MEPs to push for strengthened protection for EU journalists and media freedom
In response to growing threats to editorial independence and the industry’s viability, MEPs will adopt their position on a draft law to strengthen the independence of EU media.

MEPs set to adopt new trade tool to defend EU from economic blackmail
The new trade rules seek to deter foreign powers from bullying the EU or member states into policy changes using economic coercion and enable the EU to take countermeasures.

MEPs to vote on better protection against asbestos for workers
Parliament is set to adopt new rules to protect EU workers from the health risks related to asbestos and to improve the early detection of asbestos.

New EU standard to fight greenwashing in the bond markets
MEPs are set to approve a new voluntary standard for the use of a “European Green Bond” label, the first of its kind in the world for green bonds.

€455 million in EU aid to Türkiye, Romania and Italy after natural disasters
On Wednesday, MEPs are set to approve nearly €455 million in EU Solidarity Fund aid following recent natural disasters in Romania, Italy and Türkiye.

MEPs set to ask for a top-up to multi-annual budget for crisis response
In a debate and vote on Tuesday, MEPs will set out their stance on reforming the EU’s long-term budget, emphasizing the urgency of future-proofing EU finances.

Czech President Petr Pavel to address MEPs
On Wednesday at 11.30, Petr Pavel, President of the Czech Republic, will address MEPs in a formal sitting.

Asylum and migration: MEPs to assess progress in reform talks
On Wednesday, plenary will discuss the need for a speedy adoption of a
comprehensive European pact on asylum and migration as well as challenges in member states.

MEPs to sound the alarm on the cost of living increase in Europe
On Monday, MEPs will debate with the Commission how to provide aid to the most deprived in the wider context of the rising prevalence of precariousness in Europe.

MEPs to quiz the Commission on EU-China trade relations
On Tuesday at 15.00, MEPs will question the Commission about trade relations with China, following President von der Leyen's announcement of a new anti-subsidy probe.

Airline carry-on luggage: MEPs to push for common rules
In a resolution, MEPs argue that inconsistent rules and prices for airline carry-on luggage cause inconvenience to travellers and want EU-level harmonisation.

Free movement: MEPs to discuss visa bribery allegations and next steps
On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will ask the Commission about allegations that member states are issuing visas in return for bribes in the Schengen area.

Moldova: Parliament to say EU accession negotiations should start
On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a resolution taking stock of Moldova’s path to the European Union.

Parliament to debate the latest developments in Kosovo
Following the recent deadly clashes in northern Kosovo, MEPs will discuss relations between Belgrade and Pristina on Tuesday afternoon with the Commission and the Council.

Nagorno-Karabakh: MEPs set to condemn Azerbaijan’s latest unjustified attack
On Tuesday, Parliament will debate the dire situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, following Azerbaijan’s recent military seizure of the mountainous South Caucasus enclave.

Pesticides: Parliament to debate proposed extension of glyphosate authorisation
On Wednesday, MEPs will debate with Council and Commission the proposal to extend the authorisation to use glyphosate in the EU for ten more years.

Other topics on the agenda
Other topics on the agenda

Appointments of Wopke Hoekstra and Maroš Šefčovič: hearings and vote
On 2 and 3 October, the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety will hold hearings with Wopke Hoekstra (Netherlands) and Maroš Šefčovič (Slovakia).
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.

MEPs to quiz Commission about plans to ensure a better internet for kids
Plans to improve child protection online, enhance digital literacy, and challenges posed by younger demographics accessing the internet will be discussed on Thursday morning.

Urban wastewater treatment: Parliament to adopt stricter measures
MEPs will vote on Thursday on updated rules on the collection, treatment and discharge of urban wastewater to better protect the environment and human health.


Newsletter - 2-5 October 2023 - Strasbourg plenary session

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

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MEPs to push for strengthened protection for EU journalists and media freedom

In response to growing threats to editorial independence and the industry’s viability, MEPs will adopt their position on a draft law to strengthen the independence of EU media.

Parliament wants the European Media Freedom Act, on which MEPs will debate and vote on Tuesday, to oblige member states to ensure media plurality and protect media independence from governmental, political, economic, or private interference.

MEPs are pushing for a ban on all forms of interference in the editorial decisions of media service providers and want to prevent external pressure being exerted on journalists, such as forcing them to disclose their sources, accessing encrypted content on their devices, or targeting them with spyware.

The mandate for negotiations with member states also aims to make media ownership more transparent, protect media outlets against arbitrary decisions by very big online platforms, strengthen the economic viability of the industry, and introduce a cap on public advertising to avoid media becoming dependent on state advertising.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Procedure reference: 2022/0277(COD)

Procedure type: Ordinary legislative procedure

Debate: Tuesday 3 October

Vote: Tuesday 3 October

Press conference: Tuesday 13:30

Further information

Video-recording of the press seminar European Media Freedom Act and Digital Services Act: protecting media freedom in a safe online world” (26.09.2023)
Rapporteur Sabine Verheyen (EPP,DE)
European Media Freedom Act: draft EP position
Press release after the vote in Committee on Culture and Education (7.09.2023)
EP Think Tank: Media Freedom Act (20.09.2023)
MEPs set to adopt new trade tool to defend EU from economic blackmail

The new trade rules seek to deter foreign powers from bullying the EU or member states into policy changes using economic coercion and enable the EU to take countermeasures.

The Anti-Coercion Instrument (ACI), to be debated on Monday and put to a final vote on Tuesday, seeks to protect the EU’s and member states’ sovereignty in a geopolitical environment where trade and investment are increasingly weaponised by foreign powers.

The regulation will enable the EU to respond, in line with international law and as a last resort, if the EU or a member state is blackmailed economically by a non-EU country trying to influence a particular policy choice or stance.

The primary objective of the new tool is to dissuade non-EU countries from attempting to coerce or to get them to cease coercion, and avoid escalating the conflict. Under the new regulation, the EU will be able to take countermeasures, including the imposition of customs duties, trade restrictions on goods and services, restrictions on access to public procurement and foreign direct investment.

Procedure Code: 2021/0406(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure

Debate: Monday 2 October

Vote: Tuesday 3 October

Further information

Draft report
Profile of rapporteur Bernd Lange (S&D, Germany)
Procedure file
Press release on the negotiators’ agreement
Legislative train
EP Think Tank: Economic coercion by non-EU countries
Committee on International Trade
Asylum and migration: MEPs to assess progress in reform talks

On Wednesday, plenary will discuss the need for a speedy adoption of a comprehensive European pact on asylum and migration as well as challenges in member states.

In the context of continued arrivals of refugees and migrants to the EU by sea, MEPs will debate with the Spanish Council Presidency and the Commission the state of play of negotiations on the new European rules on migration and asylum. The situation in some countries, such as Italy—and particularly on the island of Lampedusa—will feature prominently.

Following Parliament’s confirmation of its position on key proposals in April 2023, MEPs and member states have been involved in intense negotiations to achieve meaningful solidarity and to share the responsibility of managing migration more fairly. This is a top priority for the European Parliament, which aims to conclude the reform before the June 2024 European elections.

Debate: Wednesday, 4 October 2023

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, no resolution

Further information
Search and rescue: MEPs demand more EU action to save lives at sea (13.7.2023)
Procedure file: Asylum and migration management
Procedure file: Crisis and force majeure Regulation
Asylum Procedure Regulation
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
MEPs to quiz the Commission on EU-China trade relations

On Tuesday at 15.00, MEPs will question the Commission about trade relations with China, following President von der Leyen's announcement of a new anti-subsidy probe.

During his recent visit to China, Commission Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis told his counterparts that “competition must be fair” and urged Beijing to address the lack of reciprocity in economic relations, as the EU's trade deficit with China in 2022 reached almost 400 billion euro.

Mr Dombrovskis said that the EU and China are at a significant political and economic crossroads, and warned that China’s stance on the war in Ukraine could jeopardise its relationship with the EU. His visit came after Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced during her State of the European Union address that the Commission would launch a probe into whether China's electric vehicle industry is receiving unfair subsidies.

Procedure: Question Time with the Commission

Debate: Tuesday 3 October

Further information
Press release on the State of the Union speech 11.09.2023
Multimedia Centre
Committee on International Trade
New EU standard to fight greenwashing in the bond markets

MEPs are set to approve a new voluntary standard for the use of a “European Green Bond” label, the first of its kind in the world for green bonds.

This regulation lays down uniform requirements for issuers of bonds that wish to use the designation ‘European green bond’ for their environmentally sustainable bonds. It complements the different systems put in place by the EU to fight greenwashing, allowing investors to build their green portfolio with confidence. The clear criteria should also stimulate the issuing of more green bonds.

Background

Green bonds can play a crucial role in financing the transition to a low-carbon economy, and can help mobilise the capital needed to achieve ambitious climate and sustainability goals. The green bond market has seen exponential growth since 2007. However green bond issuance is currently small compared to total bond issuance, representing about 3-3.5% of overall bond issuance.

Procedure Code: 2021/0191(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Debate: Wednesday, 4 October 2023

Vote: Thursday, 5 October 2023

Further information

Draft report on European green bonds
Press release on deal in interinstitutional negotiations (28.02.2023)
Profile of rapporteur Paul Tang (S&D, NL)
Procedure file
Free photos, video and audio material
MEPs set to ask for a top-up to multi-annual budget for crisis response

In a debate and vote on Tuesday, MEPs will set out their stance on reforming the EU’s long-term budget, emphasizing the urgency of future-proofing EU finances.

Following the Commission’s proposal for a mid-term revision on the EU’s long-term budget (multiannual financial framework, MFF) the full house will vote on the proposal of the Committee on Budgets to demand an extra €10 billion for 2024-2027. MEPs want to boost areas linked to external challenges, especially the Russian war against Ukraine and growing migration issues, the EU’s strategic autonomy, and enhance the EU’s crisis-response capabilities.

They stress that the revision of the MFF is urgent to tackle current challenges caused by multiple crises. In addition, a swift adoption is key because the revised long-term budget should be operational by 1 January 2024 to offer a framework for that year’s annual budget.

More information is available in the recent press release and in the draft report by co-rapporteurs Jan Olbrycht (EPP, PL) and Margarida Marques (S&D, PT).

Following the vote, Parliament’s negotiators will be ready to engage in discussions with the Council, which is yet to finalise its position on the package.

A press conference with EP President Roberta Metsola and the co-rapporteurs is scheduled for Tuesday 3 October, 14:00 - 14:30.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Procedure reference: 2023/0201R(APP)

Procedure type: Interim report linked to consent procedure (Rules of Procedure, Rule 105(5))

Debate: Tuesday 3 October

Vote: Tuesday 3 October

Press conference with President Roberta Metsola and the co-rapporteurs: Tuesday 14:00-14:30

Further information

Procedure file
Pesticides: Parliament to debate proposed extension of glyphosate authorisation

On Wednesday, MEPs will debate with Council and Commission the proposal to extend the authorisation to use glyphosate in the EU for ten more years.

Glyphosate is currently approved in the EU until 15 December 2023 and can therefore be used as an active substance in plant protection products (pesticides) until that date, if authorised by national authorities.

On 19 September 2023, the Commission put forward a draft regulation proposing to renew the approval of glyphosate, subject to certain conditions, for another ten years with a view to making a final decision by 15 December 2023.

Background

Glyphosate is an active substance used in pesticides primarily to combat weeds that compete with cultivated crops. It is the most frequently used pesticide worldwide and in the EU.

In 2017, more than one million citizens signed the 'Ban Glyphosate' European Citizens’ Initiative.

In its conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of glyphosate adopted on 6 July 2023, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) found no critical areas of concern with respect to toxicology.

Parliament is currently negotiating its position on a new Regulation on the sustainable use of pesticides, which puts forward EU-wide targets to reduce the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50% by 2030.

Debate: Wednesday 4 October 2023

Procedure: Council and Commission statements

Further information
Glyphosate: Renewal of approval (Commission web site)
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, videos and audio material
Appointments of Wopke Hoekstra and Maroš Šefčovič: hearings and vote

On 2 and 3 October, the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety will hold hearings with Wopke Hoekstra (Netherlands) and Maroš Šefčovič (Slovakia).

Environment Committee MEPs will assess the skills, experience and suitability of Commissioner-designate for Climate Action Wopke Hoekstra on 2 October. He is set to replace Frans Timmermans, who resigned on 22 August to run as a candidate in the forthcoming general elections in the Netherlands. The committees on Industry, Research and Energy, on Foreign Affairs and on Development will also participate in the hearing.

Maroš Šefčovič, currently a Commission Vice-President in charge of Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight, will be questioned by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety on 3 October after he was also assigned the role of Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, following Frans Timmermans’ resignation. The committees on Industry, Research and Energy and on Transport and Tourism will participate in his hearing.

Evaluation

The hearings will immediately be followed by in-camera meetings, in which the committees’ chairs and group representatives (coordinators) will evaluate Mr Hoekstra’s and Mr Šefčovič’s performance.

The Conference of Committee Chairs will then assess the outcome of the hearings and forward its conclusions to the Conference of Presidents. On 4 October, the latter will conduct the final evaluation and decide whether to close the hearings’ process and vote in plenary on Thursday 5 October on both appointments.

Further information

Hearing page
Multimedia Center
Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
Rules of Procedure ANNEX VII
Free movement: MEPs to discuss visa bribery allegations and next steps

On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will ask the Commission about allegations that member states are issuing visas in return for bribes in the Schengen area.

In a debate with the European Commission, MEPs will discuss recent allegations that Polish overseas consulates are accepting bribes in return for issuing Schengen visas, and their impact on the EU’s common visa policy and the Schengen free-travel area. After several media reported allegations of corruption in the visa system, the European Commission asked the Polish Government, which is looking into the matter, for more details on the investigation.

On 27 September, Germany announced spot-checks on its borders with Poland and Czechia, citing the fight against people traffickers as the main reason. A total of seven member states currently have temporary border controls in place between countries in the Schengen area.

President Metsola will also announce on 2 October the start of negotiations with the Council on the reform of the Schengen Borders Code, which seeks to cut down the number of border controls within EU internal borders. Then, MEPs have 48 hours to object to the mandate for negotiations; if one-tenth of them do so, there will be a vote on the matter during the same plenary session.

Procedure: Commission statement

Debate: Tuesday 3 October

Further information
Procedure file (Schengen Borders Code)
Parliament to debate the latest developments in Kosovo

Following the recent deadly clashes in northern Kosovo, MEPs will discuss relations between Belgrade and Pristina on Tuesday afternoon with the Commission and the Council.

This week the High Representative condemned in the strongest terms the attack by an armed gang against Kosovo Police officers in the north of Kosovo on 24 September, which left one police officer and three attackers dead.

In two reports adopted in May 2023, MEPs urged Serbia and Kosovo to engage in the EU facilitated dialogue, and secure without delay a comprehensive, legally binding agreement on the normalisation of relations between the two based on the principle of mutual recognition.

Serbia has been an EU candidate country since 2012 and the accession negotiations started 2014. Kosovo officially applied for EU membership in December 2022.

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, no resolution

Debate: Tuesday, 3 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
Nagorno-Karabakh: MEPs set to condemn Azerbaijan’s latest unjustified attack

On Tuesday, Parliament will debate the dire situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, following Azerbaijan’s recent military seizure of the mountainous South Caucasus enclave.

Azerbaijan’s latest offensive against Nagorno-Karabakh on 19 September saw Baku regain military control of the long-disputed region and has resulted in a mass exodus of ethnic Armenians from their homes. Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has also warned of ethnic cleansing in the area, despite Azeri public reassurances that any ethnic Armenians choosing to stay in Nagorno-Karabakh will be treated as equal citizens of Azerbaijan.

The mountainous enclave, internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but governed by Armenian separatists for decades, has been the subject of a bloody military conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan since the fall of the Soviet Union.

Following the plenary debate with representatives of the Spanish Presidency of the Council and the European Commission, a resolution will be put to a vote on Thursday.

Debate: Tuesday 3 October

Vote: Thursday, 5 October

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, with a resolution

Further information
The European Parliament’s delegation for relations with South Caucasus
European Parliament Research Service briefing: “Armenia and Azerbaijan: Between war and peace” (02.06.2023)
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Moldova: Parliament to say EU accession negotiations should start

On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a resolution taking stock of Moldova’s path to the European Union.

Moldova, one of Europe’s poorest countries, has suffered severe political and economic collateral damage due to Russia’s war against neighbouring Ukraine, with soaring inflation, food costs, and energy prices, street protests in the capital Chişinău, electricity blackouts and disinformation campaigns. There have also been warnings of a Russian-staged coup d’état against the country’s pro-European leadership, in addition to the ongoing consequences of the decades-old frozen conflict with Russian-backed separatists in Transnistria.

Following Moscow’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Moldova applied for EU membership in March 2022 and was granted EU candidate status in June 2022. In April 2023, the European Parliament called for EU accession talks with the country to begin by the end of 2023, if Moldova fulfils the nine steps identified by the European Commission needed for the opening of negotiations.

Before the vote on the resolution, MEPs will debate the latest developments in Moldova with Council and Commission on Tuesday.

Debate: Tuesday 3 October

Vote: Thursday 5 October

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

Further information
The European Parliament’s delegation to the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Association Committee
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Airline carry-on luggage: MEPs to push for common rules

In a resolution, MEPs argue that inconsistent rules and prices for airline carry-on luggage cause inconvenience to travellers and want EU-level harmonisation.

Airlines currently have different size rules and pricing structures for carry-on luggage, which can lead to “confusion, inconvenience, less comfortable travel experiences, delays and sometimes disputes between passengers and airline staff”, according to MEPs in a draft text, to be put to a vote on Wednesday. Hidden luggage fees make it impossible for passengers to transparently compare the options available and make informed decisions, which is why harmonised EU rules are necessary.

MEPs stress that when reviewing the current EU legislation on air services, the Commission should fully implement a ruling by the Court of Justice of the EU that airlines should not charge a supplement for hand baggage “on condition that such hand baggage meets reasonable requirements in terms of its weight and dimensions, and complies with applicable security requirements”.

Vote: Wednesday 4 October

Procedure: non-legislative resolution (rule 227)

Further information
Petition No 0837/2019 by Deepak Rajani (German) on standard dimensions for carry-on luggage as part of EU Air Passenger Rights
The Petitions Committee
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
MEPs to sound the alarm on the cost of living increase in Europe

On Monday, MEPs will debate with the Commission how to provide aid to the most deprived in the wider context of the rising prevalence of precariousness in Europe.

MEPs are expected to call for increased action to support organisations providing aid and food to the most deprived in Europe.

The recent sharp increase in energy prices due to Russian’s invasion of Ukraine, which also led to a massive increase in food prices, has resulted in a rise of inflation and living costs in the EU. At least one in every three people living in a private household in the EU has difficulties making ends meet. According to the latest data from Eurostat, 8.3% of the EU population were unable to afford a healthy meal every second day - one percentage point higher compared to 2021.

This means that more people are dependent on organisations providing support and food. These organisations have recently warned they can no longer cope with inflation, forcing them to reduce the number of people they can help.

**Background**

The capacity to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish or a vegetarian equivalent every second day is among the criteria used at a household level to calculate the severe material and social deprivation rate and is one of the headline indicators of the European Pillar of Social Rights. The capacity to afford a proper meal is also part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

*Debate: Monday, 2 October*

*Procedure: Commission statement, without resolution*

**Further information**

EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Czech President Petr Pavel to address MEPs

On Wednesday at 11.30, Petr Pavel, President of the Czech Republic, will address MEPs in a formal sitting.

Following his visit to the EU institutions in April 2023 - one of his first foreign trips after his election - President Pavel is expected to focus on the need to strengthen the European Union in a time of crisis and to call for a strong position against Russia and for peace in Ukraine - on Ukrainian terms.

Before becoming President of the Czech Republic in March 2023, Petr Pavel held several military positions in the country, including the Czech Chief of the General Staff, and as Chair of the NATO Military Committee from 2015 to 2018.

A press point by Presidents Metsola and Pavel is scheduled on Wednesday at 11.20.

Formal sitting: Wednesday, 4 October at 11.30

Procedure: formal sitting

Press point: Wednesday, 4 October at 11.20

Further information
Biography of Petr Pavel
€455 million in EU aid to Türkiye, Romania and Italy after natural disasters

On Wednesday, MEPs are set to approve nearly €455 million in EU Solidarity Fund aid following recent natural disasters in Romania, Italy and Türkiye.

Under the disbursement of funding, Romania would receive €33.9 million following damage caused by a severe drought in 2022, Italy €20.9 million for damage caused by the September 2022 flooding in the Marche region, and €400 million would go to Türkiye following two major earthquakes in February 2023.

The European Commission has proposed using the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) to grant financial assistance to the three countries affected to the value of €454,835,030. EUSF assistance will cover parts of the costs of emergency and recovery operations like repairing damaged infrastructure, securing preventive infrastructure and the protection of cultural heritage, as well as clean-up operations.

More information is available in a recent press release, the draft report by rapporteur Katalin Cseh (Renew, HU) and in the Commission proposal. Council has already approved the aid on 18 September. Once Parliament has given its green light, the aid can be allocated.

Procedure reference: 2023/0297(BUD)

Procedure type: Budget procedure

Vote: Wednesday 4 October

Further information

Procedure file
MEPs to vote on better protection against asbestos for workers

Parliament is set to adopt new rules to protect EU workers from the health risks related to asbestos and to improve the early detection of asbestos.

The directive, already agreed with member states, will decrease the occupational exposure limit of asbestos and calls for the use of a more modern and accurate technology to detect the presence of thin asbestos fibres.

The new rules also include new requirements to improve worker protection, such as the adequate use of individual protective and respiratory equipment, the safe cleaning of clothing, a decontamination procedure, and high quality training requirements for workers.

The debate will take place on Monday afternoon and MEPs will vote on Tuesday.

Background

Asbestos is an extremely dangerous carcinogen, the presence of which is an issue for a number of sectors, such as construction, renovation, and firefighting. It is by far the biggest cause of work-related cancer: 78% of occupational cancers recognised in EU member states are related to asbestos exposure. Although all forms of asbestos have been banned in the EU since 2005, asbestos fibres are still present in millions of buildings and infrastructures, killing more than 70 000 people a year in Europe.

While the EU Green Deal encourages the renovation of buildings to improve energy efficiency and to ensure a clean energy transition, this also means workers are exposed to increased occupational cancer risks. With these new rules, the EU aims to deliver on commitments made in Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan and the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan.

Procedure Code: 2022/0298(COD)

Debate: Monday, 2 October 2023

Vote: Tuesday, 3 October 2023

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement
Further information
Draft text
Press release following provisional agreement (27/06/2023)
Profile of rapporteur Veronique Trillet-Lenoir (Renew, FR)
Steps of the procedure
EP research service - briefing on the protection of workers from asbestos at work (22/09/2023)
Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
Urban wastewater treatment: Parliament to adopt stricter measures

MEPs will vote on Thursday on updated rules on the collection, treatment and discharge of urban wastewater to better protect the environment and human health.

The Environment Committee adopted its position in September. The report calls for treated wastewater from urban wastewater treatment plants to be reused more widely to prevent water scarcity. MEPs want chemical pollutants (including “forever chemicals”), microplastics, pathogens and antimicrobial resistance to be monitored more. They also agree that a system of extended producer responsibility (EPR) should be set up for pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, which require additional treatment for micro-pollutants.

 Talks with national governments on the final form of the law can start once the Council has also adopted its position.

Background

In October 2022, the Commission tabled a proposal to revise the urban wastewater treatment directive, aligning it with the EU's policy objectives on climate action, circular economy and pollution reduction. The legislation is one of the key initiatives under the EU's zero pollution action plan for air, water and soil.

Procedure code: 2022/0345(COD)

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Vote: Thursday, 5 October

Further information

Profile of the rapporteur: Nils Torvalds (Renew, FI)
Steps of the procedure
Legislative train
EP Research Service: Urban wastewater treatment - Updating EU rules
MEPs to quiz Commission about plans to ensure a better internet for kids

Plans to improve child protection online, enhance digital literacy, and challenges posed by younger demographics accessing the internet will be discussed on Thursday morning.

MEPs are likely to ask how the Commission intends to reach the objectives of its new strategy for a better internet for children, with questions about funding support hotlines, awareness-raising campaigns and support for victims.

They are also set to push for measures to enhance the digital literacy of children, parents and educators, and ask about plans to involve children in the implementation of the strategy.

A resolution will be put to a vote on Thursday.

Background

The new European strategy for a “Better Internet for Kids”, adopted in May 2022, has three pillars: safe digital experiences that seek to protect children from harmful and illegal online content; empowerment or digital literacy, so that children can make informed choices; promoting active participation — giving children a say in the digital environment.

Procedure Code: 2023/2670(RSP)

Procedure: Oral question to the Commission, with resolution

Debate: Thursday 5 October

Vote: Thursday 5 October

Further information

Question for oral answer: The new European strategy for a better internet for kids

Procedure file

European Parliament Research Service briefing: The new European strategy for a better internet for kids (BIK+)

“Better internet for kids” portal
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.

- Human rights situation in Afghanistan, in particular the persecution of former government officials
- The case of Zarema Musaeva in Chechnya
- Egypt, in particular the sentencing of Hisham Kassem

Debate: Wednesday 4 October

Vote: Thursday 5 October

Procedure: non-legislative resolutions

Further information
EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material
Other topics on the agenda

- EU-Switzerland, Mandl, debate Tue, vote Wed
- Classification, labelling and packaging of substances, Spyraki, vote and debate Thu
- Segregation and discrimination of Roma children in education, resolution, vote Wed
- Rights of people with autism, resolution, vote Wed
- Topical debate - Decent Housing for All, Wed
- Appointment of the Chair of the Supervisory Board of the European Central Bank, Tinagli, vote Tue
- Energy Charter Treaty: next steps, Council and Commission statements, Wed
- Need to complete new trade agreements for sustainable growth, competitiveness and the EU’s strategic autonomy, Council and Commission statements, Wed
- Medicine shortages and strategic healthcare autonomy in the EU, Commission statement, Wed
- Poor sanitary conditions, low levels of security and lack of parking places in rest areas for truck drivers, Commission statement, Thu
- Financial services contracts concluded at a distance, Kokalari, vote Tue
- Intelligent Road Transport Systems, Plumb, vote Tue
- Uzbekistan, Yuchyuk, debate Tue, vote Wed
- Ensuring European transportation works for women, Łukacijewska, debate Mon, vote Tue