

Newsletter

17-20 October 2022

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<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2022-10-17>

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[Draft agenda](#)
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[EP Multimedia Centre](#)
[EP Newshub](#)

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Ukraine war: debates on social consequences, migration and cultural solidarity

MEPs will discuss the social and economic consequences of the war and the introduction of a windfall tax, migration flows to the EU and the destruction of cultural heritage.

Social and economic consequences of the war and the introduction of a windfall tax

On Tuesday morning, MEPs will hear from Council and the Commission on what is being done to keep energy bills down and to help EU citizens deal with the social and economic consequences of the war in Ukraine. [In a resolution](#) adopted on 5 October, Parliament called for the EU's response to focus on the most vulnerable and advocated more emergency measures to ease the pressure of rapidly rising energy prices on European households and businesses. MEPs will also discuss how best to implement the idea of taxing windfall profits to help address the cost of living crisis. The Commission has already outlined its plans for such a temporary levy, defined as a solidarity tax. Parliament already called for a tax in May and then again in July during plenary debates. The request was also included in a [resolution](#) adopted in May.

Impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on migration flows to the EU

In a separate debate in the afternoon with Council and Commission, MEPs will discuss the impact of the war on migration flows to the EU. Russia's aggression has caused [millions](#) - mostly [women](#) and [children](#) - to flee.

In June, MEPs approved an [EU aid package to help member states welcome refugees](#). A Parliament delegation recently visited the [border regions with Ukraine in Poland and Romania](#) to learn first-hand about the refugee situation there. In order to support Ukrainian refugees, the EU has [activated the temporary protection status](#) and the European Commission has presented a [10-point plan](#) to coordinate [the EU's response](#). Currently, more than [four million people have registered for temporary protection in EU member states](#) and this status should be automatically extended to until at least March 2024.

Cultural solidarity with Ukraine

In a resolution on cultural solidarity with Ukraine, to be debated and put to the vote on Thursday, MEPs stress that Russian attempts to eradicate the Ukrainian identity and culture, also by destroying [cultural heritage sites](#), are a war crime under the Hague Convention.

They demand that Ukraine be supported urgently in documenting these attacks and call on the Commission and member states to include the emergency needs of the culture and cultural heritage sectors in the EU's humanitarian support to Ukraine.

On Thursday afternoon, MEPs will also discuss European support to the Ukrainian research community

Debates: Tuesday, 18 October, Thursday 20 October

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, no resolution, Oral Question with resolution (CULT)

Further information

[Energy prices: MEPs call for EU response to focus on the most vulnerable](#)

[War in Ukraine: protecting women refugees from violence and sexual exploitation \(Press release 5.5.2022\)](#)

[Ukraine: EU must protect all children fleeing the war \(Press release 7.4.2022\)](#)

[EU stands with Ukraine website \(in English\)](#)

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

MEPs to look ahead to October European Council

In a debate with the Commission and Czech Presidency on Wednesday morning, MEPs will outline their expectations for the 20-21 October EU summit.

During their meeting in Brussels, heads of state or government will focus on the latest developments in Russia's war against Ukraine, the EU's continued support for Ukraine, and emergency energy measures.

On 6 October, Parliament passed a resolution calling for a massive increase in military assistance to Ukraine, additional and severe sanctions against Russia, and an ad hoc international tribunal to prosecute the Russian leadership for the crime of aggression against Ukraine. On energy, on 5 October MEPs called for a price cap on imports of pipeline gas, further steps towards introducing a tax on windfall profits, and an immediate and full embargo on oil, coal, nuclear fuel and gas from Russia.

Leaders will also discuss economic and further foreign affairs issues.

Debate: Wednesday, 19 October

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, no resolution

Further information

[The EU's response to the increase in energy prices in Europe](#)
[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

MEPs to quiz Commission on plans to better protect EU critical infrastructure

Given the tense geopolitical situation, Parliament will ask the Commission to specify its plans to protect EU infrastructure more robustly.

On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will ask the Commission Vice-President Schinas to explain in detail how the EU's essential infrastructure could be better protected against attacks, including hybrid ones.

After the damage to the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines, [EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell](#) said that the leaks were “the result of a deliberate act”, raising concerns about the overall safety of the EU's vital infrastructure. [Speaking to MEPs on 5 October](#), Commission President Ursula von der Leyen outlined the Commission's plan to make infrastructure more resilient in light of the suspected sabotage of pipelines.

Background

Earlier this year, Parliament and Council [reached an agreement](#) on new rules to protect EU critical infrastructure more effectively. In parallel, the co-legislators have also agreed on measures to boost cybersecurity and resilience. Parliament will vote on both legislative proposals later in the autumn.

Specialist: Janne

Debate: Tuesday 18 October

Procedure: Question Time with Commission

Further information

[Procedure file: Resilience of critical entities](#)

[Procedure file: NIS2](#)

[European Parliament Research Service: Improving the resilience of critical entities \(February 2021\)](#)

[European Parliament Research Service: The NIS2 Directive - A high common level of cybersecurity in the EU](#)

Climate change: Parliament to call for more ambition ahead of COP27

MEPs are set to call on all countries to step up their 2030 climate targets before the COP27 in Egypt, to limit global warming in line with the Paris agreement.

The world is heading towards a 2.7°C temperature increase, far above the [Paris Agreement](#) goals of limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C. Ahead of the [UN COP27 Climate Change Conference](#) in Egypt on 6-18 November 2022, MEPs are expected call on the EU and all G20 nations to show leadership and to commit to more ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets.

The debate on COP27 will take place on Tuesday, with a resolution to be voted on by MEPs on Thursday.

Background

Parliament has been pushing for more ambitious EU climate and biodiversity legislation and declared a [climate emergency](#) on 28 November 2019. In June 2021, Parliament adopted the [European Climate Law](#), which transforms the [European Green Deal](#)'s political commitment to EU climate neutrality by 2050 into a binding obligation for the EU and member states. It also increases the EU's target for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 from 40% to at least 55%, compared to 1990 level. Parliament is currently negotiating with member states on the "[Fit for 55 in 2030 package](#)" in order to enable the EU to reach the more ambitious 2030-target.

Procedure codes: 2022/2673(RSP)

Procedure: Resolutions on topical subjects

Debate: Tuesday 18 October 2022

Vote: Thursday 20 October 2022

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[EP study on COP27](#)

[EP research: "COP26 climate change conference: Outcomes" \(22.11.2021\)](#)

[EP research: "Understanding Loss and Damage: Addressing the unavoidable impacts of climate change" \(13.07.2022\)](#)

[EP research: "Fit for 55 package" \(03.06.2022\)](#)

[Website on COP27](#)

[Multimedia package on COP27](#)

Slovak President Zuzana Čaputová to address MEPs

On Wednesday at 11.30, Zuzana Čaputová, President of the Slovak Republic, will address MEPs in a formal sitting.

Speaking in the European Parliament as the first head of state from an EU member state neighbouring Ukraine since the outbreak of Russia's full scale invasion, President Čaputová is expected to call for maintaining EU unity and solidarity in times of crises. She will also appeal to upholding European values.

Zuzana Čaputová became the youngest and first female president of Slovakia in June 2019. She previously worked as a public interest lawyer and an activist before becoming a Vice-Chair of the liberal party Progressive Slovakia in 2018.

A press conference by Presidents Metsola and Čaputová is scheduled at 12.00 in Parliament's Daphne Caruana Galizia press conference room. (TBC)

Debate: Wednesday, 19 October at 11.30

Press Conference: Wednesday, 19 October at 12.00 TBC

Procedure: formal sitting

Further information

[Biography of Zuzana Čaputová](#)

Parliament set to expand alternative fuels infrastructure

To help the EU become climate neutral, MEPs are set to demand that car-recharging stations be installed every 60 km and greenhouse gas emissions from ships be limited.

On Wednesday, MEPs will vote on their negotiating position for talks with EU member states on new rules for the EU's alternative fuels infrastructure. They want electric charging pools for cars to be available at least every 60 km along main EU roads by 2026 and hydrogen refuelling stations every 100 km by 2028. Recharging stations must be accessible to all, regardless of the brand of the vehicle, MEPs add.

The same day, Parliament is also set to adopt its negotiating position on new rules on the use of renewable and low-carbon fuels in maritime transport. MEPs aim to promote sustainable maritime fuels by introducing requirements for ships arriving at or departing from EU ports. They want the maritime sector to cut its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2% as of 2025, 20% as of 2035 and 80% as of 2050 (the Commission proposed a 13% and 75% reduction).

The debates will take place on Monday evening. A press conference with EP rapporteurs is scheduled on Wednesday at 15.00.

Background

Transport was responsible for about a quarter of the EU's total CO₂ emissions in 2019, of which 71.7% came from road transport and 14% from water navigation, according to the European Environment Agency. The new rules on alternative fuel infrastructure and maritime fuel are part of the "[Fit for 55 in 2030 package](#)", which is the EU's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels in line with [the European Climate Law](#).

Procedure Code: 2021/0223 (COD); 2021/0210 (COD)

Procedure: co-decision, 1st reading

Debate: Monday, 17 October

Vote: Wednesday, 19 October

Press conference: Wednesday at 15.00, 19 October

Further information

[Press release after the committee vote \(03.10.2022\)](#)

[Draft report on alternative fuels infrastructure](#)

[Draft report on sustainable maritime fuels](#)

[EP rapporteur on alternative fuels infrastructure Ismail Ertug \(S&D, DE\)](#)

[EP rapporteur on sustainable maritime fuels Jörgen Warborn \(EPP, SE\)](#)

[EP Research Service overview of alternative fuels infrastructure \(March 2022\)](#)

[EP Research Service overview of sustainable maritime fuels \(April 2022\)](#)

[Procedure file on alternative fuels infrastructure \(AFIR\)](#)

[Procedure file on sustainable maritime fuels \(FuelEU Maritime\)](#)

2023 EU budget: MEPs to adopt their position ahead of negotiations with Council

Parliament is set to vote on Wednesday for a budget better equipped to deal with the impact of the war in Ukraine and with the pandemic recovery process.

In their [position](#), which will be debated and voted on in plenary on Tuesday and Wednesday, Budget Committee MEPs have proposed an increase to next year's EU budget to a total of €187.3 billion in commitment appropriations, €1.7 billion more compared to the [Commission's draft budget](#) announced in June. MEPs want more money for programmes and policies they consider vital for addressing the consequences of the war in Ukraine and the energy crisis, as well as contributing to the post-pandemic recovery and strengthening efforts towards Europe's green and digital transitions.

Details on the position of the Committee on Budgets are available in the [press release on the recent vote on the budgetary figures](#) (03/10) and in the corresponding [budgetary resolution](#) (10/10).

[Timeline for the EU budget 2023 and links to all documents here](#)

Next steps

The plenary vote will kick off three weeks of "conciliation" talks with the Council, with the aim of reaching a deal in time for next year's budget to be voted on by Parliament and signed by its President before the end of 2022.

Debate: Tuesday, 18 October

Vote: Wednesday, 19 October

Procedure: Budgetary procedure

Further information

[Nicolae Ștefănuță \(RENEW, RO\)](#), general rapporteur for the EU budget 2023 (for section III - Commission)

[Niclas Herbst \(EPP, DE\)](#), rapporteur for the other sections
Committee on Budgets

[2023 budgetary procedure - draft calendar - key dates](#)

[Fact Sheets on the European Union - The budgetary procedure](#)

[How is the EU budget prepared? \(EU Commission website\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

Schengen: vote on its enlargement, debate on how to ensure it functions properly

MEPs will review the rules about temporary border controls within the Schengen free-movement area, and adopt a resolution on Bulgaria and Romania's membership.

On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will debate internal border controls within the Schengen free-travel area with the Council and Commission, following a [judgment](#) by the EU Court of Justice. In April, the Court ruled that border controls due to serious threats can be installed for up to six months, and could only be prolonged if a new threat arises, unless there are exceptional circumstances that put the overall functioning of the Schengen area at risk. MEPs are expected to call on member states' authorities to respect the current rules of the Schengen area of free movement, which, to many, is one of the main achievements of EU integration.

On Tuesday at noon, plenary will vote on a resolution on the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to Schengen, wrapping up the arguments voiced in a [debate in the plenary on 5 October](#). A majority of MEPs urged member states to recognise that Bulgaria and Romania fulfil the Schengen criteria, and should be admitted to the free-travel area as soon as possible.

Debate: 5 October and Tuesday, 18 October

Vote: Tuesday, 18 October

Procedure: Non-legislative resolution

Further information

[EP Research Service Briefing: Current state of Schengen, reform proposals \(13.07.2022\)](#)

MEPs to assess the Commission's political priorities for 2023

Plenary will discuss the European Commission's work programme for next year on Tuesday afternoon.

Following the [State of the European Union debate](#) on 14 September, the Commission will outline its 2023 work plan to MEPs, including details on how it will continue supporting Ukraine in its war against Russia, plans to deal with soaring energy prices and the rising costs of living, and fostering the post-pandemic economic recovery. Fighting climate change, the greening and digitalisation of Europe's economy, the rule of law, and protecting the EU's democracies from covert foreign influence are also key policy priorities for the Commission in 2023.

In a [letter of intent](#) sent to EP President Metsola ahead of the SOTEU debate, President von der Leyen summarised the main areas where the Commission will table legislative proposals next year.

Debate: Tuesday, 18 October

Procedure: Commission statement, no resolution

Rule of law in Malta: MEPs to assess progress since Daphne Caruana's killing

Parliament will review the developments in the investigation into Daphne Caruana Galizia's death and the ensuing political reforms, five years after her murder.

MEPs will look into the situation of the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights in the country in a debate with the Commission and Council on Monday afternoon. A resolution will be put to the vote on Thursday.

Parliament has followed closely the Maltese authorities' response to Ms Caruana Galizia's murder and the rule of law shortcomings it revealed in the judicial system, the protection of journalists, corruption and the country's citizenship and residence by investment schemes. MEPs [travelled to the country last May](#) to assess progress in the investigation and trials, as well as the political reforms.

Background

An anti-corruption investigative journalist and blogger, Ms Caruana Galizia was murdered on 16 October 2017 with a car bomb. Parliament launched the [Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism](#) in October 2020, on the third anniversary of her death, for "outstanding journalism reflecting EU values". The winner of the 2022 [edition will be announced on Wednesday 19 October in Strasbourg](#).

Procedure Code: 2022/2830(RSP)

Procedure: Commission statement, with resolution

Debate: Monday, 17 October

Vote: Thursday, 20 October

Further information

[Rule of law in Malta: Parliament calls for justice and reforms \(29.04.2021\)](#)

[Malta: investigation risks being compromised while Prime Minister is in office \(18.12.2021\)](#)

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

MEPs to voice concern about global food security

MEPs will discuss global food security with the Czech Presidency of the Council and the Commission, in light of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

The EU's humanitarian aid, its contribution to the World Food Programme, and further efforts to mitigate the impact of increasing food prices and scarcity around the world are expected to be the main topics of a debate with the Council and the Commission on Wednesday.

Background

According to a UN World Food Programme [report](#) from September 2022, the number of people facing, or at high risk of, acute food insecurity increased by more than 200 million relative to the pre-COVID-19 period. The war in Ukraine is driving this food crisis, says the report.

G20 agriculture ministers met on 27-29 September to discuss resilient and sustainable agriculture, agricultural trade to ensure food availability and affordability, and digitalisation in agriculture. There was no final statement, as Russia refused to approve any reference to its invasion of Ukraine.

Debate: Wednesday 19 October

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, without resolution

Further information

[Resolution on the need for an urgent EU action plan to ensure food security inside and outside the EU in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine \(24.03.2022\)](#)

[EP Research Service: Russia's war on Ukraine: Impact on food security and EU response](#)

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

Frontex: EU border agency faces final verdict on its 2020 budget

Parliament will vote on whether or not to approve the budgetary management of the European Border and Coast Guard, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Council.

Having [initially postponed](#) the so-called “discharge” of the accounts of Frontex in May, MEPs will now take a second and final vote on the agency’s management of EU funds.

On 6 October the EP’s Budgetary Control [committee, in a close vote, recommended that the Parliament refuses](#) to sign off the Frontex accounts, quoting serious misconduct under the previous executive director of the agency, as well as possible structural problems. On the same day, it recommended to sign off the accounts of the European Economic and Social Committee and refused discharge to the Council.

Procedure Code: [2021/2111\(DEC\)](#) (EESC), ([2021/2108\(DEC\)](#)) (Council), [2021/2146\(DEC\)](#)) (Frontex)

Procedure: Discharge

Vote: Tuesday 18 October

Further information

[Press release on committee vote \(06.10.2022\)](#)

[Draft second report on discharge for European Council and Council](#)

[Draft second report on discharge of the European Economic and Social Committee](#)

[Draft second report on discharge of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ \(EPP,CZ\) - Frontex](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Isabel García Muñoz \(S&D, ES\)](#)

[Discharge procedure: how Parliament scrutinises the EU budget](#)

Burkina Faso: Parliament to state its position following the coup

On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a resolution summarising their views on how the EU should respond to the latest developments in Burkina Faso.

As they did during the [plenary debate on 4 October](#), MEPs are expected to express their strong support to the people of Burkina Faso and call on the new authorities to keep the commitments made by the previous junta to ECOWAS, including holding elections by 2024. MEPs are also likely to warn about the role of Russian mercenaries from the Wagner group present in the Sahel region and about Russia's disinformation network in West Africa.

Before the 30 September coup, the EU strongly supported ECOWAS in mediating with the authorities of Burkina Faso to find a way forward in fighting terrorism, combating the humanitarian crisis and supporting the return to constitutional order.

Background

On 30 September, Burkina Faso military leader President Paul-Henri Damiba was deposed in the country's second coup in a year, as army Captain Ibrahim Traore took charge, dissolving the transitional government and suspending the constitution.

Debate: 4 October

Vote: Thursday, 20 October

Further information

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

Belarus: Parliament to debate Lukashenka regime's role in the Ukraine war

On Wednesday afternoon, MEPs will discuss the role Belarus has played in supporting Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of neighbouring Ukraine.

At the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, Russian troops that had been previously conducting drills on Belarusian territory used the country as a staging ground to attack Ukraine and in particular the Kyiv area from the north.

Belarusian dictator Aliaksandr Lukashenka has also recently announced that Belarus and Russia will deploy a joint military group in Belarus and that thousands of new Russian troops are expected to receive training in his country. At the same time, observers have expressed doubt as to whether the Belarusian leadership has the will or the capability to play a more active role in the war in Ukraine.

The exiled leader of the Belarusian democratic forces Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya gave testimony on some of these issues to the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee on 13 October. You can watch the meeting again [here](#).

Debate: Wednesday 19 October

Procedure: Statement by the Commission, no resolution

Further information

[The European Parliament's delegation for relations with Belarus](#)
[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material \(EU- Belarus\)](#)

MEPs to debate relations with the Western Balkans

On Wednesday afternoon, MEPs will assess with the Commission EU-Western Balkans relations in light of the latest review of their progress towards EU membership.

European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Oliver Várhelyi [presented this week to Foreign Affairs Committee MEPs](#) the Commission's [analysis and forecast](#) regarding the EU's enlargement policy in a challenging geopolitical context.

The assessment also covers the impact of pre-accession funding, the state of play of the rule of law in accession countries, and other questions around fundamental reforms.

In a plenary debate on Wednesday, MEPs are expected to welcome [the official start of accession negotiations with North Macedonia and Albania](#) last July and to call on the EU to grant visa liberalisation to Kosovo. They are also likely to urge Serbia to align with the EU's restrictive measures and policy towards Russia.

Background

Montenegro and Serbia started the negotiating process in 2012 and 2014 respectively, while Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo are potential candidates.

Debate: Wednesday, 19 October

Procedure: Commission statement, without resolution

Further information

[EP Briefing: China's strategic interests in the Western Balkans, 24.06.2022](#)

[EP At a Glance: Russia's influence in the Western Balkans, 08.06.2022](#)

[EP Study: The Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans, 31.05.2022](#)

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

Tunisia: Parliament to take stock of political climate ahead of elections

On Wednesday afternoon, MEPs will debate political developments in Tunisia, which is heading to the polls amidst a deteriorating democracy and rule of law situation.

On 25 July this year, Tunisians approved a new constitution in a nation-wide referendum, which gave sweeping powers to increasingly authoritarian President Kais Saied, while significantly limiting the role of the country's parliament. The new constitution was backed by almost 95% of voters, but observers estimate that only around 30% of the population took part.

The upcoming Tunisian parliamentary elections, which are expected to cement the outcome of the referendum, are scheduled for 17 December. MEPs are also likely to raise the cost-of-living crisis currently gripping Tunisia in the debate.

Procedure code: [2022/2869(RSP)]

Procedure: Commission statement, without resolution

Debate: Wednesday, 19 October

Further information

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

Debate on the outcome of the first meeting of the European Political Community

In a debate with Council and the Commission on Wednesday afternoon, MEPs will assess the results of the first meeting of the European Political Community on 6 October.

The European Political Community (EPC) was launched at the 23-24 June 2022 European Council. It aims to foster political dialogue and cooperation and to strengthen European security, stability and prosperity.

At the meeting in Prague on 6 October, EU member states were joined by Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Kosovo, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

During the debate on Wednesday, MEPs will comment on the outcome of the first EPC meeting and outline their demands and expectations for the next meetings, which will take place in Moldova, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Fresh set of employment guidelines for a more inclusive European job market

MEPs will debate and vote on revised guidelines for national employment policies to create a bigger, better and more inclusive European job market.

The new set of guidelines are intended to help employment policies adjust to the post-COVID-19 environment, the green transition, and the war in Ukraine. They touch on a variety of topics including fair remuneration for internships, the right to disconnect and the fight against social exclusion.

The proposals stress the importance of promoting equal opportunities for vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities, the LGBTIQ+ community and people living in disadvantaged regions.

The debate on national employment guidelines will take place on Monday, with a resolution to be voted on by Parliament on Tuesday.

Background

On Monday, the Employment and Social Affairs Committee adopted a resolution which urges member states to work with the EU towards a coordinated strategy on national employment.

The guidelines for employment policies in member states are drawn up and updated each year. The [Commission's proposal for a Council decision in 2022](#) relates to fairness in the green transition and adds policy elements relevant in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine such as a development of labour markets that are responsive to economic change.

Debate: Monday, 17 October

Vote: Tuesday, 18 October

Procedure code: 2022/0165(NLE)

Procedure: non legislative resolution

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur: Alicia Homs Ginel \(S&D, ES\)](#)

[Press release after the committee vote \(10.10.2022\)](#)

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

Call for an EU strategy on missing children and missing persons at risk

MEPs will discuss on Tuesday initiatives to improve the search for missing persons, in particular children.

In a debate with the Commission, MEPs are expected to call for a comprehensive EU strategy on missing persons bringing together different existing initiatives and with particular emphasis on children. In the context of the war in Ukraine and the [high numbers of unaccompanied minors](#) fleeing the conflict, children run a bigger risk of falling victim to violence, trafficking and exploitation.

MEPs are likely to call for law enforcement, child protection, education and health authorities to work together more effectively at the national and local level. The need to improve reporting, data collection and statistical mechanisms on missing children is also expected to be raised in the discussion.

Background

In April 2022, the [European Parliament called](#) on the member states to protect all children fleeing the Russian war in Ukraine, and to strengthen the existing single European hotline for missing children (116 000) and the European helpline providing free psychological assistance for children and young people fleeing Ukraine (116 111). They also advocated more effective cooperation to identify and find missing children.

Debate: Tuesday, 18 October

Procedure: Commission statement, no resolution

Further information

[Ukraine: EU must protect all children fleeing the war \(Press release 7.4.2022\)](#)

[European Commission: EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child \(24 March 2021\)](#)

[EU stands with Ukraine website \(in English\)](#)

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

MEPs to debate EU mental health strategy

On Tuesday morning, Parliament will debate with Council and Commission EU plans for mental health policy.

During her 2022 [State of the Union](#) address and [letter of intent to the European Parliament](#), Commission President von der Leyen announced a new initiative on mental health as part of the 2023 Commission Work Programme, stemming from the health-related [conclusions of the Conference for the Future of Europe](#).

MEPs are expected to quiz the Commission on what specific EU actions and proposals it is planning, in order to complement and coordinate member state mental health policy activities.

Background

A [July 2020 Parliament resolution](#) on the EU's public health strategy post-COVID-19 recognised mental health as a fundamental human right and called for a 2021-2027 EU action plan on mental health.

More recently, in a [plenary debate in April 2022](#), MEPs called again for a European strategy on mental health, following the widespread negative impact on the mental health of Europeans of the pandemic and Russia's war against Ukraine. Parliament also demands [better mental health protection in the digital work space](#) and urgent action to mitigate the lasting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the [mental health of children and young people](#).

Debate: Tuesday, 18 October

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, without resolution

Further information

[European Commission: mental health](#)

[EP Research Service: What is the EU doing to support good mental health? \(October 2021\)](#)

[EP Research Service briefing: Mental health and the pandemic \(July 2021\)](#)

[EP Research Service study: Mental health and resilience amid the Covid-19 pandemic in the EU \(March 2022\)](#)

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

Plenary debate on combating poverty and building a more just society

For the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on Monday 17 October, MEPs will discuss with the Commission how to step up the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

Parliament firmly supports calling poverty a violation of human rights. MEPs endorse a call for proper financing of the [Fund for the European Aid to the Most Deprived](#) (FEAD). They also strengthened the [European Social Fund Plus](#) (ESF+), which Parliament regards as the EU's most important instrument for combating unemployment and the exclusion of vulnerable groups.

The debate will take place on Monday at the start of the session.

Background

The UN declared 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in 1992. Poverty is a global phenomenon, affecting 17% of the population of the European Union.

Debate: Monday 17 October

Procedure: Commission statement, no resolution

Further information

[International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - Homepage](#)

MEPs to quiz the Commission on the impact of new deep sea fishing rules

The socio-economic effects of the new regulation on deep sea fishing areas that entered into force recently will be the focus of a debate with the Commission on Thursday.

The new rules - in place since 9 October - close certain areas in the North-East Atlantic to fishing activities in contact with the seabed due to the vulnerable marine ecosystems they host. The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) identified 87 vulnerable habitats or areas where they can occur containing sea pens, corals and other ecosystems requiring protection. All fishing bottom gears will be banned in these areas.

The European Commission established the list of deep-sea fishing and vulnerable areas in February after having obtained scientific advice from ICES and consulted with member states. MEPs are expected to ask the Commission to reconsider these rules, taking into account the socio-economic consequences for the deep-sea fisheries sector in the EU.

Debate: Thursday 20 October

Procedure: Commission statement, no resolution

Further information

[Implementing regulation determining existing deep-sea fishing areas](#)
[Committee on Fisheries](#)

MEPs to vote on Lithuanian candidate for the Court of Auditors

Parliament will vote on the nomination of Laima Andrikiienė from Lithuania to join the European Court of Auditors.

Laima Liucija Andrikiienė, nominated by the Lithuanian government, is a former member of the European Parliament and is currently a [member of the Lithuanian Parliament \(Seimas\)](#), where she chairs the foreign affairs committee.

The [Budgetary Control](#) Committee endorsed her nomination after a hearing on 6 October. The final decision will be taken by EU member states.

Background

The [EU Treaty](#) allows each member state to propose a candidate for the [European Court of Auditors](#). Member states collectively, after consulting Parliament, appoint a nominee for a six year term. The Lithuanian post at the ECA is currently vacant, following the end of the mandate of the previous member on 15 June 2022. Lithuania has had three different ECA members, two of whom were women.

Procedure Code: 2022/0807(NLE)

Procedure: Consultation

Vote: Tuesday, 18 October

Further information

[Hearing of Andrikiienė on 6 October 2022](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Claudiu Manda \(S&D, RO\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[At a glance: Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors \(Lithuania\)](#)

Other topics on the agenda

Other topics on the agenda

- Topical debate - Whitewashing of the anti-European extreme right in the EU, Wednesday
- Presentation of the Court of Auditors' annual report 2021, In the presence of Tony Murphy, President of the Court of Auditors, Wednesday