

Plenary sessions

04-05-2023 - 13:50
20230424BRI82027



Newsletter 8-11 May 2023 Strasbourg plenary session

“This is Europe” debate with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz

On Tuesday 9 May from 10.30 to 12.00, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will discuss with MEPs his views on Europe's challenges and future.

5

Stopping greenwashing: Parliament to adopt its position

On Thursday, MEPs will adopt their negotiating position on a directive to improve product labelling, make products last longer and end misleading claims.

6

Reform of the EU's economic governance rules

On Tuesday morning, MEPs, the Commission and the Council Presidency will discuss legislative proposals tabled last week to reform the EU's economic governance rules.

8

Farmers in the green transition: towards a resilient EU agriculture sector

On Wednesday from 9.00, MEPs will debate the role of farmers in the green transition and how to help the agriculture sector more effectively.

9

Reducing methane emissions from the energy sector

MEPs will debate on Monday and vote on Tuesday on their position on a new law to reduce energy sector methane emissions.

10

Violence against women: MEPs to green light Istanbul Convention ratification

The European Union is set to finally ratify the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women, in line with a 2021 Court of Justice opinion.

11

Repaying the recovery plan: EU budget and key programmes under pressure

MEPs will debate and vote on a resolution warning about the impact of rising recovery borrowing costs on next year's EU budget, putting flagship EU programmes at risk.

12

EN

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

1 | 29

Discharge: MEPs to vote on whether to sign off EU budget for 2021

On Wednesday, Parliament will decide whether to approve how the EU's institutions implemented the EU budget in 2021, the first year of EU recovery payments.

14

Sudan: MEPs concerned about the humanitarian and security situation

MEPs will debate how to avoid an escalation in hostilities that could have far-reaching implications for the East Africa region.

16

MEPs to take stock of the Commission's anti-corruption proposals

In a debate with the Commission, Parliament will assess the newly proposed "stronger rules to fight corruption in the EU and worldwide".

17

EU enlargement: MEPs to assess progress by Serbia and Kosovo

Plenary will discuss unsatisfactory developments in accession negotiations with Serbia, and Kosovo's work to secure candidate country status.

18

President of Portugal Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa to address Parliament

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa will address the Plenary at a formal sitting on Wednesday at 11.30 and will hold a press point with EP President Metsola at 11.20.

19

New measures to support and increase ammunition production in the EU

On Monday, the Commission will present to the plenary its proposal to help European industry increase its ammunition and missile production capacity.

20

Renewal of trade support measures for Ukraine and debate on Solidarity Lanes

MEPs will vote to suspend EU import duties on Ukrainian exports of agricultural products for another year and debate the impact of grain imports from Ukraine on EU prices.

21

MEPs to approve €145 million in additional assistance to Moldova

On Tuesday, Parliament will vote to top up macro-financial aid for Moldova by up to €145 million to help the country cover part of its funding needs in 2023.

23

Fruit, vegetables and milk in schools: MEPs set to call for more funds

In a debate on Monday and a vote on Tuesday, MEPs are expected to ask to improve the uptake and functioning of the EU school scheme for fruit, vegetables and milk.

24

EU-UK relations: MEPs to vote on three laws to implement the Windsor Framework

On Tuesday, Parliament is set to endorse legislation addressing challenges in Northern Ireland and to protect the integrity of the EU Single Market. 25

European Citizens Initiative: “Stop finning- stop the trade”

On Thursday, the plenary will debate a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) calling for the end of trade in shark and ray fins in the EU. 26

Resolutions on human rights and democracy

Parliament will hold urgent debates on the following human rights, democracy and rule of law topics on Wednesday afternoon, followed by votes on Thursday. 27

Vote on EU job seeker's aid worth €1.2 million for 303 dismissed workers in Spain

MEPs will vote on €1.2 million in EU aid for 303 former employees of aluminium producer Alu Ibérica in the Galicia region in Spain after the company shut down. 28

Other topics on the agenda

Other topics on the agenda 29

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2023-05-08>

Newsletter - 8-11 May 2023 - Strasbourg plenary session

Further information

[Draft agenda](#)

[Follow the plenary live](#)

[Press conferences and other events](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre](#)

[EP Newshub](#)

Contacts

Estefanía NARRILLOS

Press Officer

☎ (+32) 2 28 31324 (BXL)

☎ (+33) 3 881 73661 (STR)

📱 (+32) 498 98 39 85

✉ estefania.narrillos@europarl.europa.eu

Federico DE GIROLAMO

Press Officer / Editorial Coordinator

☎ (+32) 2 28 31389 (BXL)

☎ (+33) 3 881 72850 (STR)

📱 (+32) 498 98 35 91

✉ federico.degirolamo@europarl.europa.eu

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

“This is Europe” debate with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz

On Tuesday 9 May from 10.30 to 12.00, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will discuss with MEPs his views on Europe’s challenges and future.

This will be the tenth “This is Europe” plenary debate, following [Luxembourg's Prime Minister Xavier Bettel](#) on 19 April 2023, [Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda](#) on 14 March 2023, and debates in 2022 with [Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas](#), [Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi](#), [Ireland's Taoiseach Micheál Martin](#), [Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković](#), [Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis](#), [Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin](#) and [Slovenian Prime Minister Robert Golob](#).

Born in 1958, Olaf Scholz became Chancellor in 2021, the fourth SPD politician to hold the position. Before that, he was Vice Chancellor and Finance Minister from 2018 to 2021 and First Mayor of Hamburg from 2011 to 2018. He has also served as Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Interior Senator of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, and Deputy Chair of the SPD.

Debate: Tuesday 9 May

Further information

[Olaf Scholz's CV](#)

[Free multimedia material on “This is Europe” debates](#)

Stopping greenwashing: Parliament to adopt its position

On Thursday, MEPs will adopt their negotiating position on a directive to improve product labelling, make products last longer and end misleading claims.

The Internal Market Committee's draft text would ban the use of general environmental claims like "environmentally friendly", "natural", "biodegradable", "climate neutral" or "eco" if these do not come with detailed evidence. To simplify product information, only sustainability labels based on official certification schemes or established by public authorities should be allowed. MEPs also want any additional voluntary extension of a guarantee offered by producers to be indicated on a product in a harmonised way.

To make products last longer, they want to ban the introduction of design features that limit a product's durability and lead to it malfunctioning prematurely. All goods should be designed in a way that other companies could also make consumables, spare parts or accessories (for example chargers or ink cartridges) for them, MEPs say. If a product cannot be repaired, buyers would have to be informed of this and of any other repair restrictions before they buy it.

Background

The proposed directive is part of the first circular economy package, along with the [ecodesign regulation](#), [construction products regulation](#) and an own-initiative report on an [EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles](#). It paves the way for a new [green claims directive](#) that will specify further the conditions.

Procedure Code: 2022/0092(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Debate: Tuesday 9 May

Vote: Thursday 11 May

Further information

[Draft report on empowering consumers for the green transition](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Rapporteur Biljana BORZAN \(S&D, HR\)](#)

[Press release on the committee vote \(28.03.2023\)](#)

[European Parliament's in depth analysis on sustainable consumption and consumer protection legislation](#)

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

Reform of the EU's economic governance rules

On Tuesday morning, MEPs, the Commission and the Council Presidency will discuss legislative proposals tabled last week to reform the EU's economic governance rules.

A reform of the EU's fiscal rules, most importantly to improve debt sustainability and spur growth, has long been on the cards but was put on ice at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the health crisis over, and the temporary suspension of some of the fiscal rules set to expire in January, the Commission has now tabled its [legislative proposals](#).

During the debate, MEPs will outline their priorities concerning this reform, building on the [resolution](#) adopted in July 2021.

Background

The proposed changes consist of a package of three legislative texts dealing with the prevention of excessive deficit and debt build-ups, the correction of such excessive build-ups, and improving budgetary planning and the national ownership of these plans. The aim is for Council and the European Parliament to reach a deal by the end of the year.

Debate: Tuesday 9 May

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, no resolution

Further information

[Research from the EP's services on the EU's economic governance framework](#)
[Free photos, video and audio material](#)

Farmers in the green transition: towards a resilient EU agriculture sector

On Wednesday from 9.00, MEPs will debate the role of farmers in the green transition and how to help the agriculture sector more effectively.

During the debate with the Commission and the Swedish Presidency, MEPs are likely to stress the need to support EU farmers in adapting to greener agricultural practices and to ensure food security in Europe, especially in the light of the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine, rising prices and the recent supply chain disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Debate: Wednesday, 10 May

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, no resolution

Further information

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

Reducing methane emissions from the energy sector

MEPs will debate on Monday and vote on Tuesday on their position on a new law to reduce energy sector methane emissions.

On 26 April, Parliament's Environment and Industry committees adopted their position on the [first piece of EU-wide legislation aimed at cutting methane emissions](#) originating in the energy sector. The text strengthens obligations to detect and repair methane leaks and MEPs want imported coal, gas and oil to be covered by the new legislation as of 2026. They also suggest a binding 2030 reduction target for EU methane emissions for all relevant sectors by the end of 2025.

Background

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas and is responsible for approximately one third of current global warming. It comes from a wide range of sectors, including agriculture, waste and energy - responsible respectively for 53%, 26% and 19% of EU methane emissions according to the European Environment Agency. Today methane emissions targets are covered in the EU's [Effort Sharing Regulation](#).

Procedure code: 2021/0423(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure

Debate: Monday 8 May 2023

Vote: Tuesday 9 May 2023

Further information

[Steps of the procedure](#)

[EP press: Methane: MEPs want binding target to bring double win for climate and health \(21.10.2021\)](#)

[EP Research briefing: Reducing methane emissions: A new EU strategy to address global warming](#)

[Global methane pledge](#)

[EP Multimedia service: Free photos, videos and audio material](#)

Violence against women: MEPs to green light Istanbul Convention ratification

The European Union is set to finally ratify the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women, in line with a 2021 Court of Justice opinion.

Six years after the EU signed the Convention - the first legally binding international instrument for preventing and combating violence against women and girls - and despite [Parliament's multiple calls to this end](#), it has still not ratified it because of the refusal of a few member states. However, the EU [Court of Justice's opinion of 6 October 2021](#) confirmed that the European Union can ratify the Istanbul Convention even without having the agreement of all member states. The Council has now requested Parliament's consent to conclude the process. MEPs will debate the matter on Tuesday and vote on Wednesday.

The EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention does not exempt member states from ratifying it themselves, MEPs have repeatedly said, urging the remaining six countries - Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia - to ratify the Convention without delay.

Procedure Code: 2016/0062A(NLE)

Procedure: consent

Debate: Tuesday 9 May

Vote: Wednesday 10 May

Further information

[Steps of the procedure](#)

[Profile of FEMM rapporteur Arba Kokalari \(EPP, Sweden\)](#)

[Profile of LIBE rapporteur Łukasz Kohut \(S&D, Poland\)](#)

[EP press release Violence against women: MEPs demand the EU ratify the Istanbul Convention \(15.02.2023\)](#)

[European Parliament Think Tank - At a glance - EU accession to the Istanbul Convention \(02.05.2023\)](#)

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

Repaying the recovery plan: EU budget and key programmes under pressure

MEPs will debate and vote on a resolution warning about the impact of rising recovery borrowing costs on next year's EU budget, putting flagship EU programmes at risk.

MEPs are “deeply concerned that”, if action is not taken, “the increasing [European Union Recovery Instrument](#) (EURI) borrowing costs are likely to limit severely the EU budget’s ability to finance the Union’s priorities and policies and to respond to emerging needs”, says the [draft text](#) to be discussed in plenary. In view of rising interest rates and high inflation, they demand an urgent reform of EU finances.

The resolution will be debated on Monday and put to the vote on Wednesday.

[More information in the recent press release](#)

EU revenue: a new start for EU finances

In a separate [resolution](#) also to be debated on Monday and put to a vote on Wednesday, MEPs assess the revenue side of the EU budget and advocate several new “own resources” - streams of income for the EU budget - ahead of a Commission proposal expected later this year. MEPs are “highly worried” that the amounts generated by the new own resources will not be sufficient to cover all “[Next Generation EU](#)” (NGEU) recovery repayments and borrowing costs, estimated to be at least €15 billion per year until 2058 on average.

[More information in the recent press release](#)

Procedure codes: 2023/2037(BUI), 2022/2172(INI)

Debates: Monday, 8 May

Votes: Wednesday, 10 May

Procedure: Non-legislative initiative reports

Further information

Procedure file - "Impact on the 2024 EU budget of increasing European Union Recovery Instrument borrowing costs"

Procedure file - "REPORT on own resources: a new start for EU finances, a new start for Europe"

EP Think Tank - "System of own resources of the EU" (16.11.2022)

Commission press release - "The Commission proposes the next generation of EU own resources" (22.12.2021)

Roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources

Fact Sheets on the European Union: The Union's revenue

https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/2021-2027/revenue/own-resources_en

Discharge: MEPs to vote on whether to sign off EU budget for 2021

On Wednesday, Parliament will decide whether to approve how the EU's institutions implemented the EU budget in 2021, the first year of EU recovery payments.

Almost all of the EU's expenditure is managed by the European Commission. In 2021, the EU budget increased by roughly 30% compared to 2020, mainly because of the money spent from the Next Generation EU programme to fight the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MEPs are expected to give a positive assessment on the Commission's performance, while stating their concerns on the limited chances they have to check the use of recovery funding and asking that EU countries who receive the EU money must protect the rule of law. In the [draft resolution](#), MEPs also request more assurances that EU funds only finance organisations that strictly respect EU values. Among the requests to be discussed, some call for a new NGO Regulation that includes conditions for receiving EU funds and obligations to report sources of funding and activities performed on behalf of foreign actors.

In the votes of [22 March](#) and [28 February](#), the Budgetary Control Committee recommended to Parliament that it should grant discharge to all other EU institutions, bodies and agencies, except for the European Council, which is likely to receive a postponement for the 13th year in a row.

The discharge process

The Parliament has the power of political oversight on how the EU budget is used. Every year it checks whether EU taxpayers' money has been used in compliance with the relevant rules and the principles of sound financial management.

The decision on whether to grant discharge for the execution of the EU budget is made by taking into account a non-binding recommendation by the Council and the [annual findings by the EU's independent external auditor](#) – the European Court of Auditors.

Procedure Code: [\(2022/2081\(DEC\)\)](#) (Commission's discharge)

Procedure: Discharge procedure

Debate: Tuesday, 9 May

Vote: Wednesday, 10 May

Press conference: Wednesday 10 May 14.00 tbc

Further information

[Draft decision and resolution on Commission's discharge for the financial year 2021](#)

[Procedure file: 2021 discharge: General budget of the EU - Commission](#)

[European Parliament Research Service: Discharge procedure for the EU Budget: Political scrutiny of budgetary implementation](#)

[Press release on committee vote: Recovery and resilience plans: Commission must tighten checks and oversight \(22-03-2023\)](#)

[Co-rapporteur Jeroen Lenaers \(EPP, NL\)](#)

[Co-rapporteur Monika Hohlmeier \(EPP, DE\)](#)

[Draft discharge reports for other institutions and bodies for the financial year 2021](#)

Sudan: MEPs concerned about the humanitarian and security situation

MEPs will debate how to avoid an escalation in hostilities that could have far-reaching implications for the East Africa region.

On Tuesday, Parliament will discuss with the Council and the Commission the humanitarian and security situation in Sudan, where clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have been ongoing for almost three weeks, despite a series of temporary ceasefires.

Most European states have evacuated their nationals and the EU has called on all actors to enable and facilitate rapid and unhindered humanitarian access, to protect civilians and ensure the safety of humanitarian workers.

Before the violent outbreaks, Sudan was already facing a dire situation, with one third of the Sudanese population -almost 16 million people- dependent on humanitarian aid to meet their basic needs.

Procedure: own-initiative reports

Debate: Tuesday, 9 May

Further information

[EP research Centre: Horn of Africa](#)

[Foreign Affairs Committee](#)

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

MEPs to take stock of the Commission's anti-corruption proposals

In a debate with the Commission, Parliament will assess the newly proposed “stronger rules to fight corruption in the EU and worldwide”.

During the [State of the European Union debate in Strasbourg in September 2022](#), Commission President Ursula von der Leyen pledged to deliver proposals to tackle corruption. Following the Commission's [announcement on 3 May 2023](#), it is now up to MEPs, as [EU co-legislator](#), to assess these proposals and push for their optimal implementation to ensure [political oversight and democratic accountability](#) in the EU.

The Commission's proposal aims to enhance existing frameworks, proactively tackle corruption at the policy-making level, support EU countries in their efforts and leverage the [annual rule of law report](#). The Commission has also proposed new and strengthened rules on criminal offences, harmonised penalties across the member states, and a dedicated Common Foreign and Security Policy sanctions regime to target corruption worldwide.

Debate: Wednesday 10 May

Procedure: Commission statement, no resolution

Further information

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

EU enlargement: MEPs to assess progress by Serbia and Kosovo

Plenary will discuss unsatisfactory developments in accession negotiations with Serbia, and Kosovo's work to secure candidate country status.

In a debate on Tuesday, MEPs are expected to call on Serbia to align with EU sanctions against Russia and to welcome Kosovo's application for EU membership. They will vote on two reports summarising the Parliament's views in plenary on Wednesday.

With the normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo as a priority and a precondition for both countries' EU accession, MEPs will urge Serbia and Kosovo to engage in the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue to make progress on this.

Foreign interference and disinformation campaigns stemming from Russia and China, particularly strong in EU accession countries, are also likely to be raised in the debate.

After the plenary vote, Parliament's rapporteurs for Serbia, [Vladimír Bilčík](#) (EPP, Slovakia), and Kosovo, [Viola von Cramon-Taubadel](#) (The Greens/EFA, Germany), will hold a joint press conference in Strasbourg at 14.30.

Procedure Code: Serbia 2022/2204(INI), Kosovo 2022/2201 (INI)

Procedure: own-initiative reports

Debate: Tuesday, 9 May

Vote: Wednesday, 10 May

Press conference: Wednesday 10 May at 14.30, with MEP Vladimír Bilčík (rapporteur for Serbia) and MEP Viola von Cramon-Taubadel (rapporteur for Kosovo)

Further information

[Draft reports will be available here](#)

[Press Release: MEPs call for coordinated EU strategy against foreign interference](#)

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

[Draft 2022 report on Serbia](#)

[Draft 2022 report on Kosovo](#)

[EP Research Service: 2022 Serbia Report](#)

[EP Research Service: 2022 Kosovo Report](#)

President of Portugal Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa to address Parliament

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa will address the Plenary at a formal sitting on Wednesday at 11.30 and will hold a press point with EP President Metsola at 11.20.

Presidents Metsola and Rebelo de Sousa will also have a bilateral meeting before his address.

Born in Lisbon in 1948, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa was elected President of the Republic in January 2016 and re-elected five years later in the first round with 60.67% of the votes. He was a tenured professor at Lisbon University's Faculty of Law and a political commentator on TSF radio, as well as for TV stations RTP and TVI. At the beginning of his career, he was a journalist for the weekly newspapers "Semanário" and "Expresso", which he helped set up.

Speech: Wednesday, 10 May, 11.30

Procedure: Formal sitting

Press point with EP President Roberta Metsola, 11.20

Further information

[Biography of the President of Portugal Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa](#)
[EP Multimedia Centre: Free photos, videos and audio material](#)

New measures to support and increase ammunition production in the EU

On Monday, the Commission will present to the plenary its proposal to help European industry increase its ammunition and missile production capacity.

In order to respond to the increased need for ammunition and missiles due to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the [Council agreed on 20 March on a three-track approach](#). First, EU member states are encouraged to transfer ammunition from their stocks to Ukraine immediately. They will also have the option to jointly purchase ammunition to replenish their stocks. Finally, the EU defence industry should be able to produce more ammunition and missiles, and faster.

Under the [Commission's proposal](#), the Act in Support of Ammunition Production (ASAP) will have a budget of €500 million in current prices. The Commission is encouraging the co-legislators to adopt the proposal by the end of June.

Debate: Monday 8 May

Procedure: Commission statement, without resolution

Further information

[Factsheet - Act in Support of Ammunition Production \(ASAP\)](#)

Renewal of trade support measures for Ukraine and debate on Solidarity Lanes

MEPs will vote to suspend EU import duties on Ukrainian exports of agricultural products for another year and debate the impact of grain imports from Ukraine on EU prices.

The current measures will expire on 5 June 2023. Under the new [proposal](#), the suspension of import duties, [anti-dumping duties](#) and [safeguards](#) on Ukrainian exports to the European Union will be prolonged for another year, against the background of Russia's war of aggression that is hampering Ukraine's ability to trade with the rest of the world.

The suspension of tariffs applies to fruits and vegetables subject to the [entry price system](#), as well as agricultural products and processed agricultural products subject to [tariff-rate quotas](#). Industrial products are subject to zero duties since 1 January 2023 under the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, so they are not included in the new proposal.

Solidarity Lanes for Ukrainian cereals

In a separate debate on Wednesday afternoon, MEPs will request details about [new measures](#) that the Commission has adopted to alleviate the pressure on farmers in states bordering Ukraine. These states have been facing pressure on grain prices due to imports through Solidarity Lanes open for Ukrainian agricultural products. Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia banned the entry of Ukrainian grain and food products into their respective markets in April.

The debate follows a [letter](#) sent by the Agriculture Committee on 28 April requesting "to improve the functioning of the Solidarity Lanes, so that Ukrainian agricultural products are actually re-exported to third countries or the member states that need them".

Vote (import duty) Tuesday 9 May

Debate (Ukrainian cereals on the European market): Wednesday, 10 May

Procedure (import duties): Ordinary legislative procedure

Procedure (Ukrainian cereals on the European market): Council and Commission statements

Further information

[Press release following the vote in the Committee on International Trade](#)

[Steps of the procedure](#)

[EU trade relations with Ukraine \(Commission web page\)](#)

[Commission proposes to renew trade benefits for Ukraine for a year \(Commission press release\)](#)

[Debate of the Agriculture Committee with Markian Dmytrasevych, Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine \(24.04.2023\)](#)

[“EU stands with Ukraine” website](#)

[EU measures in solidarity with Ukraine \(European Commission\)](#)

MEPs to approve €145 million in additional assistance to Moldova

On Tuesday, Parliament will vote to top up macro-financial aid for Moldova by up to €145 million to help the country cover part of its funding needs in 2023.

The support, €45 million in grants and up to €100 million in loans, would be disbursed in two instalments planned for the third and fourth quarters of 2023, provided certain policy conditions are met. These include justice system reforms, ensuring the rule of law and the fight against corruption, and good progress in implementing an [International Monetary Fund](#) (IMF) macroeconomic programme.

As a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Moldovan economy shrunk, and the uncertain economic climate has negatively affected investment and trade in the country. The energy crisis and a fall in household consumption and investment has put additional pressure on Moldova's public finances.

Once the Council of the EU has approved the support, it will be published in the Official Journal of the EU and apply on the day following its publication.

Further information

[Press release following the vote in the Committee on International Trade](#)

[Steps of the procedure](#)

[“EU-Moldova: Commission proposes to increase Macro-financial Assistance for Moldova by up to €145 million” \(Commission press release\)](#)

Fruit, vegetables and milk in schools: MEPs set to call for more funds

In a debate on Monday and a vote on Tuesday, MEPs are expected to ask to improve the uptake and functioning of the EU school scheme for fruit, vegetables and milk.

Parliament will discuss and vote on a draft resolution calling for more funds for the EU school scheme for fruit, vegetables and milk and for the distribution of unprocessed, organic and local products.

The draft text also urges for less bureaucracy, longer contracts for schools and easier procurement procedures as well as for member states to invest at least 10% of their yearly budget allocated to the school scheme in nutrition education.

Background

The EU school scheme funds the distribution of fruit, vegetables and milk to schools, and educational and information measures about healthy nutrition habits. The Parliament's own initiative report scrutinises the implementation of the scheme from 2017 to 2022.

Procedure Codes (2021/2205(INI))

Procedure: Own-initiative

Debate: Monday 8 May

Vote: Tuesday 9 May

Further information

[Draft report](#)

[Press release on vote in the Agriculture Committee \(22.03.2023\)](#)

[EP rapporteur: Carmen Avram \(S&D, RO\)](#)

[EP Research Service: Implementation of the EU school scheme for fruit, vegetables and milk products: A mid-term review](#)

[European Commission: School scheme explained](#)

EU-UK relations: MEPs to vote on three laws to implement the Windsor Framework

On Tuesday, Parliament is set to endorse legislation addressing challenges in Northern Ireland and to protect the integrity of the EU Single Market.

On 27 February, the European Commission and the Government of the United Kingdom (UK) reached a political agreement in principle on the [Windsor Framework](#). This constitutes a comprehensive set of joint solutions to address the practical challenges stemming from Brexit in Northern Ireland.

MEPs will vote on Tuesday on three draft laws to implement the political agreement with the UK.

Food, seed potatoes and plants for planting and agricultural machinery

The EU and UK have agreed on new and simplified rules and procedures when certain agri-food retail goods enter Northern Ireland from Great Britain where the goods are destined for final consumption in Northern Ireland.

Medicinal products for human use

The new arrangement will ensure that all medicines (generic and novel) will now be permanently available at the same time under the same conditions across the UK in accordance with UK rules and UK authorisation procedures only.

Steel products

Certain steel products subject to tariff rate quotas brought from Great Britain to Northern Ireland will no longer be subject to the 25% tariff linked to EU safeguard measures, to ensure these transfers are economically viable.

Procedure code: 2023/0062(COD), 2023/0063(COD), 2023/0064(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure

Vote: Tuesday 9 May 2023

Further information

[Steps of the procedure \(retail goods, plants for planting, seed potatoes, machinery, ...\)](#)

[Steps of the procedure \(medicinal products for human use\)](#)

[Steps of the procedure \(tariff rate quotas and other import quotas\)](#)

[EP Multimedia service: Free photos, videos and audio material](#)

European Citizens Initiative: “Stop finning- stop the trade”

On Thursday, the plenary will debate a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) calling for the end of trade in shark and ray fins in the EU.

The [European Citizens' Initiative “Stop Finning - Stop the Trade”](#) gathered the support of over 1.1 million signatures with the minimum threshold reached in 15 member states.

The proponents call on the Commission to propose measures to ban the trade of shark and ray fins in the EU, including the import, export and transit of fins, unless naturally attached to the animal's body. In particular, they ask that the scope of [EU Regulation n° 605/2013](#) on removing fins from sharks on board vessels be extended to cover also the trade in fins.

The debate follows the [public hearing](#) held by the Committee of Fisheries, in association with the Environment and Petitions committees, on 27 March 2023.

Debate: Thursday, 11 May, 9.00

Procedure: Debate on a citizens' initiative

Further information

[Petition “Stop finning - stop the trade”](#)

[EP Research briefing: European Citizens' Initiative in defence of sharks and rays](#)

[ECI website: Stop finning - stop the trade](#)

[PECH committee web page: public hearing](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: fotos and video of the public hearing](#)

Resolutions on human rights and democracy

Parliament will hold urgent debates on the following human rights, democracy and rule of law topics on Wednesday afternoon, followed by votes on Thursday.

- Media freedom and freedom of expression in Algeria, the case of journalist Ihsane El-Kadi;
- Belarus: the inhumane treatment and hospitalisation of prominent opposition leader Viktor Babaryka;
- Myanmar, notably the dissolution of democratic political parties.

Debate: Wednesday 10 May

Vote: Thursday 11 May

Procedure: non-legislative resolutions

Further information

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

Vote on EU job seeker's aid worth €1.2 million for 303 dismissed workers in Spain

MEPs will vote on €1.2 million in EU aid for 303 former employees of aluminium producer Alu Ibérica in the Galicia region in Spain after the company shut down.

Parliament will vote on Tuesday on Spain's request for support from the [European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers](#) (EGF) following Alu Ibérica's bankruptcy due to increased energy and raw material prices. The funding should help the dismissed workers find new jobs through tailored guidance and advice, vocational training and job-matching.

The total estimated cost of these measures is about €1.5 million, of which the EGF will cover 85% (€1 275 000). The Galicia Region in Spain will finance the remaining 15% (€225 000).

[More information in the recent press release](#)

Procedure Code: 2023/0068(BUD)

Procedure: Budgetary

Vote: Tuesday 9 May

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Commission press release and link to proposal](#)

Other topics on the agenda

Other topics on the agenda

- Roadmap on a Social Europe: two years after Porto - *Council and Commission statements, with resolution, debate Tuesday, vote Wednesday*
- Externalising asylum applications and making funding to third countries conditional on the implementation of return agreements, *topical debate, Wednesday*
- Adequacy of the protection afforded by the EU-U.S. Data Privacy Framework – Council and Commission statements, *with resolution, debate Wednesday, vote Thursday*
- Start of the European Year of skills - Council and Commission statements, no resolution, debate Tuesday
- Fighting cyberbullying of young people across the EU - Commission statement, no resolution, debate Wednesday
- New Oil Drilling in Alaska – impact on the global climate crisis and the rights of indigenous peoples - Commission statement, no resolution, debate Wednesday
- Joint debate on oceans, biodiversity and fisheries: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries, Agreement of the IGC on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (High Seas Treaty) – Commission statements, no resolution, debate Thursday
- Towards a strong and sustainable EU algae sector – Oral question to the Commission, no resolution, debate Thursday
- Prohibiting chick and duckling killing in EU law – Oral question to the Commission, no resolution, debate Thursday