State of the European Union: debate with Ursula von der Leyen

At 9.00 on Wednesday, Commission President von der Leyen will give her final State of the European Union address before the European elections, followed by a discussion with MEPs.

MEPs to vote on plans to boost the use of renewable energy

Parliament is set to adopt new legislation to increase the use of renewable energy in line with the EU's Green Deal and REPowerEU initiatives.

MEPs to debate Ukrainian grain exports

On Tuesday, MEPs will debate with the Commission the impact of Ukrainian grain exports on EU farmers after Russia's withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

MEPs set to endorse the joint procurement of defence products

MEPs will debate on Monday and vote on Tuesday on new rules to incentivise EU countries to jointly procure defence products and support the EU's defence industry.

Iran: one year after the murder of Jina Mahsa Amini

On Tuesday, MEPs will discuss the situation in Iran and mark Amini's death that sparked months of mass protests in the country.

Vote on new Commissioner-designate Iliana Ivanova

Following a positive evaluation by the relevant committees and Parliament's Conference of Presidents, MEPs will vote on the appointment of Iliana Ivanova as Commissioner.

Coups in Africa: MEPs to take stock of developments

On Tuesday, MEPs will quiz EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell on the string of coups d'états and other recent and worrisome developments in West and Central Africa.

Critical raw materials: plans to secure EU's own supply and autonomy
MEPs will vote on Thursday on plans to boost the supply of strategic raw materials, crucial to secure the EU's transition towards a sustainable, digital and autonomous future.

EU-Tunisia: MEPs to quiz Council and Commission over migration deal
Plenary will discuss on Tuesday morning the strengthening of EU cooperation with Tunisia on migration.

Air pollution: Parliament to adopt its position on improving EU air quality
MEPs will debate on Tuesday and vote on Wednesday on new rules to improve EU air quality for a cleaner and healthier environment.

Belarus: MEPs alarmed by Russia's subjugation of Belarus as a satellite state
MEPs are set to call on the Belarusian regime to release all political prisoners, while expressing great concern over the country's subordination to Moscow.

Prostitution in the EU: common measures needed, MEPs set to say
In a report to be debated on Wednesday and put to a vote on Thursday, MEPs are expected to call for EU guidelines to guarantee the fundamental rights of those in prostitution.

MEPs: EU and Türkiye must find realistic framework for their relationship
Türkiye's EU accession process cannot resume under the current circumstances and new ways to cooperate should be explored, MEPs are expected to say.

Parliament to voice concern about recent extreme weather events
On Tuesday, MEPs will debate with the Council and Commission on strengthening protection measures against extreme heatwaves, floods and forest fires.

Fit for 55: jet fuel mix in EU airports will have to be 70% green by 2050
MEPs are set to approve new sustainable aviation fuels rules setting the minimum share of greener jet fuels to be made available at EU airports.

Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya to address MEPs
On Wednesday at 12.30, exiled Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya will speak in the European Parliament's hemicycle in Strasbourg.

MEPs to discuss violence and discrimination in sports after Women's World Cup
After the final of the Women's Football World Cup was marred by harassment, MEPs will quiz the Commission on how to counter violence and discrimination in sports.

EU budget 2024: Council's cuts “difficult to comprehend”
In a debate on Wednesday on Council's position on next year's EU budget, MEPs are set to slam member states' approach to EU funding.
Transparency, integrity and accountability in Parliament: vote on improved rules
MEPs will vote on a revision of Parliament’s internal rules, prompted by the President’s 14-point reform plan addressing allegations of corruption.

Better safety and quality standards for substances of human origin
MEPs are expected to adopt new measures to better protect citizens who donate blood, tissues or cells, or are treated with these substances.

Other topics on the agenda
Other topics on the agenda

MEPs to vote on a new Slovak candidate for the Court of Auditors
On Wednesday, Parliament will vote on the nomination of Katarína Kaszasová to the European Court of Auditors.

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, and will vote on them on Thursday.

Improving the EU’s surface and groundwater quality
MEPs will debate Monday and vote on Tuesday on updated rules to protect groundwater and surface waters from pollution through better monitoring and control of water pollutants.

MEPs set to approve new rules to protect EU crafts
Parliament will vote on new measures to protect geographical indications of EU crafts and industrial products.

MEPs set to adopt new rules protecting consumers from taking on too much debt
Following a debate on Monday, Parliament will hold its final vote on measures shielding consumers from credit card debt, overdrafts and unsuitable loans, on Tuesday.

Parliament set to adopt stance on planned EU-US Critical Minerals Agreement
MEPs will discuss on Wednesday and and vote on Thursday on a resolution about a possible EU-US agreement to strengthen international critical minerals supply chains.

Newsletter - 11-14 September 2023 - Strasbourg plenary session

Further information
Draft agenda
Follow the plenary live
Press conferences and other events
EP Multimedia Centre
EP Newshub

Contacts

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

Estefanía NARRILLOS
Press Officer
(+32) 2 28 31324 (BXL)
(+33) 3 881 73661 (STR)
(+32) 498 98 39 85
estefania.narrillos@europarl.europa.eu

Natalie Kate KONTOULIS
Press Officer
(+32) 2 28 43562 (BXL)
(+32) 470 88 37 82
natalie.kontoulis@europarl.europa.eu

Press Service, Directorate General for Communication
European Parliament - Spokesperson: Jaume Duch Guillot
Press switchboard number (32-2) 28 33000
State of the European Union: debate with Ursula von der Leyen

At 9.00 on Wednesday, Commission President von der Leyen will give her final State of the European Union address before the European elections, followed by a discussion with MEPs.

Nine months before the next European Parliament elections on 6 - 9 June, President Ursula von der Leyen will outline her Commission’s priorities from now until the end of its mandate. She is expected to focus on a stronger and more resilient European Union, on the EU’s continued support for Ukraine in its war against Russia’s aggression, on energy security and EU energy independence, the EU’s twin green and digital transitions, and on protecting core EU values.

In their reactions, MEPs will assess the Commission’s work and its plans for the year ahead, alongside presenting their own priorities. The annual State of the Union debate allows MEPs to scrutinise the European Commission’s work and contribute to setting the EU’s policy direction.

Background

The State of the European Union debate is a key moment of accountability for the European Commission to the EU’s democratically elected representatives, fostering a more transparent and democratic Union.

Debate: Wednesday, 13 September

Further information
Commission webpage
Free photos, video and audio material
MEPs to vote on plans to boost the use of renewable energy

Parliament is set to adopt new legislation to increase the use of renewable energy in line with the EU’s Green Deal and REPowerEU initiatives.

The directive, already informally agreed with the Council, is intended to raise the share of renewables in the EU’s final energy consumption to 42.5% by 2030. Member states are urged to aim for 45%. The new law will also speed up the approval process for new renewable energy power plants, such as solar and wind farms, as well as the adaptation of existing ones.

The maximum period for national authorities to approve new renewable energy installations will be 12 months, if located in so-called "renewables go-to areas". Outside such areas, the process should not exceed 24 months.

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

Background

This legislative revision is part of the ‘Fit for 55’ package, which adapts existing climate and energy legislation to meet the new EU objective of a minimum 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (REDIII). The proposed targets were further raised under the REPowerEU package, aimed at reducing Europe’s reliance on fossil fuel imports from Russia following its war against Ukraine.

Procedure Code: 2021/0218(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Debate: Monday, 11 September 2023

Vote: Tuesday, 12 September 2023

Press conference: Wednesday tbc

Further information

Press release on committee vote (28.06.2023)

Profile of rapporteur Markus Pieper (EPP, DE)

Procedure file


Free photos, video and audio material
Critical raw materials: plans to secure EU's own supply and autonomy

MEPs will vote on Thursday on plans to boost the supply of strategic raw materials, crucial to secure the EU’s transition towards a sustainable, digital and autonomous future.

The EU is heavily reliant on imports of critical materials essential for renewable energy, digital industries, defence, space, and health. As a result, the new law aims to identify strategic projects and their deployment, establishes strategic reserves, encourages the recycling of these materials, and boosts private investments.

It will introduce a system to streamline the procurement of strategic raw materials, as well as financial incentives, such as monetary rewards or deposit-refund schemes, to motivate people and companies to collect and recycle products and their associated waste.

Procedure Code: 2023/0079(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Debate: Wednesday 13 September

Vote: Thursday 14 September

Press conference: yes, timing tbc

Further information

EP research briefing: critical raw materials act
Profile of rapporteur Nicola Beer (Renew, DE)
Procedure file
Free photos, video and audio material
Air pollution: Parliament to adopt its position on improving EU air quality

MEPs will debate on Tuesday and vote on Wednesday on new rules to improve EU air quality for a cleaner and healthier environment.

In October 2022, the Commission proposed a revision of the EU air quality rules with more ambitious targets for 2030 to achieve the zero pollution objective by 2050 in line with the EU’s Zero Pollution Action Plan.

The draft text, adopted by the Environment Committee in June 2023, sets stricter 2030 limits and target values for several pollutants relative to the original Commission proposal to ensure that air quality in the EU is not harmful to human health, natural ecosystems and biodiversity. MEPs also want to increase the number of air quality sampling points and harmonise currently-fragmented and unintuitive air quality indices to provide better information to citizens about local air pollution.

Background

Air pollution continues to be the number one environmental cause of early death in the EU with around 300 000 premature deaths per year (check here to see how clean the air is in your city) with the most harmful being particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10), NO2 (nitrogen dioxide), SO2 (sulphur dioxide) and O3 (ozone), according to the EEA.

Procedure code: 2022/0347(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Debate: Tuesday 12 September 2023

Vote: Wednesday 13 September 2023

Further information

EP press release: “Air pollution: Environment Committee MEPs push for tougher rules” (27.06.2023)
Procedure file
How clean is the air in my city? (European Environmental Agency)
Legislative train
EP Think Tank: Revision of EU air quality legislation: Setting a zero pollution objective for air

EP Think Tank: EU policy on air quality: Implementation of selected EU legislation
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, videos and audio material
MEPs set to endorse the joint procurement of defence products

MEPs will debate on Monday and vote on Tuesday on new rules to incentivise EU countries to jointly procure defence products and support the EU’s defence industry.

The new regulation, already agreed with member states, establishes a short-term instrument to boost the European defence industry through common procurement (EDIRPA) through to 2025. The tool should help member states address their most urgent and critical defence needs, especially those which have been exacerbated by the transfer of defence products to Ukraine, in a voluntary and collaborative way.

On 27 June, Parliament and Council negotiators agreed on a budget of 300 million euro to finance the instrument’s implementation. The EDIRPA should also help to foster the competitiveness and efficiency of the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) by ramping up manufacturing and opening supply chains to cross-border cooperation.

The EDIRPA will complement the European Peace Facility, which supports member states’ decision to supply defence equipment to Ukraine and improves coordination, as agreed in the Strategic Compass for security and defence, approved by Council in 2022. In parallel, MEPs adopted in July 2023 the Act in Support of Ammunition Production (ASAP), to accelerate the delivery of ammunition and missiles to Ukraine and to help member states restock their arsenals.

Procedure reference: 2022/0219(COD)

Procedure type: COD - Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Debate: Monday 11 September

Vote: Tuesday 12 September

Further information

Procedure file
Subcommittee on Security and Defence
Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
Committee on Foreign Affairs
EP Research service - Briefing on European defence industry reinforcement through common procurement (17.05.2023)
Vote on new Commissioner-designate Iliana Ivanova

Following a positive evaluation by the relevant committees and Parliament’s Conference of Presidents, MEPs will vote on the appointment of Iliana Ivanova as Commissioner.

On 5 September, the Industry, Research and Energy Committee and the Culture and Education Committee held a three-hour hearing with Iliana Ivanova, the Commissioner-designate for innovation, research, culture, education and youth. The purpose of the hearing was for MEPs to assess her suitability to replace Mariya Gabriel, who resigned as EU Commissioner on 15 May to become Foreign Minister of Bulgaria.

After the hearing, both committees gave her performance a positive evaluation, a position subsequently confirmed by Parliament’s Conference of Committee Chairs and the Conference of Presidents (EP President Metsola and political group leaders).

To conclude the procedure, the full Parliament will vote on her appointment on Tuesday.

Further information
- Hearing page
- Multimedia Centre
- Rules of Procedure, Annex VII
Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya to address MEPs

On Wednesday at 12.30, exiled Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya will speak in the European Parliament’s hemicycle in Strasbourg.

The visit by Ms Tsikhanouskaya comes amid Russia’s continued war against Ukraine, an increased Russian nuclear threat to Europe exacerbated by the Minsk regime’s hosting of tactical nuclear weapons under Moscow’s command, and the recent arrival of mercenary Wagner Group fighters on Belarusian territory.

A staunch supporter of a future free and democratic Belarus, she last addressed the European Parliament in November 2021, where she urged Europe to “face autocracy more proactively” and amplify the Belarusian peoples’ voice.

Speech: Wednesday 13 September

Procedure: Formal sitting

Further information
European Parliament’s delegation for relations with Belarus
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
MEPs to discuss violence and discrimination in sports after Women’s World Cup

After the final of the Women’s Football World Cup was marred by harassment, MEPs will quiz the Commission on how to counter violence and discrimination in sports.

During the trophy presentation for the FIFA Women’s World Cup in August, president of the Spanish football federation (RFEF) Luis Rubiales kissed Spain midfielder Jenni Hermoso on the lips, which she has stated she did not consent to. Mr Rubiales subsequently refused to resign - he has since been suspended by FIFA (the international governing body of association football), which has launched an investigation into his conduct.

Parliament has previously urged sports bodies and public authorities to effectively tackle discrimination, violence and hate speech and to guarantee safe, inclusive sport for all athletes, spectators and staff in sports venues and online.

Debate: Thursday 14 September

Procedure: Commission statement (no resolution)

Further information
Free photos, video and audio material
Prostitution in the EU: common measures needed, MEPs set to say

In a report to be debated on Wednesday and put to a vote on Thursday, MEPs are expected to call for EU guidelines to guarantee the fundamental rights of those in prostitution.

The asymmetry between national rules on prostitution in the EU, given its cross-border nature, leads to more victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and makes for fertile operating ground for organised crime, the draft text says. Member states should ensure existing legislation is properly assessed to avoid any loopholes allowing criminals to act with impunity. MEPs call for measures at EU and national levels to effectively tackle the cross-border implications of prostitution and urge the Commission to develop common EU guidelines guaranteeing fundamental rights for people in prostitution.

People in prostitution face the constant threat of police and judicial persecution, and are marginalised and stigmatised, the draft report notes, which often hinders their ability to seek justice. MEPs call for them to have full access to high-quality health and social services as well as to the justice system and pathways out of prostitution.

Procedure code: 2022/2139(INI)

Procedure: own initiative

Debate: Wednesday 13 September

Vote: Thursday 14 September

Further information

Draft report
Press release on committee vote (27.06.2023)
Profile of Rapporteur Maria Noichl (S&D, Germany)
Steps of the procedure
European Parliament Study : The differing EU Member States’ regulations on prostitution and their cross-border implications on women’s rights (September 2021)
Free photos, video and audio material
Parliament to voice concern about recent extreme weather events

On Tuesday, MEPs will debate with the Council and Commission on strengthening protection measures against extreme heatwaves, floods and forest fires.

MEPs are expected to call for increased action to build a more disaster-resilient EU.

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism was activated this summer for an increasing number of extreme weather events, including devastating floods (Slovenia, Cyprus, more recently Greece and Bulgaria) and the largest wildfires ever recorded in the EU (in particular in the Mediterranean region).

The Copernicus Climate Change Service confirmed that the summer of 2023 was the hottest on record, which date back to 1940, with extreme temperatures experienced in parts of Greece, eastern Spain, Sardinia, Sicily and southern Italy.

Background

The EU already doubled its rescEU firefighting fleet ahead of this summer. A permanent European aerial forest firefighting fleet is expected to be fully operational before the end of 2027.

Debate: Tuesday, 12 September

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, without resolution

Further information

EP Research: forest fires
EU Civil Protection: RescEU
European Environment Agency: Extreme summer weather in a changing climate: is Europe prepared?
Free photos, videos and audio material
Fit for 55: jet fuel mix in EU airports will have to be 70% green by 2050

MEPs are set to approve new sustainable aviation fuels rules setting the minimum share of greener jet fuels to be made available at EU airports.

MEPs will debate on Tuesday evening and hold their final vote on Wednesday on new rules for greener aviation fuels, already agreed by Council and Parliament negotiators in April 2023. The draft legislation seeks to promote the uptake of sustainable aviation fuels to cut aviation sector emissions and ensure the EU becomes climate neutral by 2050.

MEPs secured an ambitious timeline for the jet fuel mix rules, obliging EU airports and fuel suppliers to ensure that starting from 2025, at least 2% of aviation fuels will be green, for example the ones made from used cooking oil or bio-waste. This share will increase every five years up to 70% in 2050. In addition, a specific proportion of the same fuel mix must comprise synthetic fuels like e-kerosene.

To promote decarbonising in the aviation sector and to inform the public, MEPs ensured that, as of 2025, there will be an EU label for the environmental performance of flights, indicating a flight’s expected carbon footprint per passenger and its expected CO2 efficiency per kilometre.

A press conference with EP rapporteurs is scheduled on Tuesday at 15.00.

Procedure Code: 2021/0205 (COD);

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, 1st reading agreement

Debate: Tuesday, 12 September

Vote: Wednesday, 13 September

Press conference: Tuesday at 15.00, 12 September

Further information
Draft sustainable aviation fuels rules
Procedure file
EP Research Service briefing on ReFuelEU Aviation initiative (December 2022)
EP rapporteur José Ramón Bauzá Díaz (Renew, ES)
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
MEPs: EU and Türkiye must find realistic framework for their relationship

Türkiye’s EU accession process cannot resume under the current circumstances and new ways to cooperate should be explored, MEPs are expected to say.

In the 2022 draft report to be debated on Tuesday and put to the vote on Wednesday, MEPs urge the Turkish government and the EU to find a realistic framework for their relationship and move towards a closer partnership.

The report confirms that Türkiye remains an important NATO ally and a key partner in security, trade, economic relations, and migration, and stresses that Türkiye is expected to respect democratic values, rule of law and human rights.


Procedure: own-initiative reports

Debate: Tuesday, 12 September

Vote: Wednesday, 13 September

Further information
Rapporteur Nacho SÁNCHEZ AMOR (S&D, Spain)
Committee on Foreign Affairs
EP Think Tank: EU-Türkiye relations: Macroeconomic situation and EU financial support, 31.08.2023
EP Think Tank: Erdoğan’s third term in Türkiye, 10.07.2023
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Belarus: MEPs alarmed by Russia's subjugation of Belarus as a satellite state

MEPs are set to call on the Belarusian regime to release all political prisoners, while expressing great concern over the country’s subordination to Moscow.

In a new report, to be debated on Tuesday and voted on by MEPs Wednesday, they are expected to condemn in the strongest terms the unabated repression and systematic human rights violations committed by the regime of Belarusian dictator Aliaksandr Lukashenka against its own people.

Pointing to the regime’s role as an accomplice in Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, they also note with great concern the rampant political, economic, military and cultural subordination of Belarus to Moscow, rendering the country a de-facto satellite state hosting tactical nuclear weapons under Russian command.

The full draft report is available here.

**Debate:** Tuesday 12 September

**Vote:** Wednesday 13 September

**Procedure:** Own-initiative report

**Further information**
- Profile of rapporteur Petras Auštrevičius (Renew Europe, Lithuania)
- Procedure file
- EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
EU-Tunisia: MEPs to quiz Council and Commission over migration deal

Plenary will discuss on Tuesday morning the strengthening of EU cooperation with Tunisia on migration.

Following an increase in arrivals of migrants by boat from Tunisia via the Central Mediterranean route, MEPs will debate with the Spanish Council Presidency and the Commission the recent memorandum of understanding between the EU and Tunisia. The deal was announced during a high-level visit by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the prime ministers of Italy, Giorgia Meloni, and The Netherlands, Mark Rutte.

MEPs are expected to raise questions about the scope of the cooperation and its legal status. They are also interested in the measures to fight smuggling and to improve cooperation on search and rescue at sea. The alleged discrimination and violations of migrants' human rights in Tunisia are another concern, as are the conditions under which and to whom financial assistance would be given in Tunisia.

Debate: Tuesday, 12 September 2023

Procedure: Council and Commission statement, no resolution

Further information
European Parliament Research Service briefing: Search and rescue in the Mediterranean
UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency - Europe Dead and Missing at sea
Latest Asylum Trends - EU Asylum Agency
Free photos, video and audio material
Coups in Africa: MEPs to take stock of developments

On Tuesday, MEPs will quiz EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell on the string of coups d’états and other recent and worrisome developments in West and Central Africa.

With a series of military takeovers in African countries in the last three years -most recently in Niger and Gabon over the summer-, MEPs are set to question Josep Borrell on the root causes of these developments and their potential consequences for Europe.

They are also likely to quiz the Foreign Policy Chief on the likelihood of Europe seeing its role on the African continent diminished, with countries like Russia and China stepping up their presence and expanding their influence.

*Debate: Tuesday 12 September*

*Procedure: Question Time (VPC/HR)*

**Further information**

EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Iran: one year after the murder of Jina Mahsa Amini

On Tuesday, MEPs will discuss the situation in Iran and mark Amini’s death that sparked months of mass protests in the country.

Arrested by the morality police on 13 September 2022 for allegedly ignoring Iran’s strict veiling laws, Jina Mahsa Amini died in a Tehran hospital three days later following physical abuse while in custody. Her death sparked protests that spread around the country with at least 500 people killed after the Iranian authorities clamped down on the demonstrations with brutal force.

In resolutions adopted following Amini’s death, the European Parliament called for EU sanctions against her killers and all responsible for human rights violations in Iran including Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, President Ebrahim Raisi and all foundations (‘bonyads’) linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRCG).

Debate: Tuesday, 12 September

Further information
Parliament calls for more sanctions against Iranian regime, 19.01.2023
Iran: MEPs want EU to sanction officials responsible for Mahsa Amini’s death, 06.10.2022
EP Think Tank briefing: EU relations with Iran, 31.01.2023
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
MEPs to debate Ukrainian grain exports

On Tuesday, MEPs will debate with the Commission the impact of Ukrainian grain exports on EU farmers after Russia’s withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

Following Russia’s unilateral decision in July to terminate the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which allowed agricultural products to be exported from Ukrainian ports, transit through the Solidarity Lanes established in states bordering Ukraine is expected to increase significantly (from three to five million tonnes of commodities per month). Almost all of the exported commodities via these corridors remain on the EU market due to the high transport costs for re-export.

MEPs are set to question the Commission about how to alleviate the pressure on farmers in countries that have been facing decreasing grain prices and demand. The current EU ban of Ukrainian grain exports to Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia is due to expire on 15 September.

During a debate with the Agriculture Committee on 31 August, Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski advocated for the import ban to be extended and proposed that high transport costs via the Solidarity Lanes should be offset through an EU subsidy for Ukrainian products, which would be re-exported outside of the EU.

Debate: Tuesday 12 September

Procedure: Commission statements (no resolution)

Further information
Letter of Norbert Lins, Chair of the Agriculture Committee, to the Commission requesting the improvement of Solidarity Lanes (28.4.2023)
Better safety and quality standards for substances of human origin

MEPs are expected to adopt new measures to better protect citizens who donate blood, tissues or cells, or are treated with these substances.

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) adopted its position in July on new EU rules governing the use of so-called substances of human origin (SoHO). The safety measures apply to substances - such as blood and its components (red/white cells, plasma), tissues and cells – that are used for transfusions, therapies, transplantations or medically assisted reproduction.

MEPs insist that such donations must be voluntary and unpaid, with donors able to receive compensation or reimbursement for losses or expenses.

To ensure the EU has its own independent supply of these substances, MEPs want an EU strategy to ensure their availability, an EU list of critical SoHOs as well as the establishment of “national emergency and continuity of supply plans”.

Background

The draft rules put forward by the Commission on 14 July 2022 repeal the blood and tissues and cells directives, in light of new scientific, technical and societal developments. Every year, EU patients benefit from over 25 million blood transfusions, a million cycles of medically assisted reproduction, over 35 000 transplants of stem cells (mainly for blood cancers) and hundreds of thousands of replacement tissues (e.g., for orthopaedic, skin, cardiac or eye problems).

Procedure Code: 2022/0216(COD)

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Vote: Tuesday, 12 September

Further information

Rapporteur Nathalie Colin-Oesterlé (EPP, FR)
Procedure file
Legislative train
EP Research Service: Revision of the EU legislation on blood, tissues and cells
Free photos, videos and audio material - EU health policy
Transparency, integrity and accountability in Parliament: vote on improved rules

MEPs will vote on a revision of Parliament’s internal rules, prompted by the President’s 14-point reform plan addressing allegations of corruption.

The draft changes were finalised by the Constitutional Affairs Committee on Thursday 7 September, based on the guidelines endorsed by Parliament’s political leadership earlier this year. They relate primarily to MEPs’ code of conduct and other relevant parts of Parliament’s rules of procedure, including new provisions for declarations of gifts, income, conflicts of interest, meetings, and input on parliamentary work. You can find out more about the proposed changes here.

Procedure code: (2023/2095(REG))

Procedure: amendments to EP rules of procedure

Debate: Monday 11 September

Vote: Wednesday 13 September

Further information

Procedure file
MEPs propose reforms to protect democratic institutions and Parliament’s integrity (01/06/2023)
Corruption allegations: MEPs push for ambitious changes and quick progress (16/02/2023)
European Parliament webpage: ethics and transparency
European Parliament webpage: lobby groups and transparency
Free photos, video and audio material
EU budget 2024: Council’s cuts “difficult to comprehend”

In a debate on Wednesday on Council’s position on next year’s EU budget, MEPs are set to slam member states’ approach to EU funding.

In his recent working document on the position of the Council of the EU on the European Union’s 2024 budget, rapporteur Siegfried Mureșan (EPP, RO) criticises the Council’s cuts of €771.9 million to the Commission’s draft budget. It is “difficult to comprehend”, he says, “especially as the Council does not set out the parameters and underlying assumptions it used to calculate its cuts”, frequently taking “the previous year as a reference point, whereas year-on-year comparisons have little value when examining programmes with varying financing profiles”.

As the purpose of revising the EU’s long-term budget (Multiannual Financial Framework, MFF 2021-2027), proposed on 20 June, is to tackle several challenges hampering the EU’s current financial setup, the rapporteur repeats Parliament’s view “that the MFF revision must be completed in time to provide the framework for the 2024 budget”.

Background

On 7 June, the Commission presented the draft budget for 2024. The proposed annual budget amounts to €189.3 million in commitments. Parliament will vote on its own position for the budgetary negotiations in October. The budget for 2024 has to be agreed between the Council and the Parliament by the end of this year.

Debate: Wednesday 13 September

Procedure code: 2023/2767(RSP)

Further information

Press release - "Repayments for recovery plan ‘ticking time bomb’ in EU budget" (07.06.2023)
Committee on Budgets’ homepage for the 2024 budgetary procedure
Fact Sheets on the European Union - The budgetary procedure
Parliament set to adopt stance on planned EU-US Critical Minerals Agreement

MEPs will discuss on Wednesday and and vote on Thursday on a resolution about a possible EU-US agreement to strengthen international critical minerals supply chains.

The draft resolution by Bernd Lange (S&D, DE), Chair of the Committee on International Trade, welcomes the opening of negotiations on an agreement that seeks to strengthen critical minerals supply chains and mitigate some of the negative repercussions of the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) on EU industry.

Parliament's draft text says the agreement should prioritise sustainability, labour rights, and the inclusion of recycled materials. MEPs are set to say this agreement must be just the first of many steps towards addressing all of the EU’s concerns both about the IRA and more widely about outstanding trade frictions in EU-US relations.

The draft resolution accompanies a question for an oral answer to the Commission. MEPs want the Commission to explain which EU sectors will benefit the most from the agreement, and to what extent it will cover recycled minerals, among other issues.

Background

The Council recently authorised the Commission to commence negotiations with the United States on a Critical Minerals Agreement (CMA), based on the Commission’s negotiating directives adopted in June. Any formal agreement resulting from such negotiations will require Parliament's consent.

Procedure Code: 2023/2772(RSP)

Procedure: Oral question, with resolution

Debate: Wednesday 13 September

Vote: Thursday 14 September
MEPs set to adopt new rules protecting consumers from taking on too much debt

Following a debate on Monday, Parliament will hold its final vote on measures shielding consumers from credit card debt, overdrafts and unsuitable loans, on Tuesday.

The new law, already agreed between Parliament and Council negotiators in December 2022 and confirmed by the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee in May 2023, requires a proper assessment of a consumer’s creditworthiness and stricter rules on advertising to reduce miss-selling to people who are over-indebted.

The legislation will cover credit agreements of up to €100 000. New measures include caps on charges, to prevent abuse and ensure consumers cannot be charged excessive interest rates or annual rates. They also grant consumers the right to withdraw from a credit agreement with no reason within 14 days of its signing.

Procedure Code: 2021/0171(COD)

Debate: Monday, 11 September

Vote: Tuesday, 12 September

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Further information
Steps of the procedure
Profile of the rapporteur: Kateřina Konečná (The Left, CZ)
EP Research briefing Consumer Credits Directive
Text of the political agreement (link from 22.05.2023)
MEPs set to approve new rules to protect EU crafts

Parliament will vote on new measures to protect geographical indications of EU crafts and industrial products.

The new scheme agreed by the Parliament and the Council in May 2023 will ensure that locally renowned crafts and industrial products such as glass, lace or natural stones will be protected within the EU and globally. The law unifies diverging national rules on registering, checking and enforcing the protection of geographical indications (GIs).

While for the first part of the registration process, EU countries will be able to choose whether a national authority or the EU Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) will handle the application to protect a GI, the second part will be completed by the EUIPO. MEPs ensured that national authorities would help micro and small and medium-sized enterprises with their GIs applications. Member states will also handle control, including of goods sold online, and enforcement by making sure that products are placed on the market in accordance with their product specifications.

MEPs are also expected to confirm the role of EUIPO in protecting the GIs of EU crafts in a separate vote on the accession to the Geneva Act on Tuesday.

Background

Unlike the protection of geographical indications of EU foods, which has been in place for years, protecting the geographical indications of EU crafts and industrial products became possible following the EU accession to the Geneva Act in 2019, which allows local non-food products to be recognised globally.

Procedure Code: 2022/0115(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Debate: Monday, 11 September

Vote: Tuesday, 12 September

Press conference: Tuesday, 12 September, 13.30 with rapporteur Marion Walsmann (EPP, DE)

Further information

Procedure file: Geographical indication protection for craft and industrial products
Procedure file: Accession to the Geneva Act
Think Tank EP: Geographical indications for non-agricultural products (7 November 2019)
Improving the EU’s surface and groundwater quality

MEPs will debate Monday and vote on Tuesday on updated rules to protect groundwater and surface waters from pollution through better monitoring and control of water pollutants.

The Environment Committee adopted its position in June 2023 on revising the lists of surface water and groundwater pollutants that need to be monitored and controlled in the EU to better protect human health and freshwater ecosystems. MEPs want several substances to be added to EU watch lists as soon as suitable monitoring methods for them are identified. These could include microplastics, antimicrobial resistant microorganisms and selected antimicrobial resistance genes, as well as potentially sulfates, xanthates and non-relevant pesticide metabolites.

MEPs also want producers selling products that contain polluting chemical substances to help finance the monitoring costs.

Background

In line with the European Green Deal’s zero pollution ambition, the Commission tabled in October 2022 a proposal to revise the lists of surface water and groundwater pollutants that need to be monitored and controlled to protect the EU’s freshwater bodies. The new legislation updates the Water Framework Directive, the Groundwater Directive and the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (Surface Water Directive).

Procedure code: 2022/0344(COD)

Debate: Monday, 11 September

Vote: Tuesday, 12 September

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Further information

Rapporteur Milan Brglez (S&D, SI)
Procedure file
Legislative train
EP Research Service: Pollutants in EU waters - Update of chemical substances listed for control
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, and will vote on them on Thursday.

- Guatemala: the situation after the elections, the rule of law and judicial independence
- The case of Dr Gubad Ibadoghlu, imprisoned in Azerbaijan
- The human rights situation in Bangladesh, notably the case of Odhikar

Debate: Wednesday 13 September
Vote: Thursday 14 September
Procedure: non-legislative resolutions

Further information
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
MEPs to vote on a new Slovak candidate for the Court of Auditors

On Wednesday, Parliament will vote on the nomination of Katarína Kaszasová to the European Court of Auditors.

Katarína Kaszasová, nominated by the Slovak government, currently serves as a managing director of the Slovak Auditing Oversight Authority, a post she has held since 2020. Before that, she held managerial posts at the European Investment Bank, the European Investment Fund and the European Stability Mechanism in Luxembourg.

Her candidacy was endorsed unanimously by the Budgetary Control Committee following a hearing on 4 September.

The final decision will be taken by EU member states.

Background

The EU Treaty allows each member state to propose its candidate for the European Court of Auditors. Member states, after consulting Parliament, adopt the chosen nominees for a six-year term.

Procedure Code: 2023/0804(NLE))

Vote: Wednesday 13 September

Procedure: Consultation

Further information

Draft report on the nomination of Katarína Kaszasová as a Member of the Court of Auditors
Profile of rapporteur Petri Sarvamaa (EPP, FI)
Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors: Slovakia
Other topics on the agenda

- Statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy - New Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean in the aftermath of the EU-CELAC Summit, Tuesday

- Topical debate - Reviewing the protection status of wolves and other large carnivores in the EU, Wednesday

- Commission statement - Combating the normalisation of far-right and far-left discourses including antisemitism, Tuesday

- Single market emergency instrument, Andreas Schwab, debate Tuesday

- Amending the proposed mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context, Sandro Gozi, debate Wednesday

- Parliamentarism, European citizenship and democracy, Alin Mituța, Niklas Nienass, debate Thursday

- Commission statement - SME Relief Package, Wednesday

- Taxation: administrative cooperation, Rasmus Andresen, vote Wednesday

- The future of the European book sector, Tomasz Frankowski, debate Wednesday, vote Thursday

- Oral question - Segregation and discrimination of Roma children in education, Thursday

- Oral question - Improving firefighters’ working conditions, Thursday

- System of European Schools – state of play, challenges and perspectives - short presentation Monday