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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

Estefanía NARRILLOS

Press Officer

 (+32) 2 28 31324 (BXL)

 (+33) 3 881 73661 (STR)

 (+32) 498 98 39 85

 estefania.narrillos@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

EU response to the social and economic consequences of the war in Ukraine

MEPs will call for measures to be ramped up to shelter EU citizens from the economic and social effects of the Russian war against Ukraine.

The plenary will vote on Thursday on a resolution outlining how the EU and its member states can counter the negative repercussions of the war in Ukraine and of the sanctions imposed on Russia. MEPs believe that mitigating these repercussions will not only help EU citizens bridge this difficult period but will also help maintain the public's resolve in supporting Ukraine and heap more economic sanctions on Russia. The resolution will wrap up the [4 May plenary debate on the subject](#).

Also on Thursday, MEPs will debate about European solidarity and energy security in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the consequences of Russia halting its gas supplies to Poland and Bulgaria.

Procedure Code: 2022/2653(RSP)

Procedure: Resolution of the political groups

Debate: 4 May (social and economic consequences) and Thursday 19 May (energy security and cuts to Poland and Bulgaria)

Vote: Thursday 19 May (social and economic consequences)

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

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

Ukraine: Fight to bring war crimes perpetrators to justice

On Thursday, MEPs will debate and vote on a resolution considering ways to support Ukraine and the International Criminal Court in combatting impunity for war crimes.

MEPs are expected to call for EU support to help gather evidence and build cases against the perpetrators of alleged crimes committed during the Russian war in Ukraine.

The resolution is also set to focus on how the international community can deal with crimes for which the ICC has no jurisdiction, and be able to end impunity for those crimes.

Expanded role for Eurojust in the fight against impunity

Parliament is also expected to vote on [a proposal to extend the mandate of Eurojust](#) to allow it to store and analyse evidence related to war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. MEPs will decide, at the opening of the session on Wednesday afternoon, whether to deal with this file under Parliament's so-called [urgent procedure](#). If this accelerated timetable is agreed, a vote on the text will take place on Thursday.

The updated mandate would give [Eurojust](#), the EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation, the right to process data related to these types of crimes. It would also allow Eurojust to share data with the International Criminal Court and other international organisations, as well as EU member state authorities. A [Eurojust-supported joint EU investigation team](#) has been active in Ukraine since March 2022.

Procedure codes: 2022/2655(RSP) and 2022/0130(COD)

Debate: Thursday 19 May (war crimes)

Votes: Wednesday 18 May (on urgent procedure Eurojust), and Thursday 19 May (non-legislative resolution and extension of Eurojust mandate (TBC) / resolution on war crimes)

Further information

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

[Free photos, video and audio materials: EU – Ukraine](#)

[Free photos, video and audio materials: Russian aggression against Ukraine](#)

Moldovan President Maia Sandu to address the European Parliament

The President of Moldova, Maia Sandu, will address MEPs on the war in Ukraine and its consequences on Wednesday at 15.00.

As a neighbouring country of Ukraine, Moldova has been particularly hard-hit by the ongoing war. In addition to having received a large number of Ukrainian refugees, it has also experienced cyberattacks and a recent series of security incidents in the Russian-backed breakaway region of Transnistria.

Against the backdrop of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Moldova formally applied for EU membership in early March 2022. The European Parliament also called for the country to be [given EU candidate status](#) in a resolution adopted on 5 May.

Mrs Sandu has served as Moldova's President since December 2020. She was previously Prime Minister, among other positions.

Following the address in plenary, EP President Roberta Metsola and President Sandu will hold a [joint press conference at around 15.40](#).

On Wednesday afternoon, MEPs will also debate their annual assessment report on the EU Association Agreement with Moldova. The vote will take place on Thursday.

Procedure: Formal sitting

Formal sitting: Wednesday 18 May

Press conference: Wednesday 18 May at 15.40

Further information

[Press release: "The EU must act and step up its support to Moldova following the Ukraine war" \(02.04.2022\)](#)

[Press release: "Parliament approves €150 million in assistance to Moldova" \(24.03.2022\)](#)

[Press release: "MEPs greenlight the deployment of Frontex in the Republic of Moldova" \(24.03.2022\)](#)

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

Ukrainian exports to be granted duty-free access to EU internal market

Parliament is set to give its green light for a one-year suspension of all EU import duties on Ukrainian exports to support the country's economy.

The temporary trade liberalisation comes in the wake of Russia's war that is hampering Ukraine's ability to trade with the rest of the world. [On Monday, the International Trade Committee endorsed the proposal](#) that would fully remove import duties on industrial products, entry duties on fruit and vegetables, as well as anti-dumping duties and safeguard measures on steel imports.

The EU is Ukraine's most important trading partner, accounting for more than 40% of its total trade in goods in 2021. In return, Ukraine represents around 1.2% of overall EU trade.

The text adopted in committee is expected to be fast-tracked and added to the plenary agenda at the opening of the session on Wednesday, with the vote following on Thursday.

Procedure code: 2022/0138(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure

Vote: Thursday 19 May

Further information

[Draft report](#)

[Steps of the procedure](#)

[EP think tank: EU-Ukraine trade and investment relations and the impact of Russia's war \(06.04.2022\)](#)

["EU stands with Ukraine" website](#)

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

Crackdown on opposition and trade union leaders in Belarus

On Wednesday, MEPs will debate the repression of the political opposition and trade union leaders in Belarus. A resolution will be put to the vote on Thursday.

The Belarusian National Assembly recently changed the country's Criminal Code, so that those charged with "attempted acts of terrorism" can be sentenced to death. Since the fraudulent presidential election in 2020, no fewer than 36 political prisoners have already been sentenced to long prison terms on such charges, while dozens of representatives of the democratic forces and political activists are wanted for alleged "terrorist" activities.

The changes to the Criminal Code will create an instrument to politically repress those protesting against the country's brutal regime under dictator Aliaksandr Lukashenka.

Belarus is the only state in Europe that still carries out the death penalty.

The plenary debate will also focus on the latest crackdown on independent trade union leaders in the country. You can read more [here](#).

Procedure: Council and Commission statements followed by a resolution

Debate: Wednesday 18 May

Vote: Thursday 19 May

Further information

[The European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Belarus](#)
[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material \(EU-Belarus\)](#)

Global minimum corporate tax rate: MEPs set to push for quick implementation

MEPs are expected to adopt their position on the proposal putting into law the international agreement on a 15% global minimum corporate tax rate.

MEPs, who will debate on Wednesday and adopt their position on Thursday, are expected to make few changes to the Commission proposal, rather choosing to signal the need to implement the international agreement without any further delays, as some EU countries are pushing for. A review clause and some adjustments to reduce loopholes are the most notable changes expected to be proposed by MEPs.

The international political agreement was reached in December at the OECD/G20 level. MEPs have called for a minimum corporate tax rate for a number of years.

Procedure Code: 2021/0433(CNS)

Procedure: Consultation

Debate: Wednesday, 18 May

Vote: Thursday, 19 May

Further information

[Draft report on the Commission proposal on a global minimum corporate tax rate](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(28.04.2022\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur: Aurore Lalucq \(S&D, FR\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

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

Commission rule of law report: Parliament to demand significant improvements

Taking stock of the Commission's latest assessment on rule of law in the EU, MEPs are expected to call once again for a much more ambitious approach.

The draft report, which will be debated on Wednesday and put to the vote on Thursday, asks for more in-depth analysis, a broader scope, and a more effective approach from the Commission in its annual monitoring of the state of the rule of law in the European Union. MEPs are set to criticise the report's failure to encompass [EU values](#) in their entirety, as well as its methodological shortcomings in highlighting the deliberate nature of the backsliding in Poland and Hungary.

The need for a [permanent, comprehensive mechanism](#) to protect the rule of law is also raised in the text, as are the numerous concerns related to the state of EU values across all member states.

Procedure Code: 2021/2180(INI)

Procedure: Own-initiative report

Debate: Wednesday 18 May

Vote: Thursday 19 May

Further information

[Draft report on the Commission's 2021 Rule of Law Report](#)

[Press release after the vote in the Committee on Civil Liberties \(20.04.2022\)](#)

[Procedure File](#)

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

[EP Study: The Commission 2021 Rule of Law Report and the EU Monitoring and Enforcement of Article 2 TEU Values \(21.02.2022\)](#)

[Discussion in LIBE on the existence of a clear risk of a serious breach of EU values by Hungary \(11.05.2022\)](#)

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Albania and North Macedonia: call to open accession talks for Europe's security

In two resolutions, MEPs are set to warn that the enlargement process could potentially have historically important implications for security in Europe.

The draft reports, to be put to a vote on Thursday, assess the progress made by Albania and North Macedonia towards EU membership. They urge the Council to officially start accession negotiations with both countries, pointing to the geostrategic context of relations with Russia and its aggression against Ukraine.

The EU must assess the historically important security implications of the enlargement process for stability and unity on the European continent and the Western Balkans, MEPs say. They also stress that the Council has failed to open long overdue accession negotiations with [North Macedonia](#) and [Albania](#), although both countries have fulfilled the set conditions and delivered sustained results.

Procedure: Own initiative reports

Debate: Wednesday 18 May

Vote: Thursday 19 May

Further information

[Procedure file: 2021 European Parliament Report on Albania](#)

[Procedure file: 2021 European Parliament Report on North Macedonia](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material: EU Enlargement - Western Balkans](#)

Other items on the agenda

Other items on the agenda

- Education Area by 2025 – micro credentials, individual learning accounts and learning for a sustainable environment - Oral questions (CULT) - Thursday, 19 May

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

Estefanía NARRILLOS

Press Officer

☎ (+32) 2 28 31324 (BXL)

☎ (+33) 3 881 73661 (STR)

📱 (+32) 498 98 39 85

✉ estefania.narrillos@europarl.europa.eu

Andreas KLEINER

Press Officer / Editorial Coordinator

☎ (+32) 2 28 32266 (BXL)

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📱 (+32) 498 98 33 22

✉ andreas.kleiner@europarl.europa.eu
