MEPs to discuss the despicable terrorist attacks of Hamas against Israel
On Wednesday, MEPs will debate the despicable terrorist attacks of Hamas against Israel with Council and Commission. A resolution will be put to the vote on Thursday.

A long-term solution for Ukraine’s funding needs
Parliament will debate and vote on a €50 billion facility to support Ukraine’s recovery, reconstruction and modernisation from 2024 to 2027.

Parliament to debate citizens’ initiative on a “Fur Free Europe”
On Thursday, MEPs will debate the European Citizens’ Initiative “Fur Free Europe” to ban the rearing and killing of animals exclusively for fur production in the EU.

Parliament to assess the effectiveness of EU sanctions on Russia
MEPs will discuss with Commission and Council representatives whether the EU’s sanctions against Russia are working, and how to prevent their circumvention by Moscow.

MEPs concerned about political and institutional crisis in Montenegro
In a debate on Tuesday and a vote on Wednesday, MEPs are set to call on Montenegrin politicians to form a pro-European government as soon as possible.

MEPs to assess the Commission’s work plan until June 2024 elections
On Tuesday afternoon, plenary will discuss the European Commission’s work programme for 2024, marked by the European elections taking place on 6-9 June.

Serbia and Kosovo must resume dialogue
On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a resolution on the situation in northern Kosovo, following the deadly events of 24 September.

2023 Sakharov Prize winner to be announced in plenary
On Thursday, European Parliament’s President Roberta Metsola will announce the winner of this year’s Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in the hemicycle.
Debate and vote on new EU fisheries control rules to ensure traceability
All fishing activities by EU vessels will be tracked and all their catches will have to be reported electronically, under new legislation set to be adopted on Tuesday.

Parliament’s priorities for the 26-27 October European Council
In a debate with Council and Commission on Wednesday morning, MEPs will present their demands and expectations ahead of the EU summit on 26-27 October.

Human trafficking: boosting law enforcement and the rights of victims
MEPs will be asked to endorse new proposals in plenary to make the fight against trafficking in human beings more effective, and to better protect its victims.

2024 EU budget: MEPs to adopt their position ahead of negotiations with Council
Parliament is set to vote on Wednesday for a budget that is better equipped to deal with the impact of the war in Ukraine and support SMEs, youth, and research.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to address MEPs
On Tuesday at 11.30, the Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan will hold a speech in the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Rule of Law in Malta: six years after the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia
Parliament will take stock of the state of the rule of law in Malta and speak up for the safety and independence of journalists.

Other topics on the agenda
Other topics on the agenda

Spyware: MEPs to call for a European response
In a debate with the Council and Commission on Tuesday afternoon, MEPs are expected to demand EU action in response to the proliferation of spyware.

Applying EU law to fight the spread of illegal content and disinformation online
On Wednesday, MEPs will discuss with Council and Commission how to respond to the increase in violent, terrorist and false content circulating on social media.

Election of a Vice-President and a Quaestor
Following the departures from Parliament of Michal Šimečka (Renew, SK) and Christophe Hansen (EPP, LU), MEPs will vote on Wednesday to decide on their replacements.

Supporting EU competitiveness and resilience in strategic sectors
The “Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform” (STEP) aims to boost digital, net-zero and biotechnologies, address labour and skill shortages, and support innovation.
Water scarcity: MEPs to debate how to ensure every European has access to water
On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will discuss water scarcity and structural investments for the access to water in the EU with the Council and Commission.

Digital visas to boost the security of the Schengen area
On Tuesday, MEPs will debate on a new law to digitalise Schengen visas, which will make them more secure and accessible. The vote is scheduled for Wednesday.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
On Tuesday morning, on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, MEPs will discuss with the Commission how to combat poverty in Europe.

MEPs to discuss the despicable terrorist attacks of Hamas against Israel

On Wednesday, MEPs will debate the despicable terrorist attacks of Hamas against Israel with Council and Commission. A resolution will be put to the vote on Thursday.

On 11 October, EP President Roberta Metsola led MEPs and Parliament’s staff in a ceremony to remember victims of the terrorist attacks in Israel. During her speech, she said that Europe stands ready to help broker resolutions, stressing at the same time that there is no justification for terrorism. “Hamas is a terrorist organisation. They do not represent the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people. They do not offer solutions, they offer bloodshed”, she said. “This is not a time for whataboutism. We have to be clear about what we are talking about: this is terror in its worst form”, and Europe stands with Israel, she concluded.

In a statement issued on the day of the assault, leading MEPs strongly condemned “the heinous attack launched against Israel by Hamas terrorists on this Sabbath morning”. They affirmed the right of Israel to defend itself, and expressed their solidarity with Israel in these difficult moments.

The debate will begin at 9.00 on Wednesday, a resolution will be put to the vote on Thursday.

Debate: Wednesday, 18 October

Vote: Thursday, 19 October

Further information
President Metsola in solidarity with the victims of the terror attacks in Israel
Video statement by the Chair McAllister after the Foreign Affairs Committee meeting, 10.10.2023
EP Think Tank: EU relations with the Palestinian Authority, 05.07.2023
Free photos, video and audio materials
A long-term solution for Ukraine’s funding needs

Parliament will debate and vote on a €50 billion facility to support Ukraine's recovery, reconstruction and modernisation from 2024 to 2027.

MEPs have improved the proposal by strengthening transparency and democratic accountability. One of the key demands of MEPs is that Russian assets should be used to fund Ukraine’s reconstruction.

As the Ukraine Facility is part of the ongoing revision of the long-term EU budget, MEPs insist that the Facility, along with the entire budgetary revision, should be agreed as soon as possible, as currently there are no provisions for assistance to Ukraine from 2024. The package should be integrated also into next year’s annual budget, to be negotiated in November 2023.

More information is available in the recent press release.

Next steps

Following the plenary vote on Tuesday, negotiations with the member states can start as soon as the Council agrees on a common position.

Procedure: 2023/0200(COD)

Debate: Monday 16 October

Vote: Tuesday 17 October

Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Further information

EP Think Tank Briefing - “Establishing the Ukraine Facility: Financing Ukraine's recovery and its path to EU accession” (03/10/2023)

Procedure file
2023 Sakharov Prize winner to be announced in plenary

On Thursday, European Parliament’s President Roberta Metsola will announce the winner of this year’s Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in the hemicycle.

President Metsola’s announcement will come shortly after the decision by Parliament’s Conference of Presidents (EP President Metsola and political group leaders) in the morning.

On Thursday 12 October, the committees on Foreign Affairs, Development and the Subcommittee on Human Rights chose three finalists, out of the nine nominations presented on 20 September:

- Jina Mahsa Amini and the Women, Life and Freedom Movement in Iran;
- Vilma Núñez de Escorcia and Bishop Rolando José Álvarez Lagos, Nicaragua;
- Women fighting for a free, safe and legal abortion: Justyna Wydrzyńska (Poland), Morena Herrera (El Salvador) and Colleen McNicholas (United States).

The Sakharov Prize ceremony will be held on Wednesday 13 December at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. To learn more about the nominees for the 2023 Sakharov Prize, click here.

Specialist: Elodie

Announcement: Thursday 19 October

Further information

Links to the video statement by the three Chairs of AFET, DEVE and DROI following the vote on the finalists (12.10.2023)
Nominees for the 2023 Sakharov Prize
Press release – 2023 Sakharov Prize: nine nominations announced (20.09.2023)
Infographic – Sakharov Prize: how is the laureate chosen?
Parliament’s priorities for the 26-27 October European Council

In a debate with Council and Commission on Wednesday morning, MEPs will present their demands and expectations ahead of the EU summit on 26-27 October.

At their meeting in Brussels, heads of state or government are set to focus on the latest developments in Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and the EU’s continued support for the country, the revision of the EU’s 2024-2027 long-term budget and the economic situation in the EU. They will also discuss migration, particularly the negotiations between Council and Parliament on the reform of the asylum and migration system.

*Debate: Wednesday, 18 October*

*Procedure: Council and Commission statements, no resolution*
Parliament to assess the effectiveness of EU sanctions on Russia

MEPs will discuss with Commission and Council representatives whether the EU’s sanctions against Russia are working, and how to prevent their circumvention by Moscow.

Following Russia's illegal and unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the European Union swiftly adopted unprecedentedly tough sanctions against Moscow. There have since been 11 sanctions packages in total, targeting key sectors of the Russian economy and political elites. Moscow has however found ways to bypass these measures, including through loopholes in trade restrictions and with the help of third-country intermediaries.

The plenary debate will be held on Tuesday morning, and MEPs will vote on a resolution during the 8-9 November plenary session.

*Debate: Tuesday, 17 October*

*Vote: 8-9 November session*

*Procedure: Council and Commission statements, with resolution*

**Further information**

EU sanctions against Russia explained (Council website)

EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
MEPs to assess the Commission’s work plan until June 2024 elections

On Tuesday afternoon, plenary will discuss the European Commission’s work programme for 2024, marked by the European elections taking place on 6-9 June.

Following the State of the European Union debate on 13 September, the Commission will outline its political strategy until the elections, which is set to include continued support to Ukraine in the war against Russia, efforts to decarbonise Europe’s industry whilst ensuring it remains competitive and boosting economic recovery after the pandemic. Ensuring that the green and digital transitions are fair, developing artificial intelligence with a human-centric approach and guaranteeing equality and the protection of democracy and fundamental rights across Europe are expected to be other key priorities.

Ahead of the State of the EU debate, Commission President von der Leyen specified in her letter of intent to Parliament’s President Metsola the main areas for which the Commission plans to table legislative proposals in the coming months. Ms von der Leyen stressed that there will only be a “limited number of new initiatives”, in order to prioritise ongoing legislative work.

Debate: Tuesday, 17 October
Procedure: Commission statement, no resolution
Applying EU law to fight the spread of illegal content and disinformation online

On Wednesday, MEPs will discuss with Council and Commission how to respond to the increase in violent, terrorist and false content circulating on social media.

Parliament wants to take stock of the implementation of the Digital Services Act, after the first 19 platforms and search engines that have to comply with its obligations since 25 August were named. Platforms including X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Tiktok and Instagram are now required to take concrete measures to assess and mitigate systemic risks related to the spread of disinformation or harmful content on their services. They need to act expeditiously to remove illegal content.

In the wake of the Hamas terrorist attacks against Israel on 7 October, Commissioner Thierry Breton urged X chief Elon Musk to take “proportionate and effective mitigation measures to tackle the risks to public security and civic discourse stemming from disinformation” and to “be in contact with the relevant law enforcement authorities and Europol”. X withdrew from the EU’s voluntary code of practice on disinformation earlier this year. Commissioner Breton gave Meta’s chief Mark Zuckerberg 24 hours to detail the measures the platform is taking to tackle illegal and fake content related to the Hamas terrorist attacks. Meta must also address deepfakes designed to influence voting results, in the context of upcoming EU member state elections and the 2024 European Parliament elections.

Companies that fail to comply with the DSA rules could face fines of up to 6% of their global turnover and could have their services suspended in the EU as a last resort.

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, without resolution

Debate: Wednesday 18 October

Further information
Digital Services: landmark rules adopted for a safer, open online environment (05.07.2022)
Digital Services Act (Commission fact page)
Digital Services Act - Q&A (European Commission)
EU’s Code of Practice on Disinformation
Supporting EU competitiveness and resilience in strategic sectors

The “Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform” (STEP) aims to boost digital, net-zero and biotechnologies, address labour and skill shortages, and support innovation.

STEP aims to better integrate several EU programmes and funds in order to channel up to EUR 160 billion into new investments, alongside cohesion policy incentives and the Recovery and Resilience Facility. The new platform should foster the growth of crucial technological value chains in the digital, net-zero, biotechnology sectors, for example, and address labour and skill shortages, support innovation, and enable EU industry to achieve the twin digital and net-zero transitions.

In their draft position for negotiations with the Council, MEPs call for an extra EUR 3 billion which would bring the STEP budget up to 13 billion euro in new money.

MEPs are also set to urge the Commission to conduct an interim evaluation by 2025, which would include either a proposal for an amended STEP or a new proposal for a fully-fledged European Sovereignty Fund.

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

Procedure Code: 2023/0199(COD)

Debate: Monday, 16 October

Vote: Tuesday, 17 October

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Further information
Press release on committee vote (09.10.2023)
Profile of rapporteur Christian Ehler (EPP, DE)
Profile of rapporteur José Manuel Fernandes (EPP, PT)
Procedure file
Legislative train schedule: Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (‘STEP’)

2024 EU budget: MEPs to adopt their position ahead of negotiations with Council

Parliament is set to vote on Wednesday for a budget that is better equipped to deal with the impact of the war in Ukraine and support SMEs, youth, and research.

In their draft position, which will be debated in plenary on Tuesday and put to a vote on Wednesday, Budget Committee MEPs have reinstated appropriations on all lines cut from the Commission’s proposal by the Council and aligned their stance with Parliament’s position on the proposed mid-term revision of the EU’s long-term budget.

In addition, MEPs demand significant financial reinforcements for Horizon Europe (research), Erasmus+, climate action, transport infrastructure, the EU neighbourhood and humanitarian aid.

The exact figures proposed for the different programmes are included in the draft resolution on the 2024 budget. More details on the position of the Committee on Budgets are available in the recent press release.

Next steps

The plenary vote will kick off three weeks of “conciliation” talks with the Council, with the aim of reaching a deal in time for next year’s budget to be voted on by Parliament and signed by its President before the end of 2023.

Debate: Tuesday, 17 October
Vote: Wednesday, 18 October
Procedure: Budgetary procedure

Procedure Code: 2023/0264(BUD)

Further information
Committee on Budget’s webpage on the 2024 budgetary procedure
Procedure file
Fact Sheets on the European Union - The budgetary procedure
How is the EU budget prepared? (EU Commission website)
Committee on Budgets
Rule of Law in Malta: six years after the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia

Parliament will take stock of the state of the rule of law in Malta and speak up for the safety and independence of journalists.

The debate on Wednesday takes place two days after the anniversary of the assassination of the Maltese journalist, blogger and anti-corruption activist who reported extensively on corruption, money laundering, organised crime, sale of citizenship and the Maltese government’s links to the Panama Papers. A vote on a resolution is scheduled for Thursday.

Find out more about how Parliament protects press freedom and defends journalists.

Background

Following harassment and threats, Daphne Caruana Galizia was murdered in a car bomb explosion on 16 October 2017. The outcry over the authorities’ handling of her murder investigation ultimately prompted the resignation of Prime Minister Joseph Muscat. Critical of failings in the investigation, in December 2019, MEPs called on the European Commission to take action. Since 2021, Parliament has been awarding the Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism every year on or around the anniversary of her assassination.

Debate: Wednesday 18 October

Vote: Thursday 19 October

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, with resolution

Further information

Media Freedom Act: MEPs tighten rules to protect journalists and media outlets (03.10.2023)
European Commission 2023 Rule of Law Report
MEPs assess Commission’s rule of law monitoring in the member states (30.03.2023)
Breaches of EU values: how the EU can act (infographic)
Free photos, video and audio material (press freedom in Malta)
Spyware: MEPs to call for a European response

In a debate with the Council and Commission on Tuesday afternoon, MEPs are expected to demand EU action in response to the proliferation of spyware.

In recommendations based on the findings of the year-long Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware in June 2023, MEPs emphasised the need for the EU to respond to the use of increasingly intrusive spyware in Europe.

According to recent reports by the European Investigative Collaborations (EIC) network, MEPs and other high-level policymakers have again been targeted by Predator spyware attacks. In Tuesday’s plenary debate, MEPs will highlight the lack of meaningful follow-up to the committee’s work, and urge the Commission and EU governments to take measures against inappropriate and disproportionate use of spyware.

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, no resolution

Debate: Tuesday 17 October

Further information

Press release: Spyware: MEPs call for full investigations and safeguards to prevent abuse (15.6.2023)
Free photos, video and audio materials: EP inquiry into spyware
Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to address MEPs

On Tuesday at 11.30, the Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan will hold a speech in the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Mr Pashinyan's visit takes place in the aftermath of Azerbaijan's military attack and recapture of the breakaway enclave Nagorno-Karabakh on 19 September, which forced over 100,000 ethnic Armenians living in the area to flee their homes.

In a resolution adopted on 5 October, MEPs strongly condemned the unjustified military offensive while highlighting that the Armenian exodus amounted to ethnic cleansing. They also called on the EU to thoroughly reassess its relations with Azerbaijan and, among other things, to suspend the current Memorandum of Understanding on a Strategic Partnership in the Field of Energy between the EU and Baku government.

Mr Pashinyan has been Prime Minister of Armenia since May 2018.

Debate: Tuesday, 17 October

Procedure: Formal sitting

Further information
European Parliament Research Service briefing: “Armenia and Azerbaijan: Between war and peace” (02.06.2023)
The European Parliament’s delegation for relations with South Caucasus
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Human trafficking: boosting law enforcement and the rights of victims

MEPs will be asked to endorse new proposals in plenary to make the fight against trafficking in human beings more effective, and to better protect its victims.

To boost the EU’s fight against human trafficking, Parliament’s draft mandate for negotiations with member states, adopted by the Women’s Rights and Civil Liberties committees, would expand the scope of current laws to include forced marriage, illegal adoption, surrogacy for reproductive exploitation and the exploitation of children in residential institutions. The proposals would also cover the online dimension of trafficking by including technology-assisted crimes, for example exploitation and advertising that happen via social media.

MEPs want to ensure a strong focus on the rights of victims and on vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities and children. To reduce the demand that fosters exploitation, Parliament’s draft position would also make it a crime to use services provided by a person who has been trafficked.

Procedure

At the opening of the session, EP President Metsola will announce the decision to start negotiations with the Council. MEPs will then have until the end of the following day to object to the mandate for negotiations; if one-tenth of them do so, there will be a vote during the same plenary session (on Thursday).

Procedure code: 2022/0426(COD)

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, 1st reading

Press conference: Wednesday 18 October 14:30
Further information

Draft report on the proposal to amend Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims
Press release after the committee vote (5.10.2023)
Steps of the procedure
Press statement - Surrogacy only criminalised in the context of trafficking under new proposals (11.10.2023)
Co-rapporteur for the Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Committee Eugenia Rodríguez Palop (The Left, Spain)
Co-rapporteur for the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee Malin Björk (The Left, Sweden)
EP Research Service Briefing: Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings (14.06.2023)
Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality
Debate and vote on new EU fisheries control rules to ensure traceability

All fishing activities by EU vessels will be tracked and all their catches will have to be reported electronically, under new legislation set to be adopted on Tuesday.

MEPs will debate on Monday, ahead of the final vote on Tuesday, on the overhaul of the current monitoring fisheries activities, already agreed with the Council. The new rules foresee the tracking of all fishing vessels (except small-scale coastal vessels under nine meters and within specific conditions until 2030), electronic reporting of all catches and digital traceability along the supply chain.

Boats that are 18 meters long or more, which pose a high risk of not complying with the rules, will have to carry remote electronic monitoring systems, including CCTV cameras, to ensure landing obligations are met. In case of serious infringements, sanctions will be determined based on the value of fishery products.

Stricter traceability to tackle Chinese illegal fishing

In a separate debate on Monday and vote on Tuesday, plenary will discuss how the EU can respond to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in international waters and ensure a more robust traceability system. MEPs want imported products to comply with the same rules as those applied to catches by EU fishers.

The draft text focuses on China, deploring that its authorities have not been transparent about how many vessels they have and have not shared information about the subsidies they receive. MEPs also denounce opaque agreements between China and third countries and warn that Chinese fishing fleet activities are depleting fisheries resources and putting food security at risk, particularly in West Africa.

Procedure code: 2018/0193 (COD) and 2023/2072 (INI)

Procedures: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement, and own-initiative report

Debates: Monday 16 October

Votes: Tuesday 17 October

Press conference: Tuesday, 17 October at 15.00 CEST, with rapporteur Clara Aguilera (S&D, Spain) on fisheries control rules
Further information

Draft report on fisheries control rules
Procedure (fisheries control)
Press release after committee vote (27.06.2023)
Profile of rapporteur Clara Aguilera (S&D, Spain)
Legislative train
EP Think tank: Revising the fisheries control system
Draft report on implications of Chinese fishing operations on EU fisheries and the way forward
Press release after the committee vote (20.09.2023)
Profile of rapporteur Pierre Karleskind (Renew, France)
Study requested by the PECH committee: Role and impact of China on world fisheries and aquaculture

EP Think Tank: Chinese distant water fishing fleet
Committee on Fisheries
Serbia and Kosovo must resume dialogue

On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a resolution on the situation in northern Kosovo, following the deadly events of 24 September.

In a plenary debate on Serbia-Kosovo relations and the situation in north Kosovo on 3 October, MEPs strongly condemned the latest violence and urged the two sides to return to the EU facilitated dialogue for the normalisation of relations. MEPs expect the perpetrators of the latest attacks to be brought to justice and for Serbia to cooperate in the investigation into the incident and to remove its troops from the Kosovo border.

On 24 September, one police officer and three attackers died in an attack by an armed gang against Kosovo police officers in the north of the country.

Procedure code: [2023/2880(RSP)]

Procedure: Non-legislative resolution

Debate: 3 October

Vote: Thursday, 19 October

Further information
European Parliament Research Service: Belgrade-Pristina dialogue: The rocky road towards a comprehensive normalisation agreement
Foreign Affairs Committee
Free photos, video and audio materials
MEPs concerned about political and institutional crisis in Montenegro

In a debate on Tuesday and a vote on Wednesday, MEPs are set to call on Montenegrin politicians to form a pro-European government as soon as possible.

Political tensions and polarisation have caused Montenegro’s EU accession process to stall, while substantial progress is needed in electoral and judicial reforms and the fight against organised crime and corruption, MEPs say in a report to be put to a vote on Wednesday.

MEPs point out that a lack of genuine political will from some political leaders to advance fundamental reforms and EU delays in delivering on some of its promises have led to malign external actors, in particular Russia and China, having increasing influence in the Western Balkans region.

Procedure: Own-initiative report

Debate: Tuesday 17 October

Vote: Wednesday 18 October

Further information
Procedure file: 2022 Report on Montenegro
EP Think Tank: 2022 report on Montenegro, 11.10.2023
Foreign Affairs Committee
Free photos, video and audio material
Parliament to debate citizens' initiative on a “Fur Free Europe”

On Thursday, MEPs will debate the European Citizens’ Initiative “Fur Free Europe” to ban the rearing and killing of animals exclusively for fur production in the EU.

The initiative calls for an EU ban on the keeping and killing of animals for the sole or main purpose of fur production. The organisers also seek to prohibit selling fur from these animals, as well as products containing this fur across the European Union.

The initiative “Fur Free Europe” collected 1,502,319 valid signatures from all EU countries. A public hearing in the Agricultural, Internal Market and Petitions committees was held on 12 October 2023.

Procedure Codes (2023/2869(RSP))

Debate: Thursday, 19 October

Procedure: plenary debate, no resolution

Further information
European Commission: Detail of the Initiative Fur Free Europe
Infographics: European Citizens’ Initiative
International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

On Tuesday morning, on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, MEPs will discuss with the Commission how to combat poverty in Europe.

According to Eurostat, 95.3 million people in the EU were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2022, which constitutes almost 22% of the EU population. MEPs are expected to call for increased action to support those living in poverty as well as for measures to eradicate poverty in Europe.

The recent sharp increase in energy prices due to Russian’s invasion of Ukraine has resulted in a rise in inflation and living costs in the EU. According to Eurostat, at least one in every three people living in a private household in the EU has difficulties making ends meet.

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, marked annually on 17 October, fosters dialogue and understanding for people living in poverty. It acknowledges the efforts and the struggles of people living in poverty and provides them with an opportunity to make their voices heard.

Background

The European Pillar of Social Rights, launched in November 2017, aims to build a strong social Europe and to boost the EU’s labour market and social protection systems. The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, published on 4 March 2021, sets out concrete initiatives to deliver on the EU’s Social Pillar, including targets on reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 million by 2030.

Debate: Tuesday 17 October

Procedure: Commission statement followed by one round of political group speakers, no resolution

Further information

EP Think Tank: At a glance: EU contribution to the fight against child poverty
International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (UN official site)
Digital visas to boost the security of the Schengen area

On Tuesday, MEPs will debate on a new law to digitalise Schengen visas, which will make them more secure and accessible. The vote is scheduled for Wednesday.

Following an agreement with the Council in June, the Parliament is set to approve a digitalised visa procedure for the Schengen free-movement area on Wednesday.

The new rules will reduce the costs of visa applications and streamline the procedure. All applications will be processed by a single online platform, which tells applicants which country will receive their application (in the case of multi-country trips).

The new cryptographically signed, digital Schengen visa will also make the visas more secure, as they will be harder to forge than counterfeit-prone physical stickers.

Debate: Tuesday 17 October
Vote: Wednesday 18 October
Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first-reading agreement

Further information
Draft report (digitalisation of the visa procedure)
Draft report (amending the Visa Sticker Regulation)
Procedure file
Rapporteur Matjaz Nemec (S&D, Slovenia)
Water scarcity: MEPs to debate how to ensure every European has access to water

On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will discuss water scarcity and structural investments for the access to water in the EU with the Council and Commission.

According to the Commission, in 2019 29% of EU territory and 38% of people in the EU were affected by water scarcity. The yearly cost of drought each year is estimated to be between €2bn-€9bn in the EU.

This summer’s droughts and floods across several regions in Europe have shown that Europe is facing increasing water-related challenges requiring coordinated action given the serious implications for European agriculture, energy, and water management.

Background

The EU Water Framework Directive, adopted in 2000, is the EU’s framework for water scarcity and drought. To help combat water shortages in the EU, on 5 October 2023 Parliament called for better reuse and treatment of urban wastewater in its position on the revision of the urban wastewater treatment directive. In 2020, Parliament also adopted the Water Reuse Regulation.

Procedure code: 2023/2894(RSP)

Debate: Tuesday 17 October 2023

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, no resolution

Further information

Procedure file
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, videos and audio material
Election of a Vice-President and a Quaestor

Following the departures from Parliament of Michal Šimečka (Renew, SK) and Christophe Hansen (EPP, LU), MEPs will vote on Wednesday to decide on their replacements.

The two MEPs left their seats following general elections in their respective countries. Based on Parliament's Rules of Procedure, a new Vice-President (VP) or Quaestor is elected to fill a vacancy in the existing order of precedence - so the MEPs to be elected next week will become Parliament's tenth VP and second Quaestor.

The President delegates specific duties to Parliament's 14 Vice-Presidents, who can replace her when necessary, including chairing plenary sittings. Quaestors are primarily responsible for administrative and financial matters directly concerning MEPs. MEPs aim to ensure that the composition of the Bureau (comprising the President and Vice-Presidents, with Quaestors participating in an advisory capacity) broadly reflects the numerical strength of the political groups in Parliament.

Vote: Wednesday 18 October

Procedure: election of EP Vice-Presidents and Quaestors

Further information
Rule 15 of the EP Rules of Procedure: Nominations and general provisions
The political bodies of the European Parliament
Free photos, video and audio material
Other topics on the agenda

- Situation of Ukrainian women refugees, including access to SRHR support - Council and Commission statements
- Appointment of a Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank, Vote Tuesday.
- Mental health at work, Oral Question
- New European innovation agenda, Oral Question
- Union Civil Protection Mechanism, Cerdas. Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading, vote Tuesday.
- Farm Sustainability Data Network, Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement, vote Tuesday.
- Presentation of the Court of Auditors’ annual report 2022, in the presence of Tony Murphy, President of the Court of Auditors, Wednesday.
- Generational renewal in the EU farms of the future, Carvalhais. Own-initiative report, debate and vote Thursday.
- Outcome of the SDGs Summit (18-19 September 2023, New York) – transformative and accelerated actions leading up to 2030 and beyond - Council and Commission statement
- Commission proposal for a Council recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions, Oral Question
- European measures to prevent and to fight the rise of organised crime, Question Time (Commission)
- Topical debate: True geopolitical Europe: Now, Wednesday