bilateral partnership with India in view of the upcoming EU-India leaders' meeting in Porto on 8 May.

The text prepared by the [Foreign Affairs Committee](#) states that while the EU and India, as strategic partners and the world's two largest democracies, share strong political, economic, social and cultural links, bilateral relations have not yet reached their full potential and require increased political engagement.

It also highlights India's rising regional and geopolitical influence, as the country has strengthened its position as an economic and military power, and grown rapidly as an important trading partner for the EU.

At the same time, Members express concern over the deteriorating human rights situation in India, echoing comments by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and several UN Special Rapporteurs. For additional details, read more [here](#).

MEPs will debate the draft report on Wednesday afternoon.

*Procedure: own-initiative report*

*Debate: Wednesday, 28 April*

*Vote and result: Thursday, 29 April*

## Further information

[More on EU relations with India \(European External Action Service\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Alviina Alametsä \(The Greens/EFA, Finland\)](#)

[EP Study: "Assessing the potential impact of an EU-India trade agreement" \(2020\)](#)

[EP Research Service briefing: "EU-India: Trade prospects" \(2020\)](#)

[EP Research Service briefing: "EU-India: Cooperation on digitalisation" \(2020\)](#)

[EP Research Service briefing: "EU-India: Cooperation on climate" \(2020\)](#)

[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 COVID-19 pandemic situation in Latin America
- Bolivia and the arrest of former President Jeanine Añez and other officials;
- Blasphemy laws in Pakistan, in particular the case Shagufta Kausar and Shafqat Emmanuel.

*Procedure: non-legislative resolutions*

*Debate/vote: Thursday, 29 April*

## **Further information**

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

## Other topics on the agenda

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

- EU/Honduras Voluntary Partnership Agreement and EU/Honduras Voluntary Partnership Agreement, 2x *Karlsbro (COD)*, *vote Monday*
- Chemical residues in the Baltic Sea based on petitions 1328/2019 and 0406/2020 under Rule 227 (2), *Motion for a resolution*, *vote Monday*
- Multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, *Giuseppe Ferrandino*, *debate Monday*, *vote Tuesday*
- Soil protection, *oral questions*, *debate Monday*
- Implementation report on the road safety aspects of the Roadworthiness Package, *Benoît Lutgen*, *vote Monday*
- Council and Commission statements - Saving the summer tourism season - EU support to the hospitality sector, *Tuesday*