

## Newsletter

### 15-18 January 2024

### Strasbourg plenary session

#### **Debate on December EU summit and 1 February Special European Council**

On Wednesday, MEPs will discuss the December European Council, the 1 February Special summit and assess the situation in Hungary with Presidents Michel and von der Leyen.

3

#### **Prime Minister De Croo to present priorities of Belgium's Council Presidency**

On Tuesday at 9.00, MEPs will discuss with Prime Minister Alexander De Croo the programme of Belgium's six-month Council Presidency, which started on 1 January.

4

#### **MEPs set to raise the alarm on media freedom, corruption, and police violence**

A draft report on the state of fundamental rights in the EU highlights negative trends and proposes ways to tackle numerous problems present across member states.

21

#### **MEPs to discuss the humanitarian situation in Gaza**

On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will debate the humanitarian situation in Gaza, the need to reach a ceasefire, and the risks of escalation in the Middle East.

7

#### **Concerns about the rule of law in Slovakia**

On Wednesday, Parliament will vote on a resolution criticising the criminal code reform proposals announced by the new government of Robert Fico.

20

#### **Parliament to discuss the need for more EU military aid to Ukraine**

In a debate on Tuesday morning, MEPs are expected to call on the EU to live up to its commitments and deliver more military assistance to war-torn Ukraine.

8

#### **Election of a Vice-President to replace former MEP Nicola Beer**

Following the departure of Nicola Beer from Parliament, MEPs will vote on Tuesday to decide who will replace her in the EP Bureau.

19

### **Final vote on banning greenwashing and misleading product information**

On Wednesday, MEPs will hold a final vote on a directive that will improve product labelling and ban the use of misleading environmental claims.

5

### **MEPs to warn of Chinese influence over vital European infrastructure**

In a new report, MEPs caution of the risks of growing Chinese influence over European critical infrastructure and call for action to reduce vulnerabilities.

18

### **Economic governance: MEPs seek to improve credibility, promote investment**

In the revamp of the EU's economic governance rules, Parliament aims to prioritise investment and national ownership, and improve the system's credibility.

6

### **MEPs to discuss protection of marine ecosystems and the Common Fisheries Policy**

In a morning devoted to the EU's fisheries strategy, MEPs will assess on Thursday the Commission's approach to bottom trawling and the implementation of fisheries rules.

16

### **Fight against the resurgence of neo-fascism in Europe: plenary debate**

MEPs will discuss on Tuesday evening with representatives of the Belgian Presidency and the Commission how to prevent neo-fascism from resurfacing in Europe.

12

### **Hate speech and hate crime must become crimes under EU law**

Parliament is set to call on the Council to finally act to tackle hate speech and hate crime in the EU, in a debate on Wednesday and a vote on Thursday.

15

### **Remembering Jacques Delors**

The plenary session will open with a ceremony honouring the life and legacy of former Commission President Jacques Delors, who passed away on 27 December 2023.

13

### **Music streaming platforms: MEPs to warn of unfair situation for European authors**

In a resolution to be put to a vote on Wednesday, MEPs are set to insist that the EU address injustice in the largely unregulated digital music sector, to support artists.

14

### **Reducing emissions from fluorinated gases and ozone-depleting substances**

Parliament is set to give its final green light to new measures to minimise emissions from powerful greenhouse gases, in line with EU and global climate goals.

9

### **Other topics on the agenda**

Other topics on the agenda 25

## EU values in Greece: MEPs to discuss latest developments

On Wednesday, Parliament will consider the state of the rule of law and media freedom in Greece, in a debate with Council and Commission representatives.

11

## 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.

24

## Financial services: final vote on better data access and more robust EU market

MEPs will debate and vote on rules to enhance financial market data transparency, optimise orderly trading and prohibit payments for forwarding client orders.

23

## Fight against fraud: more needs to be done to protect EU's financial interests

MEPs will review efforts to prevent fraud affecting the EU budget and discuss how to monitor the use of funds awarded to non-governmental organisations.

22

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2024-01-15>

## Newsletter - 15-18 January 2024 - Strasbourg plenary session

### Further information

[Draft agenda](#)

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[Election Press Kit](#)

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# Debate on December EU summit and 1 February Special European Council

**On Wednesday, MEPs will discuss the December European Council, the 1 February Special summit and assess the situation in Hungary with Presidents Michel and von der Leyen.**

During their meeting on 14 - 15 December, heads of state or government agreed, among other things, to open accession negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova and grant candidate status to Georgia.

EP President Roberta Metsola commented: “This is a proud moment for Europe. For Ukraine. For Moldova. For everyone fighting for our values. For everyone looking to Europe as a beacon of hope. We kept our promises. We made history. Now we will write the future together.” On Georgia, she said that, “we heard you and your European aspirations, and today, Georgia is proud to be given EU candidate status.”

Heads of state or government also reaffirmed their commitment to the Western Balkans’ EU membership prospects and called for their accession process to be accelerated.

Leaders failed to find an agreement on the mid-term review of the EU’s long-term 2021-2027 budget (multiannual financial framework, MFF) and a €50 billion financial aid package for Ukraine. Discussions will continue during a special European Council on 1 February 2024.

During the joint debate on the European Council meetings, MEPs will also discuss the situation in Hungary and frozen EU funds. A resolution will be put to a vote on Thursday.

*Debates: Wednesday 17 December*

*Vote: Thursday 18 January (Hungary)*

*Procedure: Council and Commission statements*

### Further information

[European Council Conclusions](#)

[Speech by Roberta Metsola at the European Council](#)

[Press Conference by Roberta Metsola after her speech at the European Council](#)

# Prime Minister De Croo to present priorities of Belgium's Council Presidency

**On Tuesday at 9.00, MEPs will discuss with Prime Minister Alexander De Croo the programme of Belgium's six-month Council Presidency, which started on 1 January.**

The Belgian government stated that its thirteenth EU Presidency comes “at a moment when the European Union stands at a crossroads, dealing with the consequences of the Russian illegal aggression in Ukraine, the pandemic, the energy crisis, disinformation, extreme climate events, and a renewed conflict in the Middle East”.

The Belgian Presidency's six key priorities are:

- Defending rule of law, democracy, and unity;
- Strengthening our competitiveness;
- Pursuing a green and just transition;
- Reinforcing our social and health agenda;
- Protecting people and borders; and
- Promoting a global Europe.

During Belgium's Presidency of the Council of the EU, a new European Parliament will be elected between 6 and 9 June.

*Debate: Tuesday, 16 January*

*Procedure: Council and Commission statements, no resolution*

*Press conference: tbc*

## Further information

[Programme of the Belgian Presidency](#)

# Final vote on banning greenwashing and misleading product information

**On Wednesday, MEPs will hold a final vote on a directive that will improve product labelling and ban the use of misleading environmental claims.**

The new rules aim to make product labelling clearer and more trustworthy by banning the use of general environmental claims like “environmentally friendly”, “natural”, “biodegradable”, “climate neutral” or “eco” without proof.

The directive would only allow the use of sustainability labels that are based on official certification schemes or established by public authorities. Claims based on emissions offsetting schemes that a product has a neutral, reduced or positive impact on the environment would no longer be allowed.

Another important objective is making producers focus more on the durability of their goods. The new rules will make guarantee information more visible on products and create a new, harmonised label to allow goods with a longer guarantee to stand out more.

The new directive will also ban unfounded durability claims, prompts to replace consumables earlier than strictly necessary and presenting goods as repairable when they are not.

*Procedure Code: 2022/0092(COD)*

*Debate: Tuesday, 16 January*

*Vote: Wednesday, 17 January*

*Press conference: Wednesday, 17 January at 14.30*

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement*

## Further information

[Draft text to be put to a vote](#)

[Text of the interinstitutional agreement](#)

[Procedure file](#)

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

[Press release on the interinstitutional deal \(19.09.2023\)](#)

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

# Economic governance: MEPs seek to improve credibility, promote investment

**In the revamp of the EU's economic governance rules, Parliament aims to prioritise investment and national ownership, and improve the system's credibility.**

The draft mandate, adopted in December 2023 by the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, will have to be confirmed by plenary next week before negotiations with member states can start. In it, MEPs propose establishing clear numerical values to define the required excessive debt reduction and allowing for new deviations from expenditure plans for more room for investment. It also provides an extra 10-year period for completing excessive debt reduction and sets up new procedures to increase national ownership of economic plans.

The proposal to begin negotiations will be announced at the opening of the plenary session on Monday afternoon. Once Parliament's position is adopted (either without objections from MEPs by Wednesday, or with a vote if there are 71 or more objections, as stipulated by [Parliament's rule 71](#) and [rule 179](#)), negotiations with the Council on the final form of the legislation will start shortly afterwards.

On Wednesday, MEPs will also hold a debate on economic governance with representatives of the Commission and the Council.

*Debate: Wednesday, 17 January*

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading*

### Further information

[Legislative procedure - Effective coordination of economic policies and multilateral budgetary surveillance \(preventive arm of SGP\)](#)

[EP Research Service study – New economic governance rules \(09/11/2023\)](#)

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



## MEPs to discuss the humanitarian situation in Gaza

**On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will debate the humanitarian situation in Gaza, the need to reach a ceasefire, and the risks of escalation in the Middle East.**

A resolution will be put to a vote on Thursday.

While international diplomatic efforts are underway to address the Gaza conflict and prevent it from escalating into a regional crisis, the Israeli government has expressed its determination to end Hamas' rule in Gaza. Israeli officials asserted a transition to more targeted warfare, though intense fighting continues. In the plenary debate, MEPs are expected to reiterate their call for a ceasefire and the release of all hostages, as well as an end to the killing of journalists and aid workers in Gaza.

Gaza has been under a heavy attack by Israel, in response to the attack of 7 October 2023, during which Hamas militants killed some 1,200 people, mainly civilians, in southern Israel and kidnapped around 250 others.

*Debate: Tuesday 16 January*

*Vote: Thursday 18 January*

## Parliament to discuss the need for more EU military aid to Ukraine

**In a debate on Tuesday morning, MEPs are expected to call on the EU to live up to its commitments and deliver more military assistance to war-torn Ukraine.**

With Russian air attacks intensifying across Ukraine - and with American military support currently held up by the U.S. congress - MEPs are likely to use the debate to call on European countries to do more to help the Kyiv government defend its territory for as long as necessary. They are also expected to urge EU heads of state or government to use the upcoming special European Council summit on 1 February to come to an agreement on a proposed €50 billion financial aid package for Ukraine.

*Debate: Tuesday 16 January*

*Procedure: Council and Commission statements*

### **Further information**

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

# Reducing emissions from fluorinated gases and ozone-depleting substances

**Parliament is set to give its final green light to new measures to minimise emissions from powerful greenhouse gases, in line with EU and global climate goals.**

The [deal reached with the Council](#) on further cutting emissions from fluorinated gases foresees a total phase-out of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by 2050 and strict requirements that prohibit placing on the EU market products containing F-gases –currently used in refrigerators and air-conditioning, among others-, to stimulate the uptake of more climate-friendly solutions.

The [agreement](#) on reducing emissions of ozone-depleting substances includes measures to recover and recycle such substances found in building materials (in particular in insulation foams) and introduces strict exemptions for their use as feedstock (to produce other substances, for example in the pharmaceutical or chemical industry), as process agents, in laboratories and for fire protection.

## Background

Fluorinated greenhouse gases, such as hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride (used in refrigerators, air-conditioning, heat pumps, fire protection, foams or electrical switchgear equipment) and ozone-depleting substances, such as halons (used in fire extinguishers), methyl bromide (to control pests) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (used in fridges and air-conditioning systems) are man-made greenhouse gases (GHG) with high global warming potential. Emissions from these gases must be reduced further in order to contribute to [EU climate objectives](#) and comply with international agreements (the [Montreal Protocol](#) and the related [Kigali Amendment](#)).

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement*

*Debate: Monday, 15 January*

*Vote: Tuesday, 16 January*

## Further information

[Procedure file - F-gases](#)

[Procedure file - ozone-depleting substances](#)

[Legislative train - F-gases](#)

[Legislative train - ozone-depleting substances](#)

[Rapporteur Bas Eickhout \(Greens/EFA, NL\) - F-gases](#)

[Rapporteur Jessica Polfjärd \(EPP, SE\) - ozone-depleting substances](#)

[EP Research briefing: Review of the regulation on fluorinated greenhouse gases](#)

[EP Research briefing: Revision of the Ozone Regulation](#)

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

# EU values in Greece: MEPs to discuss latest developments

**On Wednesday, Parliament will consider the state of the rule of law and media freedom in Greece, in a debate with Council and Commission representatives.**

MEPs have expressed concerns about the respect for EU values in Greece on multiple occasions, including the [use of spyware and allegations of political intervention](#) in the investigations, and [media freedom and the safety of journalists](#), especially in light of the lack of progress in the investigation into the murder of journalist Giorgos Karaivaz in 2021. The debate is also likely to touch on border [pushbacks and the treatment of migrants](#), [the state of the anti-corruption framework and concerns about judicial independence and effectiveness](#), and other findings from the [Commission's annual rule of law report](#).

*Debate: Wednesday, 17 January*

*Procedure: Council and Commission statements, no resolution*

### Further information

[MEPs concerned by threats to EU values in Greece \(08.03.2023\)](#)

[Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group \(DRFMG\) monitoring of the situation in Greece](#)

[Factsheets on the EU: The protection of Article 2 TEU values in the EU](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: rule of law](#)

# Fight against the resurgence of neo-fascism in Europe: plenary debate

**MEPs will discuss on Tuesday evening with representatives of the Belgian Presidency and the Commission how to prevent neo-fascism from resurfacing in Europe.**

The debate is being held in the aftermath of a parade that took place in Acca Larentia street in Rome on 7 January, marking the 46th anniversary of the killing of three neo-fascists in the Italian capital, in which participants gave fascist salutes.

In October 2019, plenary also assessed the [danger of violent right-wing extremism](#), following events in Halle (Germany). [Parliament warned already in October 2018](#) about the increasing normalisation of fascism, racism and xenophobia and asked EU member states to ban neo-fascist and neo-Nazi groups. MEPs reiterated their [call to ban organisations that glorify Nazism and fascism](#) or any other form of totalitarianism in September 2019.

*Debates: Tuesday, 16 January*

*Procedure: Council and Commission statements, no resolution*

## Further information

[EP resolution on the rise of neo-fascist violence in Europe \(25.10.2018\)](#)

[EP resolution on the importance of European remembrance for the future of Europe \(19.09.2019\)](#)

# Remembering Jacques Delors

**The plenary session will open with a ceremony honouring the life and legacy of former Commission President Jacques Delors, who passed away on 27 December 2023.**

Delors was President of the European Commission from 1985 to 1995 and was a crucial figure in the creation of the EU's single market and the Economic and Monetary Union.

EP President Roberta Metsola said Jacques Delors was “a giant. A public servant. A visionary. He believed in a Europe built on competition that stimulates, cooperation that strengthens, and solidarity that unites. His vision guides us still today. We honour his memory by keeping his legacy alive.”

During the commemoration ceremony, EP President Metsola will make a statement, followed by one speaker for each political group.

*Debate: Monday, 15 January*

### Further information

[Tribute to Jacques Delors](#)

# Music streaming platforms: MEPs to warn of unfair situation for European authors

**In a resolution to be put to a vote on Wednesday, MEPs are set to insist that the EU address injustice in the largely unregulated digital music sector, to support artists.**

Currently, the majority of artists receive very low revenues from their work being streamed, says the draft text. MEPs are therefore expected to call for a revision of the “pre-digital royalty rates” and condemn the [payola schemes](#) that force authors to accept lower or no revenues in exchange for greater visibility.

EU law should also ensure European works are visible and algorithms are transparent, to prevent unfair practices and ensure diversity.

Lead MEP [Ibán García del Blanco](#) (S&D, Spain) will hold a press conference on Tuesday at 14.30, outlining the current problems and possible EU-level solutions.

## Background

Digital music platforms and music-sharing services currently provide access to up to 100 million tracks, either for free or for a comparatively low monthly subscription fee. Streaming represents 67% of the music sector’s global revenue, with an annual revenue of 22.6 billion USD.

*Procedure code:* [2023/2054\(INI\)](#)

*Procedure:* Own-initiative report

## Further information

[Draft report on cultural diversity and the conditions for authors in the European music streaming market](#)

[Music streaming platforms: MEPs ask to protect EU authors and diversity \(28-11-2023\)](#)

[EP Research: Cultural diversity and the conditions for authors in the European music streaming market \(June 2023\)](#)



# Hate speech and hate crime must become crimes under EU law

**Parliament is set to call on the Council to finally act to tackle hate speech and hate crime in the EU, in a debate on Wednesday and a vote on Thursday.**

The draft report asks for progress on classifying hate speech and hate crime as “EU crimes” - a process stalled in Council since 2022. MEPs highlight the need to ensure all individuals and groups that can become targets of hate are protected, and to ensure that freedom of expression is not exploited to protect hate speech and hate crimes. They are also set to call for an “open-ended” approach whereby incidents would be assessed based on their contextual circumstances.

So-called EU crimes are crimes of a particularly serious nature with a cross-border dimension, as set out in [Article 83\(1\) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU](#). Currently, member states’ laws deal with hate speech and hate crime in different ways, while EU-wide rules are limited in their scope to race, skin colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin.

*Procedure code: 2023/2068(INI)*

*Procedure: non-legislative resolution*

*Debate: Wednesday, 17 January*

*Vote: Thursday, 18 January*

## Further information

[MEPs call on Council to designate hate speech, hate crime as crimes under EU law \(13.11.2023\)](#)

[Rapporteur: Maite Pagazaurtundúa \(Renew, Spain\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Legislative train](#)

[Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](#)

[EP Think Tank: Combating hate speech and hate crime in the EU](#)

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

# MEPs to discuss protection of marine ecosystems and the Common Fisheries Policy

**In a morning devoted to the EU's fisheries strategy, MEPs will assess on Thursday the Commission's approach to bottom trawling and the implementation of fisheries rules.**

On Thursday, plenary will debate its response to the Commission's fisheries package, including the [action plan to restore marine biodiversity](#), which proposes to phase out mobile bottom fishing in [marine protected areas](#) (MPAs) by 2030. The [draft report prepared by the Fisheries Committee](#) -to be put to a vote at noon- considers the plan oversimplified and not in line with other priorities and strategies.

In a separate debate, MEPs will take stock of the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). A [draft resolution](#) to be put to a vote on the same day notes that socio-economic aspects and food security should be aligned with the protection of biodiversity and fishing stocks. MEPs demand a practical approach when applying the [maximum sustainable yield](#), that [landing obligations](#) take into account the challenges that fishers face and call for a specific [programme relating to remoteness and insularity](#) (POSEI) for fisheries and aquaculture.

MEPs will also discuss and vote on an initiative calling for [rules on monitoring and inspections](#) to be harmonised, to make the market more transparent. They are also expected to adopt a report asking for [more import controls and an EU-wide approach](#) to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

On Tuesday, MEPs will decide if the [proposal on targets for fixing fishing opportunities](#) will be considered urgent and, therefore voted on during plenary.

*Procedure Codes: [2023/2124\(INI\)](#), [2021/2169\(INI\)](#), [2023/2049\(INI\)](#) and [2023/2027 \(INI\)](#)*

*Debates: Thursday 18 January*

*Votes: Tuesday 16 January and Thursday 18 January*

*Procedure: own-initiative reports*

## Further information

[Press release on the committee vote on EU action plan \(07.12.2023\)](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur Niclas Herbst \(EPP, DE\)](#)

[Procedure file: EU action plan - protecting and restoring marine ecosystems](#)

[European Parliament Research Service briefing: Action plan to protect marine ecosystems for sustainable fisheries \(June 2023\)](#)

[Press release on the committee vote on the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy \(25.10.2023\)](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur Gabriel Mato \(EPP, ES\)](#)

[Procedure file: Implementing the Common Fisheries Policy](#)

[European Parliament Research Service briefing: Common fisheries policy - state of play \(October 2023\)](#)

[Procedure file: Implementation of the Common Market Organisation Regulation in fisheries and aquaculture](#)

[Procedure file: Impact of illegal fishing on food security - the role of the European Union](#)

[European Parliament Research Service briefing: Parliament's response to fisheries package](#)

# MEPs to warn of Chinese influence over vital European infrastructure

**In a new report, MEPs caution of the risks of growing Chinese influence over European critical infrastructure and call for action to reduce vulnerabilities.**

The text, to be put to a vote on Wednesday, examines how China, through its so-called [military-civil fusion \(MCF\) strategy](#), is increasingly gaining access to and exercising influence over European critical infrastructure, such as transport infrastructure and ports, telecommunications networks, rare metals and undersea cables.

MEPs stress that the MCF strategy instrumentalises all levels of state and commercial power to strengthen and support the Chinese Communist Party and its armed wing, the People's Liberation Army. The text also highlights that China's MCF strategy targets technology transfer, with the objective of increasing Beijing's dominance in foreign countries and undermining geopolitical rivals.

The draft report is available [here](#).

Following a debate on Tuesday, MEPs will also vote on Wednesday on a draft resolution on a European port strategy, which states that foreign influence in EU ports should be limited and calls on the Commission and EU governments to urgently carry out a risk assessment of China's and other non-EU countries' involvement in maritime infrastructure, its impact on labour and the environment. They want a mandatory screening of foreign direct investments and more cooperation between EU countries in blocking suspicious investments in critical infrastructure.

*Debate: Tuesday 16 January: European port strategy*

*Votes: Wednesday 17 January*

*Procedure: Own-initiative reports*

## Further information

[Procedure file \(Chinese influence on EU critical infrastructure\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur \(Chinese influence on EU critical infrastructure\) Klemen Grošelj \(Renew Europe, Slovenia\)](#)

[EP draft resolution on building a comprehensive European port strategy](#)

[Procedure file \(European port strategy\)](#)

[EP Research service note on Chinese strategic interests in European ports \(February 2023\)](#)

# Election of a Vice-President to replace former MEP Nicola Beer

**Following the departure of Nicola Beer from Parliament, MEPs will vote on Tuesday to decide who will replace her in the EP Bureau.**

[Ms Beer](#) left her seat in the European Parliament to take up the position of Vice-President at the [European Investment Bank](#). Based on [Parliament's Rules of Procedure](#), in the event of a vacancy, a new Vice-President (VP) is elected to take the place of his or her predecessor in the existing order of precedence - so the MEP to be elected next week will become Parliament's eleventh VP. The composition of the Parliament's Bureau (President, fourteen Vice-Presidents and five Quaestors) should broadly reflect the size of the political groups.

*Vote: Tuesday 16 January*

*Procedure: election of an EP Vice-President*

## Further information

[The political bodies of the European Parliament](#)

[Rule 15: Nominations](#)

[Rule 23: Duties of the Vice-Presidents](#)

[Rule 25: Duties of the Bureau](#)

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

# Concerns about the rule of law in Slovakia

**On Wednesday, Parliament will vote on a resolution criticising the criminal code reform proposals announced by the new government of Robert Fico.**

The text, wrapping up the [plenary debate of 13 December](#), expresses the concerns of MEPs over Slovakia's ability to fight corruption and protect EU financial interests, if the draft law to overhaul the country's penal code is approved. The new rules would dismantle Slovakia's special prosecutor's office that deals with the most serious crimes and corruption, while softening penalties for certain offences. The new government has already been accused of dismissing, suspending or sidelining investigators and police officers working on corruption charges.

The proposed changes have already sparked mass demonstrations throughout the country and Slovakia's President Zuzana Čaputová has said she could veto the law.

MEPs are also likely to criticise Prime Minister Fico and his government for their polarising actions and for creating a threatening environment for the media - a situation which has, in the past, led to the murder of Ján Kuciak and Martina Kušnírová.

*Debate: Wednesday, 13 December 2023*

*Vote: Wednesday, 17 January 2024*

*Procedure: non-legislative resolution*

### Further information

[European Public Prosecutor's Office: Statement regarding the legislative amendments proposed by the Slovak government](#)

[Factsheets on the EU: The protection of Article 2 TEU values in the EU](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: rule of law](#)

## MEPs set to raise the alarm on media freedom, corruption, and police violence

**A draft report on the state of fundamental rights in the EU highlights negative trends and proposes ways to tackle numerous problems present across member states.**

The latest stocktaking document, focusing on 2022 and 2023, prepared by the [Civil Liberties Committee](#) refers, among other issues, to:

- concerns about media freedom, attacks on journalists, and spyware;
- corruption and its impact on the rule of law and fundamental rights;
- restrictions on the freedoms of association, speech and assembly;
- police violence against protestors and minorities;
- pushbacks at the borders;
- religion-based attacks, racism and xenophobia;
- discrimination against women, children, LGBTIQ+ persons and other vulnerable groups, including via biases in emerging technologies; and
- ways to address other social, economic, and environmental issues, such as poverty and social exclusion, and digital poverty.

*Procedure code: 2023/2028 (INI)*

*Procedure: non-legislative resolution*

*Debate: Wednesday 17 January*

*Vote: Thursday, 18 January*

### Further information

[Fundamental rights in the EU in 2022-2023 remained under threat, MEPs say \(13.11.2023\)](#)

[Rapporteur: Katarina Barley \(S&D, Germany\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](#)

[EU Agency for Fundamental Rights products](#)

[Factsheets on the EU: The protection of Article 2 TEU values in the EU](#)

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

# Fight against fraud: more needs to be done to protect EU's financial interests

## MEPs will review efforts to prevent fraud affecting the EU budget and discuss how to monitor the use of funds awarded to non-governmental organisations.

According to a draft report to be voted on in plenary on Thursday, EU funds being used in a fraudulent or irregular way amounted to €1.77 billion in 2022 (down from €2.05 billion), a figure that MEPs consider extremely high. They warn that resources allocated for Europe's response to the war in Ukraine are not adequately monitored and call for more thorough checks, as well as for a fraud-proof design of future funding foreseen for Ukraine under the [Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance \(IPA\)](#) and Horizon Europe. Regarding Hungary, they complain that the Commission did not request sufficient safeguards before lifting the [suspension measures](#) in exchange for the government's endorsement of aid for Ukraine.

### Transparency of civil society organisations

In a separate resolution, to be discussed in plenary on Tuesday followed by a vote on Wednesday, MEPs highlight transparency and accountability shortcomings in the way certain NGOs are using EU funds. They raise concerns that EU funds are being used to promote false narratives and disinformation, as allegedly happened on "Qatargate".

*Debate: Tuesday, 16 January (NGOs)*

*Votes: Wednesday, 17 January (NGOs) and Thursday, 18 January (anti-fraud report)*

*Procedure: Own-initiative reports*

*Procedure code: [2023/2045\(INI\)](#) (Combating fraud), [2023/2122\(INI\)](#) (Transparency of NGOs)*

### Further information

[Press release following the committee vote \(5.12.2023\)](#)

[Draft report on the protection of the European Union's financial interests – combating fraud – annual report 2022](#)

[Draft report on transparency and accountability of NGOs funded from the EU budget](#)

[Rapporteur Maria Grapini \(S&D, RO\)](#)

[Rapporteur Markus Pieper \(EPP, DE\)](#)

[EP study: Transparency and accountability of EU funding for NGOs active in EU policy areas within EU territory](#)

[European Commission: Annual Report on the Protection of the European Union's financial interests and the Fight against fraud 2022](#)



# Financial services: final vote on better data access and more robust EU market

**MEPs will debate and vote on rules to enhance financial market data transparency, optimise orderly trading and prohibit payments for forwarding client orders.**

The [Markets in Financial Instruments Directive](#) (MiFID II) and the [Markets in Financial Instruments Regulation](#) (MiFIR) are the main pieces of legislation regulating investment services and activities of EU-based trading venues . On Tuesday, Parliament is set to endorse rules [agreed with member states in June 2023](#).

The new provisions should reduce information asymmetries between market participants and improve orderly trading in commodity derivatives concerning energy and food. To protect investors from suboptimal trading decisions, the practice of receiving payments for forwarding client orders for execution ('payment for order flows') will be banned across the EU.

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement*

*Debate: Monday 15 January*

*Vote: Tuesday, 16 January*

## Further information

[Procedure file: amendments to MiFID II](#)

[Procedure file: amendments to MiFIR](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur: Danuta HÜBNER \(EPP, PL\)](#)

[EP research service briefing: Amendments to MiFID II and MiFIR: The EU's markets in financial instruments](#)

## 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.**

- The ongoing persecution of Falun Gong in China, notably the case of Mr Ding Yuande;
- The threat of famine following the spread of conflict in Sudan;
- Tajikistan: state repression against the independent media.

*Debate: Wednesday 17 January*

*Vote: Thursday 18 January*

*Procedure: non-legislative resolutions*

### **Further information**

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

# Other topics on the agenda

## Other topics on the agenda

- Role of preventive diplomacy in tackling frozen conflicts, *ZOVKO, Debate Tuesday, vote Wednesday*
- EU-India relations, *ALAMETSÄ, debate Tuesday, vote Wednesday*
- EU strategy on Central Asia, Karsten Lucke, vote Wednesday
- Activities of the European Ombudsman – annual report 2022 In the presence of Emily O'Reilly, European Ombudsman, *JAHR, debate Tuesday, vote Wednesday*
- Erasmus+ interim evaluation, *ZVER, vote Tuesday- European historical consciousness, Sabine Verheyen, vote Wednesday*
- Revision of the European Labour Authority mandate, *Council and Commission statements*
- Quality jobs in a competitive future-oriented Social Market economy, *topical debate, Wednesday*
- Competition policy – annual report 2023, *Stéphanie Yon-Courtin, vote Tuesday*
- Banking Union – annual report 2023, *Ivars Ijabs, vote Tuesday*
- Implementation of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), *Javier Moreno Sánchez, debate Tuesday, vote Wednesday*
- Gender aspects of the rising cost of living and the impact of the energy crisis, *Alice Kuhnke, debate Wednesday, vote Thursday*
- Addressing urgent skills shortages and finding the right talents to boost job creation (European Year of Skills), *Commission statement, Wednesday - Geothermal energy, Zdzisław Krasnodębski, debate Wednesday, vote Thursday*