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Creation date : 19-04-2024

[Plenary round-up – April I 2024](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-04-2024

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary Approaching the end of the mandate, a number of debates on important legislative proposals took place during the April I 2024 plenary session: on the migration and asylum package, reform of the EU electricity market, and the pharmaceutical package. Members also debated Russia's undemocratic elections, and in particular their extension to the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, allegations of Russian interference in the European Parliament, Chinese police activity in Europe, the rule of law in Hungary, and the rule of law and media freedom in Slovakia. His Majesty King Philippe, King of the Belgians, addressed the Parliament to mark his country's presidency of the Council. Finally, President Roberta Metsola made a statement for International Roma Day.

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[Plenary round-up – March 2024](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-03-2024

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary Among the highlights of the March 2024 plenary session were the debates on preparation of the European Council meeting on 21 and 22 March 2024; the need to address urgent concerns regarding Ukrainian children forcibly deported to Russia, and the need to ensure the stability of EU agricultural production and impose sanctions on imports of Russian and Belarussian food and agricultural products to the EU. Members also debated the return of Romanian national treasure illegally appropriated by Russia. Other important debates took place, inter alia, on: deteriorating living conditions in the EU; a healthy lifestyle and active ageing; the inclusion of the right to abortion in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, rising anti-LGBTIQ rhetoric and violence; and EU climate risk assessment. Members also discussed the annual designation of European capitals for children, and the Commission's treatment of requests for public access to documents. Representatives of the world cup-winning Spanish women's national football team participated in Parliament's official celebration to mark International Women's Day. The last 'This is Europe' debate for this term followed a speech by Petteri Orpo, Prime Minister of Finland.

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[Plenary round-up – February II 2024](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 01-03-2024

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary The highlight of the February II 2024 plenary session was the address by Yulia Navalnaya, widow of the assassinated Russian opposition activist and 2021 Sakharov Prize laureate Alexey Navalny. Important debates took place on European security and defence and the war in Gaza. Members adopted a large number of provisional agreements reached in interinstitutional negotiations. Members also adopted several agreements at first reading, on which negotiations with the Council would be required in the new legislative term.

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[Plenary round-up – February I 2024](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 09-02-2024

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | common agricultural policy | common foreign and security policy | EU budget | EU finance | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION

Summary A highlight of the February I 2024 plenary session was the debate on the conclusions of the special European Council meeting on 1 February, at which leaders reached agreement on EU funding, in particular for Ukraine. That was followed by a debate with the Council and Commission on the need for unwavering EU support for Ukraine, after two years of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Members also debated empowering farmers and rural communities and ensuring sustainable and fairly rewarded EU agriculture. Further debates took place on the Commission's new communication on the EU2040 climate target, the state of EU solar industry in the light of unfair competition, and water crisis and droughts in the EU and the need for a sustainable, resilient water strategy for Europe. Members discussed the Dentsu tracking case and the Commission's lack of transparency with regard to the tobacco industry. They discussed the situation of prisoners in Hungarian jails, allegations of Russian interference in EU democratic processes and the need to fight rising antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred. Debates took place on quality traineeships in the EU and the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Abbé Pierre's appeal to address homelessness. Other debates took place on international issues: the situation in Haiti on the eve of the deployment of the United Nations Multinational Security Support Mission, further repression against democracy in Venezuela, the state of play of the implementation of the Global Gateway, and multilateral negotiations in view of the World Trade Organization's 13th Ministerial Conference, in Abu Dhabi. Finally, a 'This is Europe' debate was held with the President of Romania, Klaus Iohannis.

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[Plenary round-up – January I 2024](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 19-01-2024

Author SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | Asia and Oceania | civil law | common fisheries policy | corporate finance | debt | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Ombudsman | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | fisheries | GEOGRAPHY | green economy | India | LAW | reduction of gas emissions | strategic partnership (EU)

Summary The first January 2024 plenary session opened with a statement by Parliament's President, Roberta Metsola, commemorating Jacques Delors, the former Commission President, who passed away on 27 December. The highlight of the session was the presentation by Prime Minister Alexander De Croo of the programme of activities of the Belgian Presidency of the Council. There was also a debate on the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 14-15 December 2023 and on the preparation of the special European Council meeting on 1 February, together with the situation in Hungary and frozen EU funds. Further debates took place on the review of the economic governance framework; the recent ecological catastrophe involving plastic pellets lost off a ship and its impact on micro-plastic pollution in the maritime and coastal habitats; addressing urgent skills shortages and finding the right talents to boost job creation; improving the socio-economic situation of farmers and rural areas; ensuring fair incomes, food security and a just transition; the revision of the European Labour Authority's mandate; and the fight against the resurgence of neo-fascism in Europe, in particular following the parade that took place in Rome on 7 January. Several debates were held on international issues: keeping commitments and delivering military assistance to Ukraine; the humanitarian situation in Gaza, the need to reach a ceasefire and the risks of regional escalation; the need for an EU and international response to the Houthi attacks in the Red Sea and for continued support to the Yemeni peace process; the state of emergency in Ecuador; and Norway's recent decision to advance seabed mining in the Arctic. Finally, Jan-Christoph Oetjen (Renew, Germany) was elected a Vice-President of Parliament, replacing Nicola Beer.

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[Plenary round-up – December 2023](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 15-12-2023

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword Asia and Oceania | common foreign and security policy | cultural prize | democracy | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | Frontex | GEOGRAPHY | honour | human rights | human rights movement | Iran | LAW | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The highlight of the December plenary session was Parliament's award of the 2023 Sakharov Prize to Jina Mahsa Amini and the Woman, Life, Freedom Movement in Iran. Members held a debate with the Council and European Commission on the preparation of the European Council meeting of 14-15 December 2023 and reviewed the Spanish Presidency of the Council. Further debates took place on Council and Commission statements on Parliament's call for the right to disconnect, the defence of democracy package, European economic security strategy and the planned dissolution of key anti-corruption structures in Slovakia and the implications for the rule of law. Members also debated the European defence investment programme, and discussed Frontex in the light of the fact-finding mission of Parliament's working group for Frontex scrutiny. Members debated the outcome of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (COP28). Debates were held on statements by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, among other topics, on the need to release all hostages, to achieve a humanitarian ceasefire and prospects for a two-state solution in Israel; and in the presence of Commission Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis, on the environmental consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

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[Plenary round-up – November II 2023](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 24-11-2023

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword Asia and Oceania | common foreign and security policy | economic geography | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | Israel

Summary During the November II plenary session, Members held a debate with the Council and European Commission on the humanitarian situation in Gaza, the need for the release of hostages and for an immediate humanitarian truce leading to a ceasefire, and on the prospects for peace and security in the Middle East. Further debates took place on the continued threat to the rule of law, the independence of justice and the non-fulfilment of conditionalities for EU funding in Hungary, and the threat to the rule of law resulting from the governmental agreement in Spain. Members also debated the Commission's lack of legislative follow-up to the Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA). The Prime Minister of Bulgaria, Nikolay Denkov led this month's 'This is Europe' debate. William Ruto, President of Kenya, addressed the Parliament in a formal sitting. And in the question time session, Commissioner Thierry Breton answered Members' questions regarding the state of implementation of the EU's commitment to provide 1 million rounds of artillery ammunition to Ukraine up to March 2024.

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[Plenary round-up – November I 2023](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-11-2023

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Keyword common foreign and security policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Palestine question

Summary During the first November plenary session, Members held a debate with the European Council and Commission on the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 26-27 October 2023, and on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the need for a humanitarian pause. Further debates took place on Council and Commission statements on the outcome of the EU–United States Summit, EU enlargement policy and the state of the energy union. Roberta Metsola, the Parliament's President, made a statement on the urgent need for immediate measures against the rise of antisemitism. Finally, the session was preceded by an address by Cate Blanchett, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador.

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[Plenary round-up – October II 2023](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-10-2023

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Keyword Asia and Oceania | economic geography | Europe | GEOGRAPHY | Israel | political geography | Ukraine

Summary During the October II plenary session, Members debated with the Council and Commission the despicable terrorist attacks by Hamas against Israel, Israel's right to defend itself in line with humanitarian and international law, and the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Another important debate followed the Commission's statement on its work programme for 2024. Members also debated a range of other topics, including the effectiveness of the EU sanctions on Russia, the situation of Ukrainian women refugees, the Islamist terrorist attack on French schools and the need to protect people and promote social cohesion, the outcome of the SDGs summit in New York, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, water scarcity in the EU, the need for a coordinated European response and legislative framework on intensive spyware, the rule of law in Malta, fighting disinformation and dissemination of illegal content in the context of the Digital Services Act, and the proposed Council recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions. Martin Hojsík was elected a Vice-President of the Parliament, and Isabel Wiseler-Lima a Quaestor. Finally, Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, addressed Members in a formal sitting.

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[Plenary round-up – October I 2023](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-10-2023

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword aid to refugees | cooperation policy | demography and population | EU finance | EU migration policy | EUROPEAN UNION | international affairs | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | migration | migration statistics | multiannual financial framework | political asylum | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | strategic autonomy

Summary During the October I plenary session Members held a number of debates, including on the need for speedy adoption of the EU asylum and migration package. Other debates focused on: precarity in Europe and the need to aid the deprived; large-scale corrupt sales of Schengen visas; medicine shortages and EU strategic healthcare autonomy; the European Central Bank's 10th consecutive increase in reference interest rates; proposals to extend glyphosate use; and on the Energy Charter Treaty. In the external relations field, topics debated concerned: EU–China trade relations, the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh after the Azerbaijan attack and threats against Armenia; Moldova's EU path; and recent developments in the Serbia–Kosovo dialogue. Parliament approved the appointment of Wopke Hoekstra as member of the European Commission responsible for climate action, and the allocation of an additional role, as Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, for Maroš Šefčovič. Members heard a statement by Parliament's President marking 10 years since the tragedy off the coast of Lampedusa. Petr Pavel, the Czech President, addressed Members in a formal sitting.

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[Plenary round-up – September 2023](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-09-2023

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Keyword documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | equal treatment | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | LAW | rights and freedoms | speech

Summary During the September plenary session, Members heard the annual State of the Union speech from the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. Other highlights included exiled Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya's address to a formal sitting of Parliament. Members debated disaster resilience in the EU, the EU–Tunisia memorandum of understanding, combating the normalisation of extremist discourse, a relief package for smaller businesses, and violence and discrimination in sport. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, made statements on Iran, Latin America and Chile, and answered questions on the situation in west and central Africa in the light of the recent coups d'état. Finally, Members approved the appointment of Iliana Ivanova to the European Commission.

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[Plenary round-up – July 2023](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 14-07-2023

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | electronic component | electronics and electrical engineering | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental policy | European conference | freedom of the press | INDUSTRY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary sitting | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | rights and freedoms | small and medium-sized enterprises | technology | technology and technical regulations

Summary Members focused on a wide range of legislative files during the July plenary session, in particular on environmental policy, the European chips act, and on journalists' freedom. Parliament debated the conclusions of the European Council meeting held on 29-30 June 2023, and the recent developments in the war against Ukraine and in Russia in particular. Members also debated Council and Commission statements on the greening transport package, the state of the SME Union, the need to adopt the 'unshell' directive, and global convergence on generative AI. The President made a statement commemorating the victims of the Srebrenica genocide.

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[Plenary round-up – June 2023](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 16-06-2023

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword artificial intelligence | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | digital technology | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental policy | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | humanitarian aid | information and information processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary sitting | political geography | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technology and technical regulations | Ukraine

Summary The war in Ukraine was again central to the plenary session in June, with a debate on the humanitarian and environmental consequences of the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka dam and sustainable reconstruction and the integration of Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic community. Another important debate concerned the preparation of the European Council meeting set for 29-30 June 2023, in particular in the light of the recent steps forward on agreeing the EU migration pact. Members held a number of debates, inter alia, on the rule of law in Poland, negotiations on the European electoral law, establishment of an EU ethics body, the water crisis in Europe, and how to make Europe the place to invest. Members also debated the situation in Lebanon, in Nicaragua and on the state of the EU-Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement. Finally, Members held the latest 'This is Europe' debate, this month with Nikos Christodoulides, the President of Cyprus. And, in a formal sitting, they heard an address by Vjosa Osmani, President of the Republic of Kosovo.

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[Plenary round-up – May II 2023](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 02-06-2023

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword committee of inquiry | economic geography | EU finance | EU relations | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | fund (EU) | fundamental rights | GEOGRAPHY | Hungary | LAW | parliament | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary sitting | Poland | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | rule of law | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | socioeconomic conditions

Summary Among the key moments of the May II plenary session were debates on breaches of the rule of law and fundamental rights in Hungary and frozen EU funds, and on the threat to democracy and the rule of law in Poland, in particular through the creation of an investigative committee. Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, made a statement on the 10-year anniversary of the Rana Plaza collapse in Bangladesh. Another debate addressed the social and economic costs of climate change in light of the floods in Emilia Romagna, Marche and Tuscany and the urgent need for European solidarity. Members also considered an own-initiative report on sexual harassment in the EU. Finally, in a formal sitting, Parliament heard an address by Salome Zourabichvili, President of Georgia.

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[Plenary round-up – May I 2023](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 12-05-2023

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword economic policy | economic policy | economic structure | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU budget | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | farming sector | FINANCE | green economy | monetary economics | own resources | stability pact

Summary Among the highlights of the May I plenary session were debates on the EU budget and own resources, as well as on 55 reports on the discharge for the 2021 budget. Members addressed a variety of issues, including the revision of the Stability and Growth Pact, and the role of farmers as enablers of the green transition and a resilient agricultural sector. Further debates concerned Ukrainian cereals on the European market, the act in support of ammunition production (on which Parliament voted to fast-track the legislative proposal, with a vote during the May II session), updating the anti-corruption legislative framework, the roadmap on a Social Europe, fighting cyberbullying of young people across the EU, and the adequacy of the protection afforded by the EU-US Data Privacy Framework. Members also considered Commission statements on oceans, biodiversity and fisheries. A debate was held on the European Citizens' Initiative, 'Stop Finning - Stop the trade'. Finally, Members heard and then debated a 'This is Europe' address by Olaf Scholz, Chancellor of Germany, and heard an address by Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of Portugal, in a formal sitting.

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[Plenary round-up – April 2023](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 21-04-2023

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword Asia and Oceania | China | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENERGY | energy policy | energy supply | EU relations | EU strategy | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | labour market | labour mobility | LAW | political geography | price of energy | rights and freedoms | social rights | Ukraine

Summary Highlights of the April plenary session included debates on the need for an EU strategy on relations with China and on children forcibly deported from Ukraine. Other debates addressed: energy storage; labour mobility and the social rights of striking non-EU lorry drivers; adoption of the cyber-package proposals; a digital euro; and Dieselgate (use of defeat devices in cars to disarm pollution control systems). Members also held debates on: a possible EU global health strategy; universal decriminalisation of homosexuality, in light of recent developments in Uganda; the IPCC report on climate change; and the EU action plan against trafficking in cultural goods. Following a statement by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Josep Borrell, Members discussed the situation in Peru. Commissioner Johannes Hahn made statements on the need for European solidarity in saving lives in the Mediterranean, particularly in Italy, as well as on EU relations with Iraq. The President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, made a statement on the 80th anniversary of the Uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto. Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg, was also present, participating in the latest 'This is Europe' debate.

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[Plenary round-up – March II 2023](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 31-03-2023

Author SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword consumer protection | consumption | deterioration of the environment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | gender equality | LAW | natural environment | ozone | personnel management and staff remuneration | product safety | remuneration of work | rights and freedoms | single market | stratospheric pollutant | stratospheric pollution | TRADE | wage determination

Summary The highlight of the March II plenary session was the debate on the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 23-24 March 2023. In a formal ceremony held to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement, the Presidents of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, the European Council, Charles Michel, and the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, each underlined the significance of the 1998 Agreement and the importance of ensuring reconciliation between the two communities in Northern Ireland. Members debated several legislative files, including on fluorinated gases and ozone-depleting substances, safety of products and equal pay for men and women. In a further debate, Members considered the 2022 rule of law report from the European Commission.

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Plenary round-up – March I 2023

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-03-2023

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword bank | conflict of interest | economic conditions | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Council | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial risk | financial stability | free movement of capital | labour law and labour relations | organised crime | public finance | public finance and budget policy | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Among the highlights of the March I plenary session was a debate on the conclusions of the special European Council meeting of 9 February and the preparation of the European Council meeting of 23-24 March 2023, with Charles Michel, the President of the European Council. Members also debated the failure of the Silicon Valley Bank and its implications for European financial stability, a common EU response to save lives at sea, the need to ensure transparency and accountability in the light of alleged conflicts of interest, combatting organised crime in the EU, human rights defenders working in the field of sexual and reproductive health rights, cross-border adoption from third countries, the Bridgetown Agenda on development finance, long-term commitment to animal welfare, and strengthening EU defence in the context of the war in Ukraine. Members also debated statements by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Josep Borrell, on the deterioration of democracy in Israel and the consequences on the occupied territories, on the situation in Georgia, and on the challenges facing Moldova. During a ceremony celebrating International Women's Day, in addition to statements by the Presidents of the Parliament, Roberta Metsola, and of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, Samantha Cristoforetti, an astronaut from the European Space Agency and former commander of the International Space Station, and Shirin Ebadi, Iranian activist and 2003 Nobel Peace Prize winner, gave speeches. Finally, Members heard and debated a 'This is Europe' address by Gitanas Nausėda, President of Lithuania.

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Plenary round-up – February II 2023

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-02-2023

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Keyword Europe | GEOGRAPHY | political geography | Ukraine

Summary The highlight of the February II 2023 plenary session was a debate with the Council and the European Commission marking one year since Russia's invasion and the start of its war of aggression against Ukraine. Members also debated the European Union response to the humanitarian situation following the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria. Members discussed EU funding allocated to non-governmental organisations incriminated in recent corruption revelations, following up on measures requested by Parliament to strengthen the integrity of European institutions and to establish an independent EU ethics body. The European Commission and Council also made statements on a Green Deal industrial plan and access to strategic critical raw materials. Parliament discussed the outcome of the recent special European Council meeting, and among other topics concerning non-EU countries, the further repressions against the people of Belarus, in particular the cases of Andrzej Poczobut and Ales Bialiatski. Finally, in a formal sitting, Members heard an address by Egils Levits, President of the Republic of Latvia.

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Plenary round-up – February I 2023

Publication type At a Glance

Date 03-02-2023

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword accession negotiations | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | economic geography | economic policy | economic support | ECONOMICS | EU migration policy | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | humanitarian aid | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | migration | military intervention | political geography | Russia | Russo-Ukrainian issue | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Ukraine

Summary Highlights of the February I 2023 plenary session included debates with the Council and the European Commission on preparation of the 3 February EU-Ukraine Summit, and a vote on a resolution addressing Ukraine's EU accession perspective, calling for increased military, economic and humanitarian support for Ukraine, and stressing the importance of preparing a comprehensive recovery package for the country. Members also heard about preparations for the special European Council meeting on 9 and 10 February, in particular the need to reform migration and asylum rules to develop sustainable solutions to migratory issues. Members also held debates on the need for an urgent update of the EU list of high-risk third countries for money laundering and terrorist financing, on Afghanistan, and on the situation of the former President of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili.

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[Plenary round-up – January I 2023](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 20-01-2023

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword civil law | common foreign and security policy | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European construction | European Council | EUROPEAN UNION | extremism | GEOGRAPHY | health | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | liability | medicinal product | political geography | president of an institution | respiratory disease | Russo-Ukrainian issue | shortage | single market | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Sweden | trade | TRADE

Summary The highlights of the January I 2023 plenary session were debates on the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 15 December 2022 and the presentation of activities planned under the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The session opened with a ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the single market, followed by a debate with the Council and Commission on the matter. Debates were held on the surge of respiratory infections and the shortage of medication in Europe; on the need to increase transparency, integrity and accountability in the EU institutions; on terrorist threats posed by far-right extremist networks; on criminalisation of humanitarian assistance, as well as on the Global Gateway. Members also debated foreign affairs issues, including the EU's response to the appalling attack against civilians in Dnipro; strengthening action against the Putin regime and military support; and the establishment of a tribunal on the crime of aggression against Ukraine. The High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, spoke on the EU response to the protests and executions in Iran, and on strengthening the EU Latin America partnership. During question time, Members posed questions to Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski on EU action to tackle food price inflation in Europe. Finally, Parliament elected Marc Angel (S&D, Luxembourg) to the post of Vice President of the European Parliament.

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[Plenary round-up – December 2022](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 16-12-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | crime against humanity | cultural prize | EU relations | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | honour | humanitarian aid | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | political geography | rights and freedoms | Schengen Agreement | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Ukraine

Summary The highlight of the December 2022 plenary session was the ceremony awarding the 2022 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to the brave people of Ukraine. Also, in a 'This is Europe' debate, the Prime Minister of Slovenia, Robert Golob, addressed the plenary. With Council and European Commission representatives, Members debated the preparation of the European Council meeting of 15 December 2022. A number of debates also took place: on the outcome of COP27; addressing persistent challenges in the aviation sector; and turning the Child Guarantee into reality. Debates also took place on the recent Council decision on Schengen accession; the EU response to the US Inflation Reduction Act; and defending the European Union against the abuse of national vetoes. The Commission's reports on the situation of journalists and the implications of the rule of law; the 30th anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities; recognising the Holodomor as genocide; and the humanitarian situation in Ukraine were also debated. Members also discussed foreign affairs issues, such as prospects for a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine; Turkish airstrikes on northern Syria and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq; and EU-ASEAN relations. In the wake of allegations of corruption in and around the Parliament, Members held a debate with the Commission on the need for transparency and accountability in the European institutions and adopted a resolution on the issue. The also voted for the early termination of the mandate of the vice-president arrested and charged in recent days.

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Plenary round-up – November II 2022

Publication type At a Glance

Date 25-11-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

External author IMPORT FROM PUMA PROJECT

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | common fisheries policy | digital transformation | economic geography | enlargement of the Union | EU budget | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | fisheries | gender equality | GEOGRAPHY | LAW | own resources | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | rights and freedoms | Russia | technology and technical regulations | terrorism financing

Summary The highlight of the November II 2022 plenary session was the ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the European Parliament, with the participation of the Prime Ministers of France, Belgium and Luxembourg. Russia's war against Ukraine again featured high on the agenda, not least with the adoption of a resolution recognising the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism, and a joint debate with a vote on regulations governing EU financial assistance to Ukraine. Political debates were held on Hungary's compliance with the rule of law conditions under the Conditionality Regulation and the state of play of the Hungarian recovery and resilience plan; on diabetes in the EU on the occasion of World Diabetes Day; and on the human rights situation in the context of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Other debates included: the need for a European solution on asylum and migration including search and rescue; eliminating violence against women; the human rights situation in Egypt; and the legacy of the European Year of Youth 2022. Members also debated a post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the COP15 conference under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, and protection of livestock farming and large carnivores. The EU response to the protests in Iran and EU-China relations were debated with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission (HR/VP), Josep Borrell.

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Plenary round-up – November I 2022

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-11-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | corporate social responsibility | Croatia | digital technology | economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENERGY | energy policy | Europe | FINANCE | financial policy | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | information security | information technology and data processing | international law | LAW | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | political geography | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | Schengen Agreement | self-sufficiency in energy | sustainable development | technology and technical regulations

Summary The highlight of the November I 2022 plenary session was the debate on the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 20-21 October 2022, during which European Union leaders discussed the latest developments in Russia's military campaign against Ukraine, Europe's energy crisis, and external relations – with China in particular. Members also debated Commission statements on the outcome of the modernisation of the Energy Charter, the EU response to the increasing crack-down on protests in Iran, and on the recent communication on ensuring the availability and affordability of fertilisers. Parliament adopted several legislative proposals, including on digital finance, cybersecurity and distortive foreign subsidies.

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Plenary round-up – October II 2022

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-10-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword common foreign and security policy | economic analysis | economic consequence | economic geography | ECONOMICS | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military intervention | political geography | Russia | Russo-Ukrainian issue | Ukraine | war

Summary Russia's aggression against Ukraine once more dominated the agenda for the October II 2022 plenary session, with Members participating in a number of debates on the consequences of the war: the social and economic repercussions and the introduction of a windfall tax; the impact on migration flows; recognising the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism; and the Lukashenko regime's active role in the war against Ukraine. Parliament also debated preparations for the European Council meeting of 20-21 October 2022 with the Council and the European Commission. Members also debated the 2023 Commission work programme, on the day of its adoption by the Commission. Further debates were held on EU action on mental health; marking the International Day of Eradication of Poverty; the rule of law in Malta, five years after the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia; rising hate crime against LGBTIQ people; continued internal border controls in the Schengen area; and setting up a comprehensive framework for missing children and missing persons at risk. Looking further afield, Members debated EU-Western Balkan relations in the light of the new enlargement package; the political situation in Tunisia, particularly on fighting sexual violence; the outcome of the first meeting of the European Political Community; global food security; and protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems. Finally, in a formal sitting, Members heard an address by Zuzana Čaputová, President of Slovakia.

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[Plenary round-up – October I 2022](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-10-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Keyword ENERGY | energy crisis | energy policy | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military intervention

Summary Russia's war on Ukraine once again featured at the top of agenda during the October I 2022 plenary session, with a debate held with the European Commission and Council on Russia's escalation of the conflict, and Members calling for a massive increase in defence support for Ukraine, as well as additional support for those regions most affected. Regarding the related energy crisis, Members demanded that the EU response focus on the most vulnerable. A number of political debates were held, inter alia, on ocean governance; rule of law conditionality in Hungary; Romania and Bulgaria's accession to the Schengen area; and the EU strategy on fertilisers to ensure food security in Europe. Members also debated ending discrimination against Roma people, and called for an end to illegal trade in wildlife by 2025.

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[Plenary round-up – September 2022](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-09-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU action | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | labour law and labour relations | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary sitting | POLITICS | public consultation | public institution | social dialogue (EU)

Summary The highlight of the September 2022 plenary session was the annual address by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, on the State of the European Union (SOTEU). Ukraine's First Lady, Olena Zelenska, was present for SOTEU and the debate that followed, where Russian aggression in Ukraine was again an important point. A 'This is Europe' debate was held with the Prime Minister of Finland, Sanna Marin. Members also debated Council and Commission statements on the EU response to the increase in energy prices in Europe, the urgent need for action at EU level to ensure humane treatment of migrants in Europe, the consequences of extreme weather phenomena and increasing EU efforts to fight climate change, and on the ecological disaster in the Oder River. Debates also took place on the state of the SME Union, surveillance and predator spyware systems in Greece, and the situation in the Strait of Taiwan.

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[Plenary round-up – July 2022](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-07-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword air and space transport | air transport | carbon neutrality | Croatia | digital single market | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU institutions and European civil service | euro | Europe | European conference | European construction | European Council | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Kosovo | monetary relations | political geography | Russia | Russo-Ukrainian issue | Serbia | TRANSPORT | Ukraine

Summary The war in Ukraine was again an important point on the agenda of the July 2022 plenary session, with Members debating the conclusions of the European Council meeting that took place on 23-24 June 2022, as well as a long list of Council and Commission statements, including on facilitating exports of Ukrainian agricultural products, and on relations of the Russian government and diplomatic network with extremist, populist, anti-European and other European political parties. Parliament also debated statements on the Czech Presidency's programme of activities for the next six months, and a 'This is Europe' debate was held with the Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis. Members addressed European Union initiatives to address inflation, implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and taxing energy companies' windfall profits. Members rejected a motion to oppose the inclusion of nuclear and gas as environmentally sustainable economic activities in the EU taxonomy. A debate on the activities of the European Investment Bank took place in the presence of its President, Werner Hoyer. Members also considered the consequences of the recent heat waves and drought in the EU. Looking further afield, Members debated the United Kingdom's unilateral introduction of the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill and respect of international law, and the United States Supreme Court decision to overturn abortion rights. Debates took place on the treatment of refugees at the Spanish-Moroccan border, and on the post-Cotonou Agreement. Finally, Members debated and voted on a number of legislative files.

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Plenary round-up – June II 2022

Publication type At a Glance

Date 24-06-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword Africa | Africa | deterioration of the environment | economic conditions | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy policy | energy storage | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU finance | EU financial instrument | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | gas | GEOGRAPHY | greenhouse gas | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | reduction of gas emissions | trade agreement (EU)

Summary The highlight of the June II 2022 plenary session was the vote to overwhelmingly endorse the granting of candidate status to Ukraine and Moldova, and – once it meets the conditions set out by the Commission – Georgia. On the evening of 23 June, EU leaders did indeed follow suit. Members debated preparations for that European Council meeting taking place on 23-24 June 2022, including the meeting with Western Balkan leaders on 23 June. The Parliament also debated with the Commission and Council the use of national vetoes undermining the global tax deal, and held debates, inter alia, on implementation and delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the future of EU international investment policy. Parliament adopted its position, following the urgent procedure, on exceptional temporary support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development in response to the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. A 'This is Europe' debate was held with the Prime Minister of Croatia, Andrej Plenković. Finally, in a formal sitting, Members heard an address by Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia.

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Plenary round-up – June I 2022

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-06-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword common security and defence policy | consumer protection | consumption | cultural prize | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | greenhouse gas | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | pesticide residue | POLITICS | pollution control measures | public procurement | reduction of gas emissions | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | trade policy

Summary The war in Ukraine stayed on the agenda for the June I 2022 plenary session in Strasbourg, with Ruslan Stefanchuk, Speaker of Verkhovna Rada making an address to a formal sitting of Parliament. Members also debated the conclusions of the special European Council meeting of 30-31 May 2022. Parliament debated the rule of law and the potential approval of the Polish National Recovery Plan, and approved the call for a convention on revision of the EU Treaties. Members debated global threats to abortion rights, particularly in the USA, and the massacre of Christians in Nigeria. A 'This is Europe' debate was held with the Taoiseach of Ireland, Micheál Martin. Finally, a ceremony celebrated the 60th anniversary of the common agricultural policy.

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Plenary round-up - May II 2022

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-05-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary The highlight of the May II plenary session in Brussels was an address to a formal sitting of Parliament by Maia Sandu, President of the Republic of Moldova, followed by a debate on the Foreign Affairs (AFET) Committee's annual report on progress to date with implementation of Moldova's EU Association Agreement. Members then adopted a resolution calling for more strategic support for the country. Russia's war on Moldova's neighbour Ukraine again dominated the agenda. Members held two important debates: on the fight against impunity for war crimes in Ukraine, and on European solidarity and energy security in the face of Russia's invasion and its recent refusal to supply gas to Poland and Bulgaria. Members also debated Council and Commission statements on prosecution of members of the opposition and detention of trade union leaders in Belarus.

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[Plenary round-up - May I 2022](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 06-05-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary Russia's war on Ukraine was again at the top of the agenda for the May I 2022 plenary session in Strasbourg. Members held three important debates related to the war: on the social and economic consequences for the EU and reinforcing the EU's capacity to act, on EU preparedness against cyber-attacks following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and on the impact on the EU transport and tourism sectors. Parliament debated Commission and Council statements on threats to the safety of journalists and media freedom, marking the annual World Press Freedom Day, on ongoing hearings under Article 7(1) TEU regarding Poland and Hungary, on the state of play of EU-Moldova cooperation, on building a wall on the Poland-Belarus border in the Białowieża primeval forest, and on threats to stability, security and democracy in western Africa and the Sahel. The follow up of the Conference on the Future of Europe was also debated. Following on from recent reforms to the structure of the plenary agenda, and in particular the return of question time with the Commission, Members discussed Europe's energy autonomy – the strategic importance of renewables and energy interconnections and efficiency – with Commissioner Kadri Simson. A debate entitled 'This is Europe' was held with the Prime Minister of Italy, Mario Draghi, and other Heads of State or Government are expected to take part in future plenary sessions. Among the other debates held were those on the discharge for the 2020 budget, the EU action plan for organic agriculture, distortive foreign subsidies, the 2021 annual report on competition policy, and on artificial intelligence in a digital age.

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[Plenary round-up - April 2022](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 08-04-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword carriage of goods | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENERGY | energy grid | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU budget | EU Emissions Trading Scheme | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | exchange of information | information and information processing | organisation of transport | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | public data | trans-European network | TRANSPORT | vehicle rental

Summary The war in Ukraine led the agenda of the April 2022 plenary session in Strasbourg. Members held two important debates: on EU protection for children and young people fleeing the war, and on the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 24-25 March 2022, which covered the latest developments and EU sanctions against Russia and their implementation. Parliament also debated a number of Council and Commission statements on: the outcome of the EU-China summit of 1 April 2022, the ongoing hearings under Article 7(1) TEU regarding respect for EU values in Poland and Hungary, violations of the right to seek asylum and non-refoulement in the EU Member States, the Sixth Assessment Report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the urgent need to adopt the minimum tax directive, the situation of marginalised Roma communities in the EU, and mental health. In an adjustment to the structure of the plenary agenda, question time with the Commission has been reintroduced. Members questioned President Ursula von der Leyen on progress on the Commission's political priorities over the past two years. Members then questioned Josep Borrell, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission (HR/VP), on the EU's security and Strategic Compass. Another debate with the HR/VP focused on the situation in Afghanistan, in particular the women's rights situation. Several debates and votes on legislative files also took place, including on the Schengen evaluation mechanism.

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[Plenary round-up - March II 2022](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 25-03-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword communications | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | equal pay | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | fraud against the EU | gender equality | GEOGRAPHY | LAW | macro-financial assistance | Moldova | monetary economics | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | personnel management and staff remuneration | political geography | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | roaming | telephone charges | virtual currency

Summary With the war in Ukraine high on Parliament's agenda, the highlight of the March II 2022 plenary session in Brussels was a formal address by Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada. Members held a debate with the Council and the European Commission on the need for an urgent EU action plan to ensure food security inside and outside the EU, in the light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. They also debated the power of the proposed joint European action to secure more affordable, reliable and sustainable energy. Turning to the 'Suisse Secrets' scandal, Members debated how to encourage anti-money-laundering standards in third countries. Members also discussed the outcome of the European Council meeting in Paris on 10 March 2022, and the preparations for the 24-25 March 2022 meeting. Several legislative files were adopted, inter alia on roaming charges; the cohesion action for the presence of refugees in Europe and use of funds under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) Regulation, both in light of the war in Ukraine; and on the Status Agreement between the EU and Moldova on Frontex operations.

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[Plenary round-up - March I 2022](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 11-03-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword common foreign and security policy | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic situation | economic survey | ECONOMICS | EP Committee | EU action | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | INDUSTRY | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | leather and textile industries | parliamentary debate | parliamentary proceedings | political asylum | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public safety | refugee | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | socioeconomic conditions | textile industry

Summary As the March I 2022 plenary session in Strasbourg took place just two weeks after Russia launched its war on Ukraine, security and economic issues were high on the agenda. Members held a debate with Kaja Kallas, Prime Minister of Estonia, on the EU's role in a changing world and the security situation in Europe, and debated Council and Commission statements on the deterioration of the situation of refugees fleeing Ukraine. Celebrating International Women's Day, Members heard an address by Ukrainian author, Oksana Zabuzhko. Members also debated a number of other Commission statements: on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina; on transparency and standards in public access requests; on the need for EU action on sustainable textiles and on chronic kidney disease. Members approved the establishment of three temporary committees: a special committee on Covid 19; an inquiry committee on the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware; and the continuation for a second one-year term of the work of the Special Committee on Foreign Interference in all Democratic Processes in the EU, including Disinformation (INGE). Several debates and votes on legislative files took place, inter alia on the European Semester, batteries and battery waste and the general Union environment action programme to 2030.

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[Plenary round-up – February 2022](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 18-02-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agricultural activity | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | animal welfare | cancer | common foreign and security policy | deterioration of the environment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENERGY | ENVIRONMENT | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | human rights | LAW | motor vehicle pollution | occupational health | organisation of work and working conditions | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | public health | renewable energy | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | soft energy

Summary The February 2022 plenary session in Strasbourg took place at a time of considerable international tension. Members debated statements by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borrell (HR/VP), on EU-Russia relations, European security and Russia's military threat against Ukraine. Parliament debated Council and Commission statements on the cyber-surveillance of politicians, prosecutors, lawyers and journalists, and others in EU Member States. Members also debated the HR/VPs statement on EU-Africa relations, and in a formal sitting, heard an address by Iván Duque Márquez, President of Colombia. A debate was held on the consequences of the European Court of Justice ruling on rule of law conditionality. Parliament celebrated the 20th anniversary of the euro, in the presence of Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank.

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[Plenary round-up – January 2022](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 21-01-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword appointment of members | digital economy | digital single market | economic geography | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EU Council Presidency | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European construction | European Medicines Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | France | GEOGRAPHY | member of the Court of Auditors (EU) | organisation of transport | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | political geography | POLITICS | President of the EP | TRANSPORT | transport of animals

Summary A solemn ceremony was held in Strasbourg to honour the Parliament's late President David Maria Sassoli, who died the previous week. Following this sad occasion, the main point on the agenda for the January 2022 plenary session was the already scheduled mid-term election of Parliament's President, 14 Vice-Presidents and 5 Quaestors. Parliament also debated the programme of activities of the French Council Presidency, with Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic.

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Plenary round-up – December 2021

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-12-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword cooperation policy | digital single market | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | education policy | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | fight against crime | health | health policy | human rights movement | humanitarian aid | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | labour law | labour law and labour relations | organised crime | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | politics and public safety | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Due to the deteriorating Covid 19 situation, Members were again able to choose to vote remotely during the December plenary session in Strasbourg. Parliament nevertheless held a joint debate on the preparation of the European Council meeting of 16-17 December 2021 and the EU's response to the global resurgence of Covid 19 and new emerging variants. Members debated statements by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borrell, on the situation in Nicaragua, at the Ukrainian border, and in the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine. Members also debated a number of Council and European Commission statements, including on: the proposed Council decision on provisional emergency measures on the external border with Belarus; the state of play of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, plans to further undermine fundamental rights in Poland; on the EU response to transport poverty; taking stock of the European Year of Rail; the outcome of the Global Summit on Nutrition for Growth and increased food insecurity in developing countries; and on an EU ban on the use of wild animals in circuses. In a formal sitting, Parliament heard an address by Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana.

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Plenary round-up – November II 2021

Publication type At a Glance

Date 26-11-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | aid to agriculture | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | climate change | criminal law | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | EU budget | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial management | financial regulation | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | management | migration | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | public finance and budget policy | sexual violence | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | UN Conference

Summary Due to the deteriorating Covid 19 situation, the November II plenary session in Strasbourg was again organised with the possibility for Members to vote remotely. Parliament debated a number of Council and European Commission statements, including on: coordination of Member States' coronavirus measures; police violence against Roma people; preparation of the 12th World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference; state of the Energy Union; a European action plan against rare diseases; and on international port congestion and increased transport costs. Members also debated the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 21-22 October 2021, and heard Council and Commission statements on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Parliament adopted several resolutions and legislative acts, inter alia on a European strategy for critical raw materials, EU sports policy, and on a pharmaceutical strategy for Europe.

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Plenary round-up – November I 2021

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-11-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword communications | cooperation policy | disclosure of information | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | European party | EUROPEAN UNION | external border of the EU | FINANCE | freedom of the press | humanitarian aid | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | party financing | pluralism in the media | political party | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | tax on income | taxation

Summary The November I 2021 plenary session in Brussels was the first to be held without the use of remote voting since March 2020. During this mini-session, Parliament debated, in particular, a statement from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borrell, on the escalating humanitarian crisis on the EU/Belarusian border, in particular in Poland. Members also heard an address by Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Another debate covered the outcome of the first meeting of the new EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC). Several resolutions and legislative acts were adopted, inter alia on strengthening democracy, media freedom and pluralism in the EU, the statute and funding of European political parties and foundations, the European Education Area, disclosure of income tax information by certain undertakings and branches, the European Partnership on Metrology, the European Union Agency for Asylum, and on serious cross-border threats to health.

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[Plenary round-up – October II 2021](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 22-10-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | amending budget | budget | budgetary discharge | climate change policy | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | general budget (EU) | insurance | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | motor vehicle insurance | occupational safety | organisation of work and working conditions | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | sustainable agriculture | UN Conference

Summary During the October II 2021 plenary session in Strasbourg, Parliament held a number of important debates, in particular on: the primacy of EU law, the rule of law crisis and de facto abortion ban in Poland; increased efforts to fight money laundering; regarding pushbacks at the EU's external border; the right to a healthy environment and on climate, energy and environmental State aid guidelines (CEEAG). Members debated the rise of right-wing extremism and racism in Europe, the humanitarian situation in Haiti and the proposal to build a 'single market for philanthropy'. Members debated a statement from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borrell, on the situation in Tunisia. Parliament also discussed matters in preparation for the European Council meeting of 21-22 October 2021, and debated the global tax agreements to be endorsed at the G20 Summit in Rome on 30-31 October 2021, as well as the outcome of the Western Balkans summit. Parliament announced that its 2021 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought will be awarded to Russian anti-corruption activist Alexei Navalny, with the formal ceremony to be held on 20 December 2021.

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[Plenary round-up – October I 2021](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 08-10-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword America | Arctic | criminal law | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENERGY | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | EU institutions and European civil service | EU relations | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union Agency for Asylum | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | information security | information technology and data processing | LAW | natural environment | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | political geography | POLITICS | price increase | price of energy | prices | tax offence | United States

Summary During the first plenary session of October 2021 in Strasbourg, Parliament held a number of debates, in particular on the proposed EU Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority, which should ensure a coordinated EU approach for future health crises. Debate also took place on possible European solutions to the rise in energy prices for businesses and consumers and the role of energy efficiency and renewable energy, highlighting the need to tackle energy poverty. Members discussed the release of the Pandora Papers and the implications for efforts to combat money laundering, tax evasion and avoidance. Debates were held on several human rights issues, including the humanitarian situation in Tigray. Members heard a statement from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borrell, on the situation in Belarus following the violent repression of protest in the country. A number of resolutions and legislative acts were adopted, inter alia on artificial intelligence in criminal law, the EU road safety policy framework 2021 2030, the Aarhus Regulation on access to information and public participation in environmental matters, on the state of EU cyber-defence capabilities, and on the Banking Union annual report 2020.

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[Plenary round-up – September 2021](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 17-09-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword disease prevention | economic geography | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU relations | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | health | labour market | labour shortage | LAW | political geography | proposal (EU) | public health | rights and freedoms | Russia | sexual discrimination | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU | work permit

Summary During the September 2021 plenary session in Strasbourg, Parliament held a number of debates, including on legislative proposals for health and disease prevention, and the Brexit Adjustment Reserve; as well as on natural disasters in Europe; the Pegasus spyware scandal; media freedom; and on further deterioration of the rule of law in Poland. Members debated Commission and Council statements on the July 2021 'Fit for 55' package of legislative proposals, in the light of the latest IPCC report. Council presented its position on the draft general EU budget for 2022, ahead of the Parliament voting its position during the October II session. Parliament also debated statements from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borrell, on the situation in Afghanistan and in Lebanon. A number of other resolutions and legislative acts were adopted, inter alia on: the instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA III); a new EU-China strategy; fair working conditions, rights and social protection for platform workers; and on guidelines for Member States' employment policies.

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Plenary round-up – July 2021

Publication type At a Glance

Date 09-07-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword air and space transport | civil aviation | common foreign and security policy | coronavirus disease | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU visa policy | European construction | European Investment Bank | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | fundamental rights | health | international law | LAW | multiannual financial framework | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary sitting | political framework | POLITICS | report | rights and freedoms | rule of law | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRANSPORT

Summary During the July 2021 plenary session in Strasbourg, Parliament continued to debate and adopt Multiannual Financial Framework programmes for 2021-2027, this time finalising programmes in the justice and home affairs, fisheries and infrastructure areas. Debates on a number of Council and Commission statements were held, including on the programme of activities of the Slovenian Council Presidency, on the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 24-25 June 2021, on the Commission's 2022 work programme, on the state of play of implementation of the EU Digital Covid Certificate Regulation, on the impact of the Covid-19 crisis in aviation, and on the 70th anniversary of the Geneva (refugee) Convention. A number of other debates were held, inter alia on the rule of law and fundamental rights in Hungary and Poland, on amendments to the Visa Information System, and on European Investment Bank activities in 2019. Members also debated international policy issues – the situation in Nicaragua, the repression of the opposition in Turkey, and the situation in Tigray, Ethiopia.

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Plenary round-up – June II 2021

Publication type At a Glance

Date 25-06-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword climate change policy | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | EU relations | Europe | European construction | European Ombudsman | European Public Prosecutor's Office | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | migration | multiannual financial framework | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary sitting | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | public borrowing | public finance and budget policy | report | rule of law | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Switzerland | UN Secretary-General | United Nations

Summary During the June II 2021 plenary session in Brussels, Parliament continued to debate and adopt programmes financed under the multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027, specifically this session in the areas of regional development, with the Common Provisions Regulation, European Territorial Cooperation Regulation, European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund all finalised. Important debates on Council and European Commission statements were held, in particular on the preparation of the European Council meeting on 24-25 June 2021 and the relaunch of the Malta Declaration on external aspects of migration, on the urgent need to complete nominations for the full functioning of the European Public Prosecutor's Office, and on the future of EU-Swiss relations. Members also debated and adopted, inter alia, the proposed European Climate Law, the Public Sector Loan Facility, and discussed the Commission's 2020 rule of law report. António Guterres, the recently re-elected Secretary-General of the United Nations, addressed Parliament in a formal sitting.

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Plenary round-up - June I 2021

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-06-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Coronavirus | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword biodiversity | common foreign and security policy | cultural prize | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | group of leading industrialised countries | information and information processing | information system | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | natural environment | own resources | parliament | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary scrutiny | parliamentary sitting | political framework | POLITICS | report | rule of law | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summit meeting | world organisations

Summary The June I 2021 plenary session took place in Strasbourg once more (although still in hybrid form), some 15 months after the previous session was held there, with coronavirus-containment measures restricting the Parliament's activity throughout that period. A number of important debates took place, including on European Council and European Commission statements on the conclusions of the special meeting of the European Council on 24 and 25 May 2021, and on preparation for the G7 and EU-US Summits. Members also debated the state of play on implementation of the Own Resources roadmap and Parliament's scrutiny of the Commission and Council assessments of the national recovery and resilience plans. Debates were also held on the rule of law situation in the European Union, including the application of the conditionality regulation. Members discussed the follow-up to the Porto Social Summit, as well as the situation of women in politics. Debate was held on systematic repression in Belarus and its consequences for European security in the light of Belarus' interception of a civilian plane. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borrell, made statements on the situation in Afghanistan and in Cuba. Parliament also voted on the proposed EU biodiversity strategy for 2030, and on amendments to information systems required for operation of the European Travel Information and Authorisation System. In a formal ceremony, Parliament awarded the annual Lux Audience Award to a Romanian documentary, Collective, directed by Alexander Nanau.

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Plenary round-up – May 2021

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-05-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Coronavirus | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword data protection | distribution of EU funding | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENERGY | energy policy | EU energy policy | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU policy | EU relations | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | fund (EU) | health | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | international trade | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary sitting | POLITICS | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | TRIPS | vaccine

Summary A number of important debates were held during the May 2021 plenary session, in particular on Parliament's rights to information regarding the ongoing assessment of the national recovery and resilience plans, on a revised industrial strategy for Europe and on recent migrant deaths in the Mediterranean. Members also held a debate on possible waiving of the WTO TRIPS agreement on Covid 19 vaccines to help developing countries fight the pandemic; on business taxation; and on Roma equality in the EU. Two joint debates took place, on hydrogen and energy strategies, and on data protection adequacy. Members debated a statement by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, on the EU position on the Israel-Palestine conflict. A number of programmes under the multiannual financial framework were approved, and debates and votes were also held, inter alia, on the impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations in developing countries, on the digital single market, consumer use of artificial intelligence and on company liability for environmental damage.

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Plenary round-up – April 2021

Publication type At a Glance

Date 30-04-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | consumer protection | consumption | cooperation agreement (EU) | coronavirus disease | digital single market | economic geography | epidemic | EU budget | EU finance | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | financial management | GEOGRAPHY | health | health certificate | management | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | political geography | POLITICS | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | tariff policy | TRADE | United Kingdom

Summary The April 2021 plenary session featured a debate on the outcome of EU-UK negotiations and the vote on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Members also debated the conclusions of the 25 and 26 March 2021 European Council meeting and the outcome of the 6 April 2021 high-level EU-Turkey meeting. Members debated ways to save the summer tourism season and provide EU support to the hospitality sector, and underlined the need for affordable Covid 19 testing. Parliament also debated statements by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borell, on Russia, Alexei Navalny, the military build-up on Ukraine's border and the Russian attack on an arms depot in Czechia, on Chinese counter-sanctions, and on the fifth anniversary of the Peace Agreement in Colombia. Parliament also voted on a mandatory transparency register for outside interests meeting with the three institutions.

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Plenary round-up – March II 2021

Publication type At a Glance

Date 26-03-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword Africa | Africa | agenda | capital market | climate change | data protection | deterioration of the environment | dual-use good | economic and social cohesion | economic conditions | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | EU budget | EU finance | EU financing | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technology and technical regulations

Summary The highlight of the March II 2021 plenary session was the joint debate on the preparation of the European Council and Digital Green Certificates. A number of further joint debates were held on 2019 2020 enlargement progress reports on Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia, on the reform of EU own resources, on a capital markets recovery package: adjustments to the securitisation framework and on a European strategy for data. These debates were followed by votes. Other debates held following Council and Commission statements concerned Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, and the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia and the rule of law in Malta. Proposals on guidelines for the 2022 EU budget, implementation of the Ambient Air Quality Directives, for a new EU-Africa strategy, and legislation on exports, brokering, technical assistance, transit and transfer of dual-use goods, were also debated and voted.

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[Plenary round-up – March I 2021](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 12-03-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Coronavirus | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agenda | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | coronavirus disease | epidemic | EU initiative | EU institutions and European civil service | EU investment | EU programme | European construction | European Ombudsman | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | fisheries | fishing controls | health | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | political framework | POLITICS | public health | rule of law | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The highlight of the March I 2021 plenary session was the official signature of the Joint Declaration on the Conference on the Future of Europe, allowing the Conference's work finally to get under way. Another important point was the celebration of International Women's Day, which was held just before the start of the session, with Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States of America, and Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand, addressing the plenary in video messages, and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, also participating, in the chamber. The main debates held during the session concerned the economic impact of the Covid 19 pandemic – focusing on investment, competitiveness and skills, as well as the proposed action plan for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, in preparation for the Social Summit in Porto in May. Members also discussed the application of the rule of law conditionality mechanism, respect for the partnership principle in the preparation and implementation of national recovery and resilience plans, and ensuring good governance of the expenditure of EU funding. Proposals on the European Semester annual strategies, corporate due diligence and corporate accountability, as well as the InvestEU and EU4Health programmes, were also debated and voted. Parliament also adopted a resolution declaring the EU an LGBTIQ Freedom Zone. Members debated government attempts to silence free media in Poland, Hungary and Slovenia. Debates were held on reforming the EU policy framework to end tax avoidance in the EU following the OpenLux revelations. Members debated statements by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borell, on the current political situation in Georgia and on the continuing conflict in Syria.

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[Plenary round-up – February 2021](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 12-02-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Coronavirus | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agenda | capital market | circular economy | common foreign and security policy | communications | criminal law | economic conditions | economic policy | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU financial instrument | EU institutions and European civil service | European Central Bank | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | free movement of capital | gender equality | LAW | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | social media | trafficking in human beings

Summary The main debates held during the February 2021 plenary session concerned the state of play of the EU's Covid 19 vaccination strategy and the de facto abortion ban in Poland. Members also debated democratic scrutiny of social media platforms and the protection of fundamental rights, including the challenges ahead for women's rights more than 25 years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The impact of coronavirus on young people and sport, relief measures for the transport sector, homologation and distribution of transparent masks and the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia were also discussed. Members debated statements by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borell, on his visit to Russia in the light of the recent crackdown on protestors and the opposition, on the humanitarian and political situation in Yemen, and on the situation in Myanmar.

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[Plenary round-up - January 2021](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 22-01-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Coronavirus | Employment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Human Rights | International Trade | Security and Defence

Keyword agenda | common foreign and security policy | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European arrest warrant | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | gender equality | human rights | interinstitutional relations (EU) | international trade | international trade | LAW | organisation of work and working conditions | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | teleworking | TRADE | work-life balance

Summary The main debates of the January 2021 plenary session were on the inauguration of the new President of the United States, and the presentation of the Portuguese EU Council Presidency. Members also debated the humanitarian situation of refugees and migrants at the EU's external borders, as well as the EU global strategy on Covid 19 vaccinations, and the social and employment crisis caused by the pandemic and the EU's response. Lack of transparency in Council appointments to the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the consequences of earthquakes in Croatia were also discussed. Members discussed the Court of Auditors' annual report, and Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borell made statements on the arrest of Aleksei Navalny, on enhancing EU external action in Latin America and the Caribbean, and on the latest developments in the National Assembly of Venezuela.

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Plenary round-up – December 2020

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-12-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Coronavirus | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agenda | common foreign and security policy | coronavirus disease | economic geography | epidemic | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | health | High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy | multiannual financial framework | parliamentary debate | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | political geography | POLITICS | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | United Kingdom | vaccination | withdrawal from the EU

Summary The December 2020 plenary session focused on the agreement on EU finances for the coming years, as well as the conclusions of the 10-11 December European Council meeting. Members debated future relations between the European Union and the United Kingdom, and adopted first-reading positions on temporary contingency measures on air and road connectivity, fisheries and aviation safety, to come into force should no agreement be reached with the UK by the end of this year. Members also discussed the preparation of an EU strategy on Covid 19 vaccination, including its external dimension, an EU Security Union strategy and a dedicated Council configuration on gender equality. Members discussed the European Citizens' Initiative, Minority Safepack, seeking to protect minority languages and cultures. Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borell made statements on recent developments in the Eastern Partnership, on the situation in Mozambique and on the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Process and the Southern Neighbourhood.

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Plenary round-up – November II 2020

Publication type At a Glance

Date 27-11-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget | Coronavirus | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs

Keyword agenda | common foreign and security policy | coronavirus disease | criminal law | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European election | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | freedom of expression | health | High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy | LAW | parliamentary debate | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | public statement | rights and freedoms | sexual violence | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary During the second November 2020 plenary session, Parliament held a number of debates with Council and the European Commission. Discussions concerned fundamental rights issues such as abortion rights in Poland, the new LGBTIQ equality strategy, and Hungarian interference in the media in Slovenia and North Macedonia. In a debate with Council and Commission, Members also discussed the forthcoming European Council meeting, on 10-11 December 2020. Debates with the Commission included discussion of a new consumer strategy and a pharmaceutical strategy for Europe. Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borell made statements on escalating tensions in Varosha, and on the fight against impunity for crimes committed against journalists around the world, followed by a debate with Members. Members also voted, *inter alia*, on representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers, on customs duties on certain products, on tariff quotas with Northern Ireland, as well as on a number of own-initiative reports, including on industrial policy.

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Plenary round-up – November I 2020

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-11-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Coronavirus | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agenda | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | coronavirus disease | designation of origin | epidemic | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU programme | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | fisheries | fishing agreement | health | marketing | multiannual financial framework | parliamentary debate | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | politics and public safety | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sustainable fisheries | terrorism | TRADE

Summary During the first November 2020 plenary session, the main debate followed Council and Commission statements on the multiannual financial framework (including own resources), on a rule of law conditionality mechanism and the recovery fund for Europe, subsequent to the agreements recently reached by Parliament's negotiators in trilogue negotiations. Members also discussed the outcome of the United States presidential elections, and condemned recent terror attacks following Council and Commission statements on fighting terrorism and the right to freedom of expression and education. Members also held debates on access to Covid 19 vaccination and the impact of Covid 19 emergency measures on democracy, fundamental rights and the rule of law.

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[Plenary round-up – October II 2020](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 26-10-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Coronavirus | Environment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs

Keyword agenda | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | artificial intelligence | budget | budgetary discharge | common agricultural policy | common foreign and security policy | coronavirus disease | deforestation | deterioration of the environment | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENVIRONMENT | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Globalisation Adjustment Fund | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | health | information and information processing | parliamentary debate | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary During the second October 2020 plenary session – the first at which Members were able to speak remotely, and not only vote, from the Member States – the European Commission presented its 2021 work programme, which Members largely welcomed. Members also discussed the conclusions of the 15 16 October 2020 European Council meeting, EU measures to mitigate the social and economic impact of Covid 19, police brutality within the EU, the sale of EU passports and visas to criminals, the State of the Energy Union and aligning the Energy Charter Treaty with the European Green Deal. Parliament announced that its 2020 Sakharov Prize will be awarded on 16 December to the Belarusian opposition, in particular the Coordinating Council, for 'an initiative launched by courageous women'.

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[Plenary round-up – Brussels, October I 2020](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 09-10-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agenda | common foreign and security policy | coronavirus disease | epidemic | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | free movement of capital | fundamental rights | health | LAW | monetary economics | money laundering | multiannual financial framework | parliamentary debate | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | political framework | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | rule of law | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | virtual currency

Summary During the first October 2020 plenary session in Brussels, Parliament held a debate on the rule of law and fundamental rights in the context of introducing conditionality measures in the framework of the 2021 2027 multiannual financial framework (MFF) and Next Generation EU. In parallel, Parliament's negotiating team on the next MFF announced a pause in talks, due to concerns over the Council's lack of engagement on the key issue of top-ups for 15 flagship EU programmes. Parliament also discussed the conclusions of the special European Council meeting of 1 2 October and the preparations for the next regular European Council meeting, on 15 16 October 2020. Parliament approved the allocation of new responsibilities to Executive Vice-President of the Commission Valdis Dombrovskis and approved the appointment of Mairead McGuinness as member of the European Commission. Parliament also debated the role of the European Supervisory Authorities in the Wirecard scandal, on the fight against money laundering, following the FinCEN revelations, and on the impact of the Covid 19 outbreak on long-term care facilities. Parliament debated statements from the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borell, on the resumption of hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, on the EU diplomatic mission in Venezuela, and on the situation in Iran.

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[Plenary round-up – Brussels, September 2020](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 18-09-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Coronavirus | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Environment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | China | common foreign and security policy | coronavirus disease | deterioration of the environment | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | epidemic | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | health | interinstitutional relations (EU) | land transport | LAW | own resources | parliamentary debate | parliamentary proceedings | political framework | POLITICS | pollution from ships | rail transport | rights and freedoms | rule of law | sexual minority | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRANSPORT

Summary The September 2020 plenary session was the sixth conducted with Members participating remotely, using the alternative voting procedure put in place in March by Parliament's Bureau, although a majority were again present in Brussels. As well as the Commission President's traditional State of the Union address, Parliament held a joint debate on the risk of breach of the rule of law and LGBTI-free zones in Poland. Parliament also debated European Commission statements on the preparation of the special European Council focusing on Turkey's actions in the eastern Mediterranean, on the consequences for the single market of EU coordination of sanitary measures in the ongoing pandemic, on combatting sexual abuse and exploitation of children, and on the need for a humanitarian EU response to the situation in the Moria refugee camp. Parliament also debated statements from the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borell, on the situation in Belarus, in Lebanon and the poisoning of Alexei Navalny. Parliament also voted on legislative proposals and resolutions, including on arms exports, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, the EU Association Agreement with Georgia, protecting world forests, EU-African security cooperation in the Sahel, type approval of motor vehicles and the importance of urban and green infrastructure.

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[Plenary round-up – Brussels, July 2020](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 13-07-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Coronavirus | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword Asia and Oceania | China | coronavirus disease | economic and social cohesion | economic conditions | economic geography | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | European construction | European Investment Bank | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fraud against the EU | GEOGRAPHY | health | human rights | international road transport | land transport | LAW | migration | rights and freedoms | Roma | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRANSPORT

Summary The July 2020 plenary session was the fifth conducted with Members participating remotely, using the alternative voting procedure put in place in March by Parliament's Bureau, although a majority were present in Brussels. During this session a number of Council and European Commission statements were debated, with the presentation of the programme of activities of the German Presidency a highlight. Members also debated the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 19 June and preparation of the meeting of 17-18 July 2020. Members heard Council and Commission statements on Union policy on preventing money laundering and terrorist financing, on the state of play of Council negotiations on the proposed regulation on the protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States, and on cultural recovery in Europe. Parliament also debated a Commission statement commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide. Members debated statements from the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borell, on stability and security in the Mediterranean and the negative role of Turkey, and on the situation in Belarus. Parliament voted on a number of legislative proposals and resolutions including on the European citizens' initiative, a resolution on the humanitarian situation in Venezuela, and a chemicals strategy for sustainability.

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[Plenary round-up – Brussels, June 2020](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 22-06-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Coronavirus | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | Asia and Oceania | budget | budgetary amendment | China | communications | coronavirus disease | disinformation | drawing up of the EU budget | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | EU finance | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | fisheries | fishing agreement | GEOGRAPHY | health | Hong Kong | political geography | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sustainable mobility | tourism | TRANSPORT | transport policy | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU

Summary The June 2020 plenary session was the fourth conducted with Members participating remotely, although this time a majority were present in Brussels, and using the alternative voting procedure put in place in March by Parliament's Bureau. The session focused on a number of urgent legislative proposals as well as votes on draft amending budgets and the guidelines for the 2021 EU budget. Parliament adopted recommendations on the negotiations for a new partnership with the United Kingdom, and discussed the European Council meeting held subsequently on 19 June. Members heard Council and European Commission statements on anti-racism protests, on the Conference on the Future of Europe, and on Covid-19 related issues: protecting strategic sectors; tackling disinformation; and protection of cross-border and seasonal workers. Members also discussed the situation in the Schengen area following the Covid-19 outbreak, as well as tourism and transport in 2020 and beyond, and land-grabbing and deforestation in the Amazonas. Members debated statements from the Vice President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borell, on the foreign policy consequences of the Covid-19 crisis, on China's national security law for Hong Kong, and on the EU response to the possible Israeli annexation of the West Bank. Finally, Parliament adopted decisions creating a subcommittee on tax matters, a special committee on beating cancer, a special committee on foreign interference and a special committee on artificial intelligence.

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[Plenary round-up – Brussels, May 2020](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 18-05-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Fisheries | Public Health

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | Asia and Oceania | budget | budgetary discharge | Bureau of the EP | China | coronavirus disease | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | epidemic | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | fisheries | fishing agreement | GEOGRAPHY | health | information technology and data processing | macro-financial assistance | multiannual financial framework | political framework | POLITICS | rule of law | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | software | vaccine | voting method

Summary The May 2020 plenary session was the third conducted with a majority of Members participating remotely, although more were present in Brussels than at the April session, and using the alternative voting procedure put in place in March by Parliament's Bureau. The session focused on a number of urgent legislative proposals as well as votes on discharge for EU institutions and bodies concerning the 2018 budget. On the response to the Covid 19 pandemic, Parliament called upon the European Commission to set up a recovery plan as part of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework (MFF). Members heard Council and Commission statements on the conclusions of the video-conference meeting of the European Council on 23 April 2020 and the MFF, own resources and recovery plan. They also debated statements relating to: emergency legislation in Hungary and its impact on the rule of law and fundamental rights; on the use of contact-tracing apps; and on vaccines and therapeutics. Members also held a debate on the 70th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration.

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[Plenary round-up – Brussels, April 2020](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 20-04-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Fisheries | Public Health

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | Albania | aquaculture | Asia and Oceania | Bureau of the EP | China | coronavirus disease | deterioration of the environment | earthquake | economic geography | electoral procedure and voting | ENVIRONMENT | epidemic | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | fisheries | fishing industry | GEOGRAPHY | Greece | health | migration | migration control | multiannual financial framework | political geography | POLITICS | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | voting method

Summary For the second time since the introduction of strict coronavirus containment measures, the European Parliament conducted its April plenary session with the majority of Members participating remotely, and used the alternative voting procedure put in place by Parliament's Bureau for the March II session. This temporary voting procedure is available for use until 31 July 2020, unless extended by Bureau decision. As in March, the session focused on a number of urgent legislative proposals as well as amendments to the EU's 2020 budget to respond to the coronavirus pandemic. Members also heard from the Presidents of the European Council and Commission on the coordination of the European response to the Covid-19 outbreak. Parliament then adopted a resolution setting out its position on the response to the pandemic and its consequences, ahead of the next video-conference meeting of EU Heads of State or Government, on 23 April. In this resolution, Members called for a massive economic recovery package, greater coordination on cross-border health threats, and condemned national emergency measures that restrict civil liberties.

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[Plenary round-up – Brussels, March II 2020](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 27-03-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues | Public Health

Keyword air and space transport | airline | airport | Asia and Oceania | Bureau of the EP | charges for use of infrastructure | China | coronavirus disease | economic geography | electoral procedure and voting | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | epidemic | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Structural and Investment Funds | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union Solidarity Fund | GEOGRAPHY | health | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary vote | POLITICS | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | teleworking | TRANSPORT | transport policy | voting method

Summary The need to observe strict sanitary measures, in view of the COVID-19 contagion, requires a flexible response from everyone. Consequently, the European Parliament organised and conducted its March II plenary session with new precautionary measures, allowing it to act rapidly to carry out its essential legislative function during the crisis. Parliament's Bureau put in place an alternative voting procedure for the 26 March extraordinary plenary session. The new procedure meant that all Members – with most unable to be present in Brussels – could vote from a distance, sending their voting papers to Parliament's Secretariat by e-mail. Parliament has adjusted its calendar, replacing the regular plenary part-sessions with shortened sessions until the summer. The temporary voting procedure will be available until 31 July 2020, unless extended by Bureau decision. Moreover, the Secretariat is working to put in place a more advanced remote voting system, which would enable more complex votes to be held among Members, in both committee and plenary, thus ensuring Parliament can carry out its essential budgetary and legislative functions throughout the ongoing public health crisis. The session focused on three urgent legislative proposals responding to the coronavirus pandemic. Parliament adopted its positions on temporary suspension of EU rules on airport slots, creation of a Corona Response Investment Initiative and extension of the EU Solidarity Fund, almost unanimously, less than two weeks after the European Commission tabled its proposals. With the Council also agreed on the three texts, the measures can now be adopted in the coming days. Members also heard from the Commission and Council on the coordination of the European response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

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[Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, February 2020](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 14-02-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Coronavirus | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | economic geography | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European Central Bank | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | Frontex | gender equality | GEOGRAPHY | LAW | multiannual financial framework | parliamentary debate | parliamentary proceedings | Poland | political geography | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | small and medium-sized enterprises | United Kingdom | United States | Vietnam | withdrawal from the EU

Summary Highlights of the February session included debates on a review of economic governance; the revised enlargement methodology proposed by the Commission; a breach of Council Decision 2017/2074 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Venezuela; the current situation in Syria; on fighting against antisemitism, racism and hatred across Europe; as well as on the ongoing threat to the rule of law in Poland. Members also adopted a resolution on the illegal trade in companion animals. They debated the state of play in the EU's fight against money laundering (in light of the Luanda Leaks); the humanitarian situation of refugees at EU external borders; and the coronavirus outbreak. Members also voted on a resolution on EU priorities for the 64th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

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Plenary round-up – Brussels, January II 2020

Publication type At a Glance

Date 31-01-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary sitting | POLITICS

Summary The highlights of the January II plenary session included discussion and the vote on the agreement on the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU, the ceremony to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and a debate on the von der Leyen Commission's first work programme, for 2020. Parliament also debated the coronavirus outbreak, the humanitarian situation on Greek islands, the strategy for sustainable mobility and transport, and the EU's response to devastation following floods in Spain. It also debated statements on the rights of indigenous peoples and India's Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019. Finally, Members adopted Parliament's calendar of part-sessions for 2021 and 2022.

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Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, January I 2020

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-01-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary sitting | POLITICS

Summary January highlights included statements on ongoing hearings on the rule of law under Article 7(1) of the Treaty on European Union (EU) regarding Hungary and Poland; bushfires in Australia and climate change consequences; cross-border organised crime and its impact on free movement; a common charger for mobile radio equipment; the gender pay gap; and the 'Housing First' approach to address homelessness. Parliament also debated statements on the situation in Iran and Iraq, in Libya, and in Venezuela following the illegal election of the new National Assembly Presidency and Bureau. Members voted on annual reports on implementation of the common foreign and security, and foreign and defence policies. Members debated citizens' rights provisions in the UK Withdrawal Agreement. They also voted on a resolution on the European Green Deal, following their debate in December's special session – on the day on which the Commission had itself adopted and presented its plans. In addition, His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan addressed a formal sitting of Parliament.

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Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, December 2019

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-12-2019

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agenda | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | commemoration | common agricultural policy | cultural prize | culture and religion | EU institutions and European civil service | European Ombudsman | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | freedom of expression | LAW | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Treaty of Lisbon

Summary The December plenary session highlights included the election of the European Ombudsman; commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Lisbon Treaty and the Charter of Fundamental Rights becoming legally binding; and the award of the 2019 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. Parliament adopted positions on the rule of law in Malta, following the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia, and on public discrimination and hate speech against LGBTI people, including LGBTI-free zones. It also debated statements by the Vice-President of the European Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR/VP) on the humanitarian situation of the Uyghur in China and in Venezuela and Nicaragua, on the migration and refugee crisis, and on the violent crackdown on recent protests in Iran. Debates took place, inter alia, on Commission and Council statements on: the 30th anniversary of the Romanian revolution of December 1989; the post-2020 EU disability strategy; the COP25 outcome; animal welfare conditions during transport to third countries; and the US Trade Representative's announcement on France's digital service tax. Parliament also voted on appointments to the Executive Board of the European Central Bank.

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[Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, November II 2019](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 29-11-2019

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agenda | climate change policy | criminal law | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU budget | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | fight against crime | international affairs | international convention | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | sexual violence | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The November II plenary session highlights included the vote on the new European Commission, agreement on the 2020 budget, and Parliament's declaration of a climate emergency. Parliament adopted positions on preparation for COP25, and on the Istanbul Convention, and also debated statements by the Vice-President of the European Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR/VP) on Eastern Neighbourhood developments, on the situation in Israel and Palestine, and on the situation in the Middle East, including the crises in Iran, Iraq and Lebanon. Debates took place, inter alia, on Commission and Council statements on: the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution; on the EU response to the impact of extreme weather events; on discrimination and hate speech against LGBTI people; on the World Trade Organization Appellate Body; as well as on the protection of forest and environmental defenders in the EU. The 2019 Lux Prize, which tells the story of a young woman's feminist struggle in conservative North Macedonian society, was awarded to God Exists, Her Name Is Petrunija, directed by Teona Strugar Mitevska.

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[Plenary round-up – Brussels, November I 2019](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-11-2019

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword Bosnia and Herzegovina | children's rights | collective memory | commemoration | culture and religion | economic geography | Europe | GEOGRAPHY | LAW | migration | migration policy | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary sitting | political geography | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The November I plenary session highlights included statements and debates on the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and on the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Parliament also debated statements made by the Vice-President of the European Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR/VP) on Turkish drilling activities in European Union waters in the Eastern Mediterranean, and on the situation in Bolivia and in Chile. Debates took place, inter alia, on Commission and Council statements on the international day to end impunity for crimes against journalists, on the resurgence of Ebola in East Africa, as well as on the situation of migrants in Bosnia and Herzegovina and on the hotspots in Greek islands.

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[Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, October II 2019](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 24-10-2019

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword accession negotiations | Asia and Oceania | budget | budgetary discharge | common foreign and security policy | Council of the European Union | economic geography | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European Commission | European construction | European Council | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union Agency for Asylum | FINANCE | general budget (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary sitting | political geography | POLITICS | Syria | Türkiye | withdrawal from the EU

Summary The October II plenary session highlights included statements and debates on the outcome of the European Council meeting of 17 and 18 October 2019, and a review of the Juncker Commission's term. Parliament also debated statements made on behalf of the Vice-President of the European Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR/VP) on the Turkish military operation in north-east Syria and its consequences, and on the violent suppression of young people's and students' protests in Iraq. Debates took place, inter alia, on Commission and Council statements on the effects of the Thomas Cook bankruptcy, on the dangers of violent right-wing extremism, on criminalisation of sexual education in Poland and on storms in Europe, followed by debates on accession negotiations with North Macedonia and Albania. Members declined to approve the 2017 accounts of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and European Council/Council, and adopted Parliament's position on the general budget of the EU for 2020, which now goes to conciliation.

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Plenary round-up – Brussels, October I 2019

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-10-2019

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Budget | Employment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Public Health | Social Policy

Keyword amending budget | budget | common foreign and security policy | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU budget | EU employment policy | EU finance | European construction | European social policy | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary sitting | POLITICS | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Highlights of the October I plenary session included statements and debates on the preparation of the European Council meeting of 17 and 18 October 2019, on greening the European Investment Bank (EIB), in the presence of the Bank's president, and on how to prevent conflicts of interest in the EU. Parliament also debated statements made by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR/VP) on the situation in northern Syria and Ukraine. Debates took place on Council and Commission statements on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and own resources. Finally, Members discussed Commission statements on United States tariffs on European goods following the World Trade Organization's Airbus dispute decision, on authorisation of genetically modified organisms, and on the fight against cancer.

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Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, September 2019

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-09-2019

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Budget | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword amending budget | budget | common foreign and security policy | EU budget | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Central Bank | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary sitting | POLITICS

Summary Highlights of the September plenary session included statements and debates on the preparation for the Climate Action Summit and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in New York, on the importance of European remembrance for the future of Europe, and on the implementation of anti-money laundering legislation. A further debate on the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU was held, Parliament's first since the change of prime minister in the UK. Parliament also debated statements made on behalf of the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the political situation in Hong Kong, Burkina Faso, Colombia and Kashmir. Debates also took place on Council and Commission statements on the fires in the Amazon, forests in the EU, and cases of breaches of human rights. Members voted to approve Christine Lagarde's nomination as President of the European Central Bank, and voted on a series of reports on amendments to the 2019 budget.

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Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, July II 2019

Publication type At a Glance

Date 18-07-2019

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agenda | appointment of members | cooperation policy | economic geography | ECONOMICS | EU Council Presidency | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | Finland | GEOGRAPHY | humanitarian aid | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Mediterranean region (EU) | parliamentary proceedings | political geography | POLITICS | President of the Commission | regions and regional policy | Romania

Summary The main highlight of the July II plenary session was the election of Ursula von der Leyen as President of the European Commission. Other highlights included a statement by Viorica Dăncilă, Prime Minister of Romania, on the outcome of that country's Council presidency, and by Antti Rinne, Prime Minister of Finland on the priorities for the current Finnish Council Presidency. Parliament also debated statements by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on implementation of the EU Global Strategy, and the situation in Venezuela (also adopting a resolution), in the Persian Gulf and in Moldova. Debates were also held on Council and Commission statements on humanitarian assistance in the Mediterranean and clean air zones in EU cities. Members also decided on the numerical strength of the interparliamentary delegations.

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[Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, July I 2019](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 04-07-2019

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword appointment of members | EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS

Summary The first parliamentary session of the ninth legislature took place in Strasbourg from 2-4 July 2019. The Members of this new Parliament (sitting from 2019 to 2024), dealt with elections of their peers to the most important offices in Parliament – the President, Vice-Presidents and Quaestors. Under Rule 14 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the outgoing President opened this first, constituent session, during which Members also adopted a decision on the numerical strength of the standing committees and debated the outcome of the European Council meeting of 20 and 21 June 2019, and the follow-up meeting earlier this week.

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[Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, April II 2019](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 18-04-2019

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agri-foodstuffs | agri-foodstuffs | AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | digital single market | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU investment | EU visa policy | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financing and investment | Framework Programme for Research and Development | international law | investment company | LAW | market supervision | organisation of work and working conditions | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | politics and public safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social-security harmonisation | TRADE | trade policy | whistleblowing | working conditions

Summary Highlights of the April II plenary session (the last of the current legislature) included debates on the conclusions of the April 2019 European Council meeting on the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union, and the final debate in the series on the future of Europe with the Prime Minister of Latvia, Kirsjanis Karins. Important debates also took place on the rule of law in Romania; failure to adopt an EU digital services tax; protecting the European elections against international cybersecurity threats; and on the possible extradition of Julian Assange. Members debated a number of external relations situations: in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe after cyclone Idai; in Libya; in Sudan; and US recognition of the Golan Heights as Israeli territory. The legislative proposals adopted included those on collective investment funds, banking reform, prudential requirements, covered bonds, CO2 emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles, and promoting clean, energy-efficient vehicles. Members voted on a number of legislative proposals (see below), including a partial agreement on the Horizon Europe programme.

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[Plenary round-up – Brussels, April I 2019](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 05-04-2019

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Economics and Monetary Issues | Employment | Fisheries | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Internal Market and Customs Union | Transport

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | demography and population | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENERGY | EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | fisheries | fishery management | identity document | international law | LAW | natural gas | oil industry | organisation of work and working conditions | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | pension scheme | POLITICS | residence | road safety | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRANSPORT | transport infrastructure | transport policy | work-life balance

Summary Highlights of the April I plenary session included debates on the Future of Europe with Swedish Prime Minister, Stefan Löfven, and on UK withdrawal from the EU. Important debates also took place on several legislative proposals, and Members voted on proposals including the mobility package files debated during the March II plenary session on rules for posted road transport workers and on working conditions for drivers. Parliament also adopted first-reading positions on three further proposed funding programmes for the 2021-2027 period.

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Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, March II 2019

Publication type At a Glance

Date 29-03-2019

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Economics and Monetary Issues | Employment | Environment | Financial and Banking Issues | Public Health | Transport

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | budget | budgetary discharge | collective interest | copyright | criminal law | digital single market | economic conditions | economic offence | economic recession | ECONOMICS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENERGY | energy market | energy policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | fisheries | fishery management | justice | land transport | LAW | occupational safety | organisation of work and working conditions | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | road transport | TRANSPORT

Summary Highlights of the March II plenary session included debates on the conclusions of the 21-22 March 2019 European Council meeting and on recent developments on the Dieselgate scandal. Parliament also debated the situation in Algeria and the illegal occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation. Important debates also took place on various legislative proposals, including on interoperability between EU information systems. Members voted on a number of legislative proposals (see below), such as discontinuing seasonal changes of time. Parliament also voted on the report on the TAX3 committee's findings and on 53 reports on the 2017 discharge procedure. Finally, Parliament adopted first-reading positions on nine further proposed funding programmes for the 2021-2027 period.

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Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, March I 2019

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-03-2019

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword Afghanistan | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | criminal law | criminal record | disabled person | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU visa policy | Europe | European citizens' initiative | European construction | European Monetary Fund | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | GEOGRAPHY | information security | information technology and data processing | international law | LAW | loan | monetary relations | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | political geography | POLITICS | restriction on competition | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Türkiye

Summary Highlights of the March I plenary session included debates on Brexit, preparation of the European Council meeting of 21-22 March 2019, and the latest debate on the Future of Europe, with Peter Pellegrini, Slovakia's Prime Minister. Parliament also held debates on a proposed European human rights violations sanctions regime; the situation in Venezuela and Nicaragua; opening EU-US trade negotiations; climate change; gender balance in nominations to EU economic and monetary affairs bodies; and on the urgency to establish an EU blacklist of third countries with weak regimes on anti-money-laundering and countering terrorist financing. Finally, Parliament adopted first-reading positions on three further proposed funding programmes for the 2021-2027 period. A number of Brexit-preparedness measures were also adopted.

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Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, February 2019

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-02-2019

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | Asia and Oceania | Bosnia and Herzegovina | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European citizens' initiative | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange policy | FINANCE | financing and investment | fisheries | fishery management | fishing agreement | foreign investment | GEOGRAPHY | monetary economics | mutual recognition principle | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | political geography | POLITICS | Singapore | toll | trade agreement (EU) | TRANSPORT | transport policy

Summary The February plenary session highlights included a further debate on the Future of Europe, with Giuseppe Conte, Italy's Prime Minister; debates on Syria, and the future of the INF Treaty and its impact on the EU; and discussions on Roma integration strategies, and on a reflection paper on a sustainable Europe by 2030. Parliament also held debates on the conclusion of three EU-Singapore agreements; the implementation of Treaty provisions; and the rights of LGBTI people. Members adopted legislative texts, inter alia, on a multiannual plan for stocks fished in the Western Waters; a Union civil protection mechanism; minimum requirements for water reuse; screening of FDI; electronic road toll systems; mutual recognition of goods; cross-border payments and currency conversion charges; and common rules for access to the international market for coach and bus services. Finally, Parliament adopted positions on six further proposed funding programmes for the 2021-2027 period, clearing the way to the launch of negotiations with the Council.

[At a Glance EN](#)

[Plenary round-up – Brussels, January II 2019](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 01-02-2019

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary Highlights of the January II plenary session included the Future of Europe debate with Juha Sipilä, Finland's prime minister, and the latest debate on the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Members also debated the rule of law and fundamental rights in Hungary, and how to combat the climate of hatred and physical violence against democratically elected office-holders. Parliament officially recognised Juan Guaidó, President of the Venezuelan National Assembly, as 'legitimate interim president' of Venezuela, as he has proclaimed himself. Debates on EU-US trade, China-Taiwan relations and gender balance were held, and Parliament also amended its Rules of Procedure, aiming to increase transparency on interactions between its Members and representatives of interest groups.

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[Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, January I 2019](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 18-01-2019

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | drivers | EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | fundamental rights | gender mainstreaming | interinstitutional relations (EU) | land transport | LAW | means of agricultural production | motor car | organisation of transport | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | pesticide | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | TRANSPORT

Summary Highlights of the January I plenary session included the latest debate on the future of Europe, with Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón, Spain's prime minister, and a debate on the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Members also debated the reform of EU asylum and migration policy, reviewed the Austrian Council Presidency and discussed the incoming Romanian Presidency's programme. Among the subjects debated and voted, Parliament adopted positions on 12 more of the three dozen funding programmes proposed for the 2021-2027 period, enabling negotiations with the Council to be launched on each proposal as and when the latter has agreed its position.

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[Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, December 2018](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 14-12-2018

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agri-foodstuffs | agri-foodstuffs | AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | alternative dispute resolution | Asia and Oceania | digital economy taxation | economic geography | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | Europe | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | freedom of opinion | general budget (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | Japan | justice | LAW | occupational safety | organisation of work and working conditions | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | taxation | terrorism | Ukraine

Summary The December plenary session was marked by the terrorist attack that took place in Strasbourg on 11 December. Members had that very day debated the report of Parliament's Special Committee on Terrorism, concluding its year's work. The December plenary session also featured debates on the preparations for the same week's European Council and Euro Summit meetings, as well as on the future of Europe, with Nicos Anastasiades, President of Cyprus. Parliament awarded the 2018 Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought to the imprisoned Ukrainian filmmaker, Oleg Sentsov, and adopted a report on the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. Parliament adopted the EU's 2019 budget, and held debates and voted on proposals on a digital services tax; risk assessment in the food chain; risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work; revision of the statutes of three EU agencies; as well as an own initiative legislative report on expedited settlement of commercial disputes. Finally, Parliament adopted positions on seven of the three dozen proposed funding programmes for the 2021-2027 period, enabling negotiations with the Council to be launched.

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Plenary round-up – Brussels, November II 2018

Publication type At a Glance

Date 30-11-2018

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword accession negotiations | agenda | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | Kosovo | parliamentary debate | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | parliamentary vote | political geography | POLITICS | United Kingdom | Western Balkans | withdrawal from the EU | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary The highlights of the November II plenary session were the debate on the future of Europe with the Prime Minister of Denmark, Lars Løkke Rasmussen, and the discussion on the Council and Commission statements on UK withdrawal from the European Union. Debates were held on a Commission statement on the single market package and the long-term strategy for reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions. Members debated and adopted reports on five Western Balkan countries, as well as a report on the way forward for the World Trade Organization (WTO). A number of legislative reports were voted without debate, including on trade in goods that could be used for capital punishment, torture or other cruel treatment or punishment, the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the internal borders, and common rules for the operation of air services.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, November I 2018

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-11-2018

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | arms trade | association agreement (EU) | Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications | defence | ENERGY | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU visa policy | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union Solidarity Fund | fisheries | fishery management | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | multiannual financial framework | nuclear non-proliferation | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | passenger rights | POLITICS | renewable energy | soft energy | TRANSPORT | transport policy

Summary The highlights of the November I plenary session were the debate on the future of Europe with Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, as well as the debate and vote on the interim report on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. Parliament also held debates on floods in Europe; regulating virtual currencies and initial coin offerings; and EU resilience in the face of foreign actors' potential attempts to influence the upcoming EP election campaign. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa addressed the Parliament in a formal sitting. Members debated HR/VP Federica Mogherini's statements on the future of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, Central American migrants at the Mexican border, and the effects of US sanctions on Iran for European companies. Parliament voted on legislative proposals, inter alia, on energy efficiency; promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources; on the European Electronic Communications Code and BEREC; and on rail passengers' rights and obligations. Members adopted reports on the implementation of the EU Agreements with Georgia and Moldova, and voted on reports on humanitarian visas and on the implementation of the EU Common Position on arms exports. The 2018 Lux Prize, which promotes European cinema, makes promising films accessible to a wider audience and encourages debate on values and social issues across Europe, was awarded to 'Woman at war' (Kona fer í stríð), by Icelandic director Benedikt Erlingsson.

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Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, October II 2018

Publication type At a Glance

Date 26-10-2018

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword budget | budgetary discharge | cultural object | culture and religion | deterioration of the environment | drinking water | ENVIRONMENT | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Fund for Strategic Investments | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | general budget (EU) | health | import (EU) | international law | land transport | LAW | marine pollution | natural environment | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | road transport | Schengen Information System | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | trade | TRADE | TRANSPORT | veterinary medicinal product

Summary The highlights of the October II plenary session were the debate on the conclusions of the European Council meeting on 17 and 18 October 2018 and the presentation of the European Commission's 2019 work programme, the last of the current legislature. Parliament also held debates on the use of Facebook users' data by Cambridge Analytica and its impact on data protection, and the Cum-Ex trading scandal. The series of debates on the Future of Europe continued, this time with Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania, urging European unity. Parliament voted on legislative proposals, inter alia, on drinking water; marine litter; the Schengen Information System; import of cultural goods; veterinary medicinal products; charging of heavy goods vehicles; and energy-efficient road transport vehicles. Members also adopted Parliament's position on the EU general budget for 2019 and declined to grant discharge for the 2016 budget to the European Council and Council.

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[Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, October I 2018](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 05-10-2018

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword aid to refugees | amending budget | Asia and Oceania | audiovisual industry | budget | communications | cooperation policy | cross-frontier data flow | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EU institutions and European civil service | EU relations | Eurojust | Europe | European construction | European Council | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | marketing | North Macedonia | political geography | POLITICS | provision of services | referendum | tax harmonisation | taxation | TRADE | Türkiye | United Nations | UNRWA | VAT

Summary The highlight of the October I plenary session was the debate on the preparation of the European Council meeting on 18 and 19 October 2018. The series of debates on the Future of Europe continued, this time with the Prime Minister of Estonia, Jüri Ratas. Montenegro's President, Milo Đukanović, also addressed Parliament in a formal sitting. Parliament adopted, inter alia, legislative proposals on: audiovisual media services; VAT rules; strengthening the EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust); mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation of criminal assets; the free flow of non-personal data within the EU; health technology assessment; and emission performance standards for new passenger cars and light commercial vehicles. Parliament also voted its public procurement package, as well as a report on an amending budget regarding changes to pre-accession aid to Turkey.

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[Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, September 2018](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 14-09-2018

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | circular economy | digital single market | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union Solidarity Fund | FINANCE | free movement of capital | information technology and data processing | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | means of agricultural production | money laundering | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | personal data | pesticide | POLITICS | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | transatlantic relations | voluntary work | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary The highlight of September's plenary session was the State of the Union speech by the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, announcing a number of legislative proposals to come by the end of the Commission's mandate. The debate on the Future of Europe continued, this time with the Prime Minister of Greece, Alexis Tsipras. Lebanon's President, Michel Aoun, addressed Parliament as well as the Prime Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Zoran Zaev. Parliament approved, inter alia, proposals on the European Solidarity Corps, Single Digital Gateway, and countering money laundering. Parliament also voted an amended report on copyright in the digital single market which is now ready to be negotiated with the Council.

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[Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, July 2018](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 06-07-2018

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Budget | Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence | Tourism | Transport

Keyword agricultural statistics | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | America | Armenia | common security and defence policy | economic geography | electoral law | electoral procedure and voting | epidemic | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU visa policy | Europe | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | farming systems | general budget (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | health | international law | land transport | LAW | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | political crisis | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | road transport | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRANSPORT | Venezuela

Summary The July plenary session highlights were: the continuation of the debate on the Future of Europe, this time with the Prime Minister of Poland, Mateusz Morawiecki, the discussion on the outcome of the European Council meeting of 28-29 June 2018, and the review of the Bulgarian and presentation of the activities of the Austrian Presidencies. The European Commission and Council participated in discussions on the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. VP/HR Federica Mogherini's statement on the migration crisis and humanitarian situation in Venezuela and at its borders was also discussed. Angola's President, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, addressed Parliament in a formal sitting. Parliament approved, inter alia, proposals for a European Travel Information and Authorisation System, a European Defence Industrial Development Programme, financial rules applicable to the general EU budget and two amending budgets for 2018. Parliament agreed on the conclusion of a partnership agreement between the EU and Armenia and approved the reform of the electoral law of the EU. Three reports on the social and market aspects of the first mobility package were rejected and sent back to the Transport and Tourism Committee.

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Plenary round up - May I

Publication type At a Glance

Date 03-05-2018

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Budgetary Control | Economics and Monetary Issues | Energy | Environment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Fisheries | Foreign Affairs | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Transport

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | America | communications | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Banking Authority | European Investment Bank | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | financing of the EU budget | fraud against the EU | freedom of communication | GEOGRAPHY | LAW | livestock | means of agricultural production | multiannual financial framework | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | pluralism in the media | political geography | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | sustainable mobility | TRANSPORT | transport policy | Venezuela

Summary The May I plenary session highlight was the European Commission statement on the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework package adopted by the College of Commissioners on the morning of 2 May 2018. The package comprises proposals for a new post-2020 multiannual financial framework (MFF) for the European Union, as well as for a new system of own resources (OR) to provide the EU with the means to finance its annual budgets. Members will respond in a resolution to be voted at the end of May, and the Commission will make a series of further legislative proposals for individual spending programmes later in May and in June. Prime Minister of Belgium, Charles Michel, also attended the session, for a debate on the future of Europe. Members also discussed VP/HR Federica Mogherini's statement on early presidential elections in Venezuela and approved a call for their immediate suspension. Parliament voted, inter alia, on a number of own-initiative reports

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Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, April 2018

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-04-2018

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Budgetary Control | Economics and Monetary Issues | Energy | Environment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Fisheries | Foreign Affairs | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Transport

Keyword Africa | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | Asia and Oceania | bilateral agreement | budget | budgetary discharge | chemical weapon | civil war | common fisheries policy | cultivation of agricultural land | defence | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU budget | EU finance | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | fisheries | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | INDUSTRY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Mauritius | mechanical engineering | money laundering | motor vehicle industry | organic farming | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | proposal (EU) | reduction of gas emissions | Syria | waste management

Summary The April plenary session's highlight was the debate on the future of Europe with the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, detailing his ambitions for a reinvigorated Europe, ready to face existing and emerging challenges. Members also heard from the European Council and Commission Presidents on the outcome of the March European Council meeting. High Representative Federica Mogherini made statements on the UN global compacts for migration and refugees, Syria, Russia, the situation in the Korean peninsula and of Greek soldiers arrested in Turkey. Parliament adopted, inter alia, legislative resolutions on greenhouse gas emissions, the circular economy, European political parties and foundations, anti-money-laundering, market surveillance of motor vehicles, and organic production and labelling. Members granted discharge for the execution of the 2016 budget to the European Commission and all EU institutions and agencies, except the Council/European Council and European Asylum Support Office.

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Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, March 2018

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-03-2018

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Budget | Consumer Protection | Energy | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Fisheries | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Internal Market and Customs Union | Transport

Keyword carriage of goods | carriage of passengers | clean technology | criminal law | domestic violence | drivers | economic geography | EU finance | Europe | European construction | European Semester | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | gender equality | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international convention | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | land transport | LAW | monetary economics | multiannual financial framework | organisation of transport | own resources | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | rights and freedoms | road transport | sexual violence | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | trans-European network | TRANSPORT | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU

Summary Highlights of the session included a debate on the future of Europe with Portuguese Prime Minister, Antonio Costa; and debates on preparation of the 22-23 March European Council meeting; on the appointment of the European Commission Secretary-General; on the US decision to impose tariffs on steel and aluminium; on corporate social responsibility; on conflict minerals; and on protection of investigative journalists, following the deaths of Jan Kuciak and Martina Kusnirova in Slovakia. High Representative, Federica Mogherini, made statements on Syria, the EU-Cuba Joint Council, and EU-Central Asia relations, followed by debates. Parliament adopted, inter alia, resolutions on the post-2020 future multiannual financial framework and own-resources reform; and legislative positions on the common (consolidated) corporate tax; regulation of cross-border parcel delivery; training of professional drivers; and Europass.

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Plenary round-up – Brussels, February II 2018

Publication type At a Glance

Date 02-03-2018

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues | Food Safety | Foreign Affairs | International Trade | Taxation

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | alcoholic beverage | America | Asia and Oceania | beverages and sugar | bilateral agreement | civil war | economic geography | EU banking union | Europe | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | monetary economics | Poland | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | rule of law | Syria | United States

Summary The session's highlights included debates on the humanitarian situation in Syria, the outcome of the informal European Council, and activation of Article 7 (1) with regard to Poland. The European Commission also made statements on UN Human Rights Council sessions in 2018, the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, its former President Barroso's lobbying activities, and removal of third countries from the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes. Among the votes held, Parliament agreed to set up a new special committee on tax questions (TAXE 3) and elected a new vice-president.

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Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, February I 2018

Publication type At a Glance

Date 09-02-2018

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword clean technology | common foreign and security policy | communications | cooperation policy | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENERGY | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU Emissions Trading Scheme | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Investment Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | fund (EU) | geo-blocking | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | nuclear non-proliferation | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | summertime | technology and technical regulations | third country

Summary Highlights of the session included the second in a series of debates with EU leaders on the future of Europe, with Croatian Prime Minister, Andrej Plenković; and the debate and vote on the composition of the European Parliament after Brexit. The European Commission also made statements on fair taxation packages and the manipulation of scientific research by multinationals in the wake of revelations on emission tests on monkeys and humans by the German car industry. Parliament decided to set up a special committee on the Union's authorisation procedure for pesticides (PEST). Parliament adopted agreed first-reading positions on, inter alia, a regulation on ending unjustified geo-blocking and two regulations on EU external action funds – among the priorities for 2018 in the Joint Declaration agreed by the Council, Commission and Parliament.

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Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, January 2018

Publication type At a Glance

Date 19-01-2018

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | America | chemistry | circular economy | Colombia | dual-use good | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy efficiency | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | establishment of peace | EU Council Presidency | EU institutions and European civil service | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | export (EU) | family | family law | fisheries | fisheries policy | GEOGRAPHY | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | international affairs | international agreement | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | natural environment | Pacific Ocean | plastics | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | recycled product | renewable energy | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | soft energy | technology and technical regulations | trade | TRADE

Summary The January session highlights were the European Council conclusions debate and a presentation of Bulgarian Presidency priorities, as well as the first in a series of debates with EU leaders on the future of Europe, with the Irish prime minister, Leo Varadkar. Parliament voted, inter alia, on three clean energy package proposals; a review of dual-use items export controls; its opinion on the revised Brussels IIa Regulation; and gave its consent for the conclusion of the Marrakesh Treaty.

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[Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, December 2017](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-12-2017

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | Asia and Oceania | child protection | common foreign and security policy | criminal law | drafting of EU law | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EP Committee | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European construction | European Fund for Strategic Investments | European social policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fisheries | GEOGRAPHY | International Civil Aviation Organisation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | Israel | Kazakhstan | LAW | parliamentary debate | parliamentary proceedings | political geography | POLITICS | reduction of gas emissions | sexual offence | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sustainable fisheries | United Kingdom | United Nations | withdrawal from the EU

Summary The December session highlights were the pre-European Council debate, including on the state of play of 'Brexit' negotiations, as well as the debate on foreign, security and defence policy, with a statement from Federica Mogherini on PESCO. Members also debated US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and the PANA Committee of Inquiry report. Parliament adopted, inter alia, the 'Omnibus' regulation for agriculture, extension of EFSI, and a regulation on aviation emissions.

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[Plenary round-up – Brussels, November II 2017](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 01-12-2017

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword Asia and Oceania | civil war | drawing up of the EU budget | economic geography | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy policy | EU energy policy | EU finance | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial supervision | financing and investment | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | integration of the disabled | investment protection | national accounts | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | standardised accounting system | the EU's international role | Yemen

Summary The adoption of the 2018 budget was one of the main points of the November II plenary session. It also included debates on the State of Energy Union 2017 and the situation in Yemen, with a resolution adopted on the latter. Members addressed an oral question to the European Commission regarding negotiations for a Convention establishing a multilateral court for the settlement of investment disputes (MIC). Members also adopted, inter alia, reports on transnational arrangements for mitigating the impact of the introduction of IFRS 9, on the instrument contributing to stability and peace, on the ranking of unsecured debt instruments in insolvency hierarchy as well as on the implementation of the European Disability Strategy.

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[Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, November I 2017](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-11-2017

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword Africa | Africa | anti-dumping legislation | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | China | common commercial policy | competition | consumer protection | consumption | cultural prize | Eastern Partnership | economic geography | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU strategy | Europe | European construction | European Ombudsman | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | import (EU) | inland waterway shipping | Malta | maritime and inland waterway transport | New Zealand | Poland | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | recognition of vocational training qualifications | rule of law | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | trade | TRADE | trade policy | TRANSPORT

Summary The key focal points of the November I plenary session included debates on the rule of law in Malta and Poland and on the 'Paradise papers' revelations. Members adopted, inter alia, their positions ahead of the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference and the Eastern Partnership Summit. They also adopted resolutions on the new EU-Africa strategy and on the Ombudsman's activities in 2016. Parliament heard a formal address from Andrej Kiska, President of Slovakia, and finally, the 2017 LUX Prize was awarded at a ceremony held on Wednesday.

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Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, October II 2017

Publication type At a Glance

Date 27-10-2017

Author SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | border control | budget | budgetary discharge | criminal law | EC conformity marking | economic geography | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU finance | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | external border of the EU | fertiliser | FINANCE | financial legislation | free movement of capital | freedom of the press | general budget (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | health | herbicide | international law | LAW | legislative programme (EU) | Malta | market approval | marketing | means of agricultural production | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | occupational safety | organisation of work and working conditions | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | psychotropic substance | rights and freedoms | sexual harassment | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | whistleblowing

Summary The highlights of the October II plenary session included a debate on the conclusions of the last European Council meeting and the presentation of a new agenda for EU leaders, as well as the presentation of the 2018 Commission work programme. Members paid tribute to Daphne Caruana Galizia, the Maltese journalist killed in a car bomb explosion on 16 October.

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Plenary round-up - Strasbourg, October I 2017

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-10-2017

Author SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword carriage of passengers | climate change policy | consumer protection | consumption | drafting of EU law | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | justice | LAW | maritime safety | organisation of transport | parliamentary debate | parliamentary proceedings | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | public prosecution | rule of law | TRADE | TRANSPORT | transport policy | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU

Summary The adoption of Parliament's resolution on the state of play of the Brexit negotiations was one of the main points of the October I plenary session, as was a debate on the constitution, rule of law and fundamental rights in Spain. Other subjects debated during the week included the cancellation of flights by Ryanair, the forthcoming COP23 climate change conference in Bonn, the situation in Moldova and breaches of human rights in Africa, Ukraine and the Maldives. As for legislative procedures, Members voted, inter alia, on proposals for three directives related to the safety of passenger ships and on the incorporation of recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) into EU law. Parliament also gave its consent to establishing the European Public Prosecutor's Office, following a procedure introduced under enhanced cooperation between 20 Member States. The Office is intended to cooperate closely with Eurojust in order to investigate and prosecute crimes against financial interests of the Union. This 'at a glance' note is intended to review some of the highlights of the plenary part-session, and notably to follow up on key dossiers identified by EPRS. It does not aim to be exhaustive. For more detailed information on specific files, please see other EPRS products, notably our 'legislation in progress' briefings, as well as the plenary minutes.

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Plenary round-up - Strasbourg, September 2017

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-09-2017

Author SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword America | arms trade | Asia and Oceania | Burma/Myanmar | care of the disabled | Chile | deepening of the European Union | defence | digital divide | domestic violence | drafting of EU law | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | facilities for the disabled | fire protection | GEOGRAPHY | information and information processing | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | parliamentary debate | parliamentary proceedings | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | powers of the EP | President of the Commission | security of supply | social affairs | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | terrorism | trade | TRADE

Summary In addition to the State of the Union address by European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, the main debates held during Parliament's September plenary session included questions such as fire safety in buildings, the impact of hurricane Irma, breaches of human rights and a series of statements related to external relations presented by the High Representative, Federica Mogherini. On the legislative front, Members voted, inter alia, on proposals concerning the WiFi4EU regulation (an initiative to promote internet connectivity in local communities), security of gas supply, the European Accessibility Act and the European Venture Capital Funds and European Social Entrepreneurship Funds investment schemes. Parliament pushed the Council to move forward with ratifying the Istanbul Convention on combating violence against women. It also raised concerns over the EU Common Position on arms export, as well as adopting three resolutions aimed at modernising EU-Chile trade relations.

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