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MEPs to assess the results of the 19 March EU summit

On Wednesday afternoon, MEPs will debate the outcome of the 19 March European Council with President António Costa and the European Commission.

At their meeting in Brussels, heads of state or government focused on military escalation in the Middle East and Europe's response to the geopolitical and economic fall-out. Leaders and President Zelenskyy discussed Europe's ongoing efforts to secure a just and lasting peace for Ukraine. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres joined the summit for a discussion on the situation in Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank. The summit also focused on security and defence, the single market, EU competitiveness, and migration.

European Council and Commission statements, without resolution

Debate: Wednesday, 25 March

Further information

[European Council Conclusions](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: Free photos, video- and audiomaterial](#)

Vote on the EU US trade deal

On Thursday, MEPs will adopt their position on two proposals that would implement the tariff aspects of the EU-US Turnberry trade deal.

Parliament is expected to adopt its mandate for negotiations with EU member states on [two legislative proposals](#) that would eliminate most tariffs on industrial and agricultural goods from the US.

MEPs will also vote on a suspension clause, which would if used immediately suspend the tariff preferences with the US, should the US introduce new tariffs. [The draft position adopted by the International Trade Committee](#) also includes a proposal for a so-called “sunrise clause”, which would mean if adopted that the new tariffs would only become effective when the US respects its commitments.

Background

In July 2025, the EU and the US reached a political agreement on tariff and trade issues (Turnberry Deal). These were outlined in detail in an August 2025 joint statement announcing an [EU-US Framework Agreement](#). The Commission then published two legislative proposals aimed at implementing certain tariff aspects of the Agreement.

Procedures: 2025/0261(COD), 2025/0260(COD), ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Vote: Thursday 26 March

Press conference: TBD

Further information

[Committee on International Trade](#)

[EU-US trade relations deal factsheet \(European Commission\)](#)

[Implementing the EU tariff commitments under the 2025 EU-US Framework Agreement](#)

Artificial intelligence: Parliament to vote on nudification ban

MEPs are set to adopt their position on delaying certain provisions for high-risk artificial intelligence (AI) systems, and on adding a new ban on “AI nudifier” systems.

The draft position, [prepared](#) by the Internal Market and Civil Liberties committees, supports the Commission’s proposal to postpone the activation of certain rules for high-risk artificial intelligence systems, but suggests fixed dates (2 December 2027) to ensure legal certainty for companies. MEPs introduce a new ban on AI systems that can create or manipulate sexually explicit images (i.e. deepfakes). Amendments to the AI Act also include measures to support small mid-cap enterprises, clarifications on potential overlaps with other sector-specific EU product safety rules, and extra powers for the AI Office for oversight of general-purpose AI models.

After plenary approves the mandate, MEPs can begin negotiations with the member states, which agreed their position on [13 March](#).

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure

Vote: Thursday 26 March

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Draft committee report \(Digital Omnibus on AI\)](#)

[EP research briefing: Digital Omnibus on AI](#)

EU energy security and independence

On Wednesday, MEPs will debate the current energy outlook amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and the disruption of maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

The US and Israeli bombings of Iran and Tehran's attacks on shipping crossing the Strait of Hormuz as well as on energy infrastructure in the Gulf have led to a sharp increase in hydrocarbon prices, highlighting the persistent vulnerabilities within international energy markets. Against this backdrop, MEPs will quiz Council and Commission representatives on possible measures to enhance the EU's energy security while maintaining market stability and affordability. Parliament is currently working on the [grids package legislative proposals](#) aiming to lower electricity prices via [boosting grid infrastructure](#) and on an update of the [Trans-European networks for Energy \(TEN-E\) guidelines](#).

The [European Council conclusions](#) of 19 March 2026 underscored the urgency of advancing Europe's energy transition as the primary strategy for enhancing strategic autonomy, resilience, and long-term affordability.

Procedure Code: 2026/2653(RSP)

Debate: Wednesday, 25 March

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, without resolution

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

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

Vote on launching negotiations on the EU's new return law

MEPs will vote on Thursday on whether to open talks with Council on the proposed reform of the EU returns policy for immigrants without the right to stay in the EU.

On 9 March the Civil Liberties Committee adopted [Parliament's draft position](#) on the proposal and backed the launch of interinstitutional negotiations to finalise the law. Following three separate requests by the [S&D](#), [Greens/EFA](#) and [The Left](#) political groups, the decision to open negotiations will be put to a plenary vote, as established in [rule 72 of Parliament's rules of procedure](#).

The [proposed reform](#) introduces new obligations for third-country nationals to cooperate with return authorities, allows for the detention of people for up to 24 months or more under certain conditions, envisages strengthened mutual recognition of return decisions across the EU, and provides for a possibility to use return hubs in countries outside the EU.

If endorsed, a first round of negotiations with the Cyprus Presidency could take place on the same day.

Vote: Thursday 26 March

Procedure code 2025/0059(COD)

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[EPRS Briefing : Measuring irregular migration and returns in the EU](#)

More stringent rules to reduce water pollution

On Thursday, MEPs are expected to greenlight new measures to reduce groundwater and surface water pollution and improve EU water quality standards.

The legislation updates the list of pollutants that need to be monitored and controlled, including PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as “forever chemicals”), pharmaceuticals, industrial substances and pesticides. It also puts a stronger focus on substances of emerging concern, such as microplastics and antimicrobial resistance indicators.

Parliament and Council [concluded an agreement](#) on the rules last year, following which [the Council adopted its first reading position](#). Once [formally endorsed by Parliament](#), the new legislation will be published in the EU Official Journal.

Background

In line with the [European Green Deal](#)'s zero pollution ambition, the Commission tabled a [proposal](#) in October 2022 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)

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, early second reading agreement

Adoption: Thursday 26 March

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Legislative train](#)

[EP Research Service: Pollutants in EU waters](#)

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

Urban wastewater treatment rules' impact on pharmaceutical sector

On Thursday, MEPs will quiz the Commission on the implementation of the EU's urban wastewater treatment law and its potential impact on security of supply of medicines.

The [revised Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive](#), which entered into force on 1 January 2025, requires EU countries to ensure that towns and cities collect and treat wastewater properly. In line with the EU's "polluter pays principle", it introduced extended producer responsibility (EPR) for manufacturers of medicinal and cosmetic products, who must cover at least 80% of the costs of removing micro-pollutants from urban wastewater by 31 December 2028.

In the debate, MEPs are [expected to raise concerns](#) over the cost estimates, the proportionality of the extended producer responsibility, and its potential impact on the availability, affordability and security of supply of medicines. The overall implementation status of the rules, as well as possible temporary measures to address the issues raised by MEPs, EU countries and stakeholders, will also feature in the discussion.

A resolution will be put to a vote during the 27-30 April plenary session.

Procedure: question for oral answer, with resolution

Debate: Thursday 26 March

Vote: April plenary session

Further information

[Question for oral answer: Implementation of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and risks to the security of supply of medicines](#)

[European Commission: Urban wastewater](#)

[Press release: New EU rules to improve urban wastewater treatment and reuse \(10.4.2024\)](#)

[EP Research: Urban wastewater treatment \(April 2024\)](#)

[Poland partial annulment action at the Court of Justice of the European Union \(Case C-193/25, 10.03.2025\)](#)

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

[Implementation of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive](#)

Final adoption of toolset to address bank failures and protect deposits

On Thursday, MEPs are set to greenlight new rules to ensure orderly market exit for a broader range of banks, to minimise the economic impact and protect depositors.

The new rules are designed to improve safeguards for taxpayers' money by broadening the scope of banks covered by bank failure legislation. They will empower authorities to manage potential failures more effectively and will harmonise depositor protection across the EU. The resolution framework - used by governments and regulators to restructure or wind down failing banks safely while protecting depositors and financial stability - will also cover small and medium-sized banks, where this is deemed to be in the public interest.

Provided they are not professional investors, retail customers, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and small public authorities (such as municipalities and regional governments) will benefit from stronger protection against losses. In addition to the standard EU deposit guarantee of €100,000 per depositor, per bank, certain deposits linked to real estate transactions will also be covered. Protection will range from a minimum of €500,000 up to €2,500,000, depending on the circumstances.

Background

The package comprises three legislative files: the [Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive \(BRRD\)](#), the [Single Resolution Mechanism Regulation \(SRMR\)](#), and the [Deposit Guarantee Schemes Directive \(DGSD\)](#).

Procedures: 2023/0112(COD), 2023/0111(COD), 2023/0115(C)OD, ordinary legislative procedure, second reading agreement

Specialist: Dorota

Debate: Wednesday 25 March

Adoption: Thursday 26 March

Further information

[Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive \(BRRD\) provisional agreement](#)

[Single Resolution Mechanism Regulation \(SRMR\) provisional agreement](#)

[Deposit Guarantee Schemes Directive \(DGSD\) provisional agreement](#)

Rapporteur responsible for BRRD: Luděk NIEDERMAYER (EPP, CZ)

Rapporteur responsible for SRMR: Irene Tinagli (S&D, IT)

Rapporteur responsible for DGSD: Kira Marie PETER-HANSEN (Greens/EFA, DK)

[Deposit protection and early intervention measures](#)

Final vote on new EU anti-corruption legislation

On Thursday, MEPs will vote on the first EU-wide criminal anti-corruption framework, which sets common rules for offences like bribery, misappropriation, and illicit enrichment.

A debate will take place in plenary on Wednesday.

The directive, provisionally agreed between Parliament and Council [in December 2025](#) and endorsed by the Civil Liberties Committee [in January 2026](#), introduces common definitions for corruption offences, harmonised rules on penalties, and prevention obligations for the member states. By establishing EU-level rules for criminal and non-criminal penalties for bribery, misappropriation, obstruction of justice, trading in influence, the unlawful exercise of functions, illicit enrichment linked to corruption, concealment, and private-sector bribery offences, the directive aims to reduce fragmentation between national systems and close enforcement gaps, particularly in cross-border cases.

Member states will have to present national anti-corruption strategies and publish relevant data in comparable formats. The new rules will also reinforce cooperation between national authorities and the EU's anti-fraud agency OLAF, the European Public Prosecutor's Office, Europol, and Eurojust.

Debate: Wednesday 25 March

Vote: Thursday 26 March

Press conference: with EP President Roberta Metsola and the rapporteur, Thursday 26 March, 12.00 CET

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, 1st reading agreement

Further information

[Eurobarometer survey: Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in the EU in 2025](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Rapporteur: Raquel García Hermida-van der Walle \(Renew, NL\)](#)

[Legislative train](#)

[EP Research Service briefing - Directive on combating corruption \(September 2024\)](#)

[EP Research Service briefing - Combating corruption in the European Union \(December 2024\)](#)

[Directive on combating corruption](#)

Global Gateway: assessing the EU's global infrastructure investment efforts

On Thursday, MEPs will debate the EU's strategy to boost sustainable, high-quality infrastructure investment around the world and table proposals to make it more transparent.

The report, drafted jointly by the Committees on Foreign Affairs and on Development, acknowledges the importance of the flagship Global Gateway Initiative - launched in December 2021 as a €300 billion infrastructure initiative - for the EU's geostrategic ambitions. However, they deplore the initiative's lack of transparency and clarity regarding the origin of the funding, its top-down approach to project funding and its failure to reflect the needs of local partners, and the lack of democratic oversight of its work by the European Parliament.

MEPs are set to demand an investigation into the reported involvement of Chinese companies in Global Gateway-funded projects, in direct violation of its stated objective of being a European alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative. The draft report also asks the Commission to integrate the initiative fully into the Global Europe regulation - the proposed EU external action funding instrument under the 2028-2034 long-term budget.

A press conference with the rapporteurs is scheduled for 15.30 on Wednesday, 25 March.

Procedure: Own-initiative procedure

Procedural file: 2025/2073(INI)

Debate/vote: Thursday 26 March

Press conference: 15.30 on Wednesday, 25 March

Further information

[Global Gateway 2030: Future of Europe's global infrastructure bid \(12.07.2024\)](#)

[Report on Global Gateway — past impacts and future orientation](#)

[Committee on Development](#)

[Profile of the co-rapporteur: Chloé Ridet \(S&D, FR\)](#)

[Profile of the co-rapporteur: Hildegard Bentele \(EPP, DE\)](#)

An EU ban on LGBTQ+ conversion practices: MEPs to discuss Citizens' Initiative

On Wednesday, Parliament will debate a European Citizens' Initiative demanding EU rules against conversion practices.

The [European Citizens' Initiative \(ECI\) 'Ban on conversion practices in the European Union'](#), which collected the requisite one million signatures within a week, states that conversion practices have been qualified as torture by the United Nations and are being prohibited in a growing number of countries. It calls on the Commission to propose legislation against conversion practices targeting LGBTQ+ persons in the EU. The ECI also asks the Commission to qualify these practices as particularly serious crimes with a cross-border dimension addressed at the EU treaty level (known as “euro-crimes”), and calls for the [victims' rights directive](#) to establish minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of conversion practices.

Since 2016, Parliament has [strongly condemned](#) all forms of discrimination against LGBTQ+ people, including conversion 'therapies', and has made repeated calls for EU member states to ban such practices. This issue is also included in the [fundamental rights report voted in the Civil Liberties Committee in February 2026](#), expected to be tabled in plenary in April 2026. The European Commission must reply to the citizens' demands by 18 May 2026. It has also confirmed that it is conducting a study on conversion practices, with results expected in early 2027.

Debate: Wednesday, 25 March

Procedure: European Citizens' Initiative (no resolution)

Further information

[LGBTQ+ conversion practices: MEPs discuss EU-wide ban with citizen organisers](#)
[EP Study - Conversion Practices on LGBT+ People \(14.07.2023\)](#)
[European Citizens' Initiative 'Ban on conversion practices in the European Union'](#)

Vote on EU support for workers in Austria and Belgium

On Thursday, Parliament is set to approve two proposals by the European Commission to mobilise EU funds to support laid off workers in Austria and Belgium.

MEPs will vote on two decisions to mobilise the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF), providing targeted support to workers who lost their jobs following major company closures. One measure concerns Austria, where employees were laid off after motorcycle manufacturer KTM halted production. The proposal would mobilise €1.8 million, covering reintegration measures for 420 workers, such as training, reskilling and job-search support.

A second decision focuses on Belgium, where the bankruptcy of the retail chain Casa International and Casa Logistics in March 2025 left 416 workers displaced. €1.9 million of EU funds is planned for measures to help these workers return to employment.

Procedure: Budgetary procedure

Procedure data: KTM/Austria (2026/0037(BUD)); Casa/Belgium (2026/0038(BUD))

Vote: Thursday 26 March

Further information

[Commission proposal on EGF support to Austria](#)

[Rapporteur for the Austria file, Janusz Lewandowski \(EPP, PL\)](#)

[Commission proposal on EGF support to Belgium](#)

[Rapporteur for the Belgium file, Helder Sousa Silva \(EPP, PT\)](#)

[Committee on Budgets](#)

Other topics on the agenda

Other topics on the agenda

- Amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1232 as regards the extension of its period of application, Sippel, vote Thursday