Newsletter
23-24 June 2021
Brussels plenary session

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EU aid to help regions make the transition to climate neutrality
On Thursday, MEPs will discuss and vote on the EU programme to support public sector efforts to deal with climate change.

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MEPs will discuss the recent decision by the Swiss Federal Council to terminate negotiations on the EU-Swiss Institutional Framework Agreement, on Thursday.

COVID-19: MEPs to call for new funds to help partner countries weather pandemic
A report to be voted on by MEPs on Thursday highlights how the pandemic has exacerbated health, gender, and economic inequalities in developing countries.

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Further information
Final draft agenda
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EU Climate Law: MEPs set to confirm deal on a climate neutral EU by 2050

The EU will increase its 2030 emissions reduction target and be climate neutral by 2050, under the new EU Climate Law to be assessed and put to the vote on Thursday.

The new law, agreed informally with member states in April, transforms the European Green Deal's political commitment to EU climate neutrality by 2050 into a binding obligation, and gives European citizens and businesses the legal certainty and predictability they need to plan for this transition.

The EU’s target of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction for 2030 will increase from 40% to at least 55% compared to 1990 levels. An upcoming proposal from the Commission to regulate GHG emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry, will de facto raise the EU’s 2030 reduction target to 57%.

Procedure: Ordinary Legislative procedure

2020/0036(COD)

Debate/vote: Thursday 24 June

Further information

Procedure file


 Provisional agreement on the European Climate Law


EP Research Service briefing: EU Climate Law (03.06.2021)

EP Research Service briefing: Climate change and climate action

EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Cohesion policy: €243 billion for greener regions and fighting the crisis

To support the recovery from the pandemic, plenary is set to adopt three EU funds focused on climate action, social programmes and sustainable urban development.

The so-called “cohesion package” comprises the European Territorial Cooperation Goal (Interreg), and the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund (ERDF-CF), as well as the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR), a set of norms governing the EU’s regional, cohesion and social funds over the next seven years.

Set up to strengthen the EU’s economic, social and territorial cohesion, these funds will receive together the largest amount allocated from the 2021-2027 EU budget: €243 billion for the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund, of which €8.05 billion for Interreg. At least 30% of their resources will have to be directed to climate action, the circular economy and investments in sustainable growth and job creation. They also foresee specific measures for SMEs and outermost regions.

All three regulations will be published in the EU’s Official Journal on 30 June and will enter into force the following day.

Procedure: Ordinary Legislative procedure

2018/0196(COD), 2018/0197(COD), 2018/0199(COD)

Debate: Wednesday 23 June

Vote: Thursday 24 June
Further information
Procedure file (ERDF-CF)
Procedure file (Interreg)
Procedure file (CPR)

Press release: Agreement reached on the 2021-2027 EU regional and cohesion funding (08.12.2020)

Press release: Agreement on EU funding for cross-border projects (02.12.2020)

Press release: Deal on new rules for EU regional, cohesion and social funds over next 7 years (01.12.2020)
Press conference by Younous OMARJEE, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development, and Andrey NOVAKOV, and Constanze KREHL, co-rapporteurs, on “Conclusion of inter-institutional negotiations for the Common Provisions Regulation” (02.12.2020)
Committee on Regional Development (europa.eu)

EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
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EU summit: COVID-19 and recovery, migration, relations with Turkey and Russia

On Wednesday afternoon, MEPs will convey to Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič and the Portuguese Presidency their expectations for the upcoming European Council.

The evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and the efforts to reactivate the economy will be at the centre of the leaders' agenda when they meet on 24-25 June. Leaders will also be focused on EU migration policy and external relations, particularly with Turkey and Russia. The possible remaining obstacles to reinstating intra-EU free movement, ahead of the summer season and the application of the new EU digital COVID certificate, will also be discussed.

Asylum and migration policy: relaunch of the Malta Declaration

MEPs will also discuss the EU’s way forward in the area of asylum and migration policy. While co-legislators work on the proposals included in the Commission’s proposed New Pact, and the number of people dying at sea continues to rise, some MEPs will call on EU member states to commit to a relocation scheme of migrants and asylum-seekers arriving in front-line countries, in line with the Malta Declaration signed in 2019 by France, Germany, Italy and Malta.

Council and Commission statements, no resolution

2021/2719(RSP) 2021/2755(RSP)

Debate: Wednesday, 23 June

Further information

European Council provisional agenda (24-25 June)
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
UN Secretary-General António Guterres to address European Parliament

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres will speak in the European Parliament’s hemicyle in Brussels on Thursday at 11.30.

A former Prime Minister of Portugal, Mr Guterres took office on 1 January 2017, when he replaced South Korean diplomat Ban Ki-moon as UN Secretary General. Mr Guterres was re-elected for a second term by the 193-member United Nations General Assembly on Friday 18 June.

Thursday’s address will be António Guterres’ second appearance at the European Parliament as UN Secretary-General. His first speech to MEPs was on 17 May 2017.

Formal Sitting

Debate: Thursday, 24 June

Further information

European Parliament recommendation of 9 June 2021 to the Council on the 75th and 76th sessions of the United Nations General Assembly
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
European Public Prosecutor’s office: nominations yet to be completed

MEPs will debate the urgent need to appoint European delegated prosecutors so that the European Public Prosecutor’s Office can function effectively.

The European Public Prosecutor’s Office, operational since 1 June 2021, consists of the Chief European Public Prosecutor Laura Codruţa Kövesi, and 22 European Prosecutors. It is responsible for investigating, prosecuting and bringing to judgment crimes against the EU budget, such as fraud, money laundering, corruption, and VAT fraud.

The EPPO will supervise the European Delegated Prosecutors, who will investigate and prosecute cases in 22 participating EU countries - Denmark, Ireland, Hungary, Poland and Sweden are not taking part.

The debate will take place on Thursday morning.

Background

The Regulation establishing the EPPO under enhanced cooperation was adopted on 12 October 2017.

As not all the delegated prosecutors have been appointed, the Chief European Public Prosecutor Laura Codruţa Kövesi has raised this issue, warning that these appointments are vital to conduct efficient investigations.

Debate: Thursday, 24 June

Further information

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Budgetary Control Committee

EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Commission’s 2021 Rule of Law report: MEPs to demand a more ambitious approach

Drawing conclusions from the 2020 report, and ahead of the 2021 one, MEPs propose how future reports can better address the protection of EU values.

Parliament's draft text analyses the Commission’s first rule of law report published in 2020, which included findings on the state of the rule of law in the EU and in each member state. It also sets out MEPs’ priorities and provides concrete recommendations to the Commission, including:

• applying a broader scope (encompassing the entirety of EU values), and more nuance in distinguishing systemic from individual breaches; and
• making the report part of a permanent, comprehensive, and effective mechanism, for example by including concrete recommendations and milestones linked to the Article 7 procedure, the budget conditionality mechanism, and infringement procedures.

The draft report also decries “the political pressure in Hungary and Poland [...] to avoid national judges asking questions to the CJEU”, in contravention of the Treaties. It also addresses recent attempts in Poland to undermine the independence of the country’s Ombudsman, and the non-implementation of a CJEU ruling in Hungary in relation to restrictions imposed on the financing of civil organisations, urging the Commission to refer Hungary to the Court and request dissuasive financial sanctions.

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

2021/2025(INI)

Debate: Wednesday, 23 June

Vote: Thursday, 24 June
**Further information**

Draft report on the Commission’s 2020 Rule of Law Report

Press release on committee vote (03.06.2021)

Profile of rapporteur Domèneç Ruiz Devesa (S&D, ES)

Procedure file

MEPs warn of deteriorating fundamental rights in the EU (26.11.2020)

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

EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Enlargement: MEPs to assess progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Parliament is expected to call on the European Council to continue to back Bosnia and Herzegovina in its efforts to integrate more closely with the EU.

In a debate on Wednesday evening, MEPs are set to stress that Bosnia and Herzegovina’s EU prospects depend on sustainable peace and genuine reconciliation as well as on assuring the country’s democratic and multicultural character. Shortcomings in its constitutional framework need to be addressed and negotiations to reform the electoral system must resume, they are expected to say.

MEPs will also debate the need to effectively coordinate migration and border management with Bosnian authorities, as there are currently around 9 000 irregular migrants in the country.

A resolution will be put to the vote on Thursday.

Background

Bosnia and Herzegovina applied for EU membership in February 2016. In its 2019 Opinion, the Commission identified 14 key priorities that the country must fulfil in order to open EU accession negotiations, focussing on reforms in the areas of democracy, the rule of law, fundamental rights and public administration.

Procedure: INI - Own-initiative procedure

2019/2171(INI)

Debate: Wednesday, 23 June

Vote: Thursday, 24 June

Further information


Rapporteur Paolo Rangel

Procedure file

EP Study: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Difficult path towards EU membership, 07.06.2021

Multimedia: EU Enlargement - Western Balkans
MEPs to demand universal access to sexual and reproductive health across the EU

In a debate on Wednesday and a vote on Thursday, MEPs will urge member states to protect and advance women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Further information

Procedure file

Profile of rapporteur Pedrag Matić (S&D, HR)

Press release - Polish de facto ban on abortion puts women’s lives at risk, says Parliament (26.11.2020)
EP resolution on the de facto ban on the right to abortion in Poland (26.11.2020)

EP resolution on experiencing backlash in women’s rights and gender equality in the EU (13.02.2019)
Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality

EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
EU aid to help regions make the transition to climate neutrality

On Thursday, MEPs will discuss and vote on the EU programme to support public sector efforts to deal with climate change.

The scheme, known as the Public Sector Loan Facility (PSLF), aims to encourage public investment in the regions most negatively affected by the climate transition, as identified in the Territorial Just Transition Plans.

The Facility consists of a grant of €1.5 billion from the EU budget and loans totalling €10 billion from the European Investment Bank (EIB). This money is expected to leverage between €25 and €30 billion in public investments over the next seven years.

The fund was agreed informally by lead MEPs and the Council Presidency in April.

Procedure: Ordinary Legislative procedure, first reading agreement
2020/0100(COD)

Debate/vote: Thursday 24 June

Further information
Procedure file
EP press release: “Deal reached on programme to help regions most hit by transition to climate neutral EU”
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Parliament to assess future of EU-Swiss relations

MEPs will discuss the recent decision by the Swiss Federal Council to terminate negotiations on the EU-Swiss Institutional Framework Agreement, on Thursday.

On 26 May, the Swiss Federal Council announced the decision to unilaterally halt talks on an EU - Switzerland Institutional Framework Agreement, after seven years of negotiations.

The Agreement would have replaced the fragmented system of 20 main and around 100 other agreements currently governing EU-Swiss relations as well as laying the foundation for a modernisation of these ties.

In a debate on Thursday, Parliament will take stock of the latest developments and what they mean for the future of the EU-Switzerland relationship.

Commission statement

2021/2740(RSP)

Debate: Thursday, 24 June

Further information

The European Parliament's Delegation for Northern cooperation and for relations with Switzerland and Norway and to the EU-Iceland Joint Parliamentary Committee and the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Parliamentary Committee
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
COVID-19: MEPs to call for new funds to help partner countries weather pandemic

A report to be voted on by MEPs on Thursday highlights how the pandemic has exacerbated health, gender, and economic inequalities in developing countries.

MEPs are set to call on the European Commission to provide substantial new funds for partner countries suffering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report, on the role of the EU’s development and humanitarian assistance in addressing the consequences of COVID-19, says support is needed to help them fight the direct and indirect consequences of the pandemic – with a primary focus on the swift and equitable global rollout of vaccines.

MEPs are also set to call on the EU to direct funding and centre policy planning on helping partner governments in developing countries rebuild and strengthen their health, education, and economic systems. Essential EU support should be concentrated on communities badly-affected by the COVID-19 pandemic like refugees, migrant workers, and pastoral farmers.

Procedure: INI - own-initiative

2020/2118(INI)

Vote: Thursday 24 June

Further information

Committee on Development


Procedural File (OEL)
Other topics on the agenda

Other topics for debate and vote include the following:

- 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) (Nairobi Summit), *OQ Council/Commission, vote Thursday*
- Regulations and general conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman’s duties, *Rangel, vote Wednesday*