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

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Fit for 55: Parliament to adopt new CO2 emissions standards for cars and vans

On Tuesday, Parliament is expected to give its final green light to setting the 2035 zero-emissions target for new cars and vans, part of the “Fit for 55” package.

The new legislation sets the path towards zero CO2 emissions for new passenger cars and light commercial vehicles in 2035, thus increasing the contribution road transport is making to the EU's [climate neutrality target](#).

The [deal reached with the Council](#) in December last year also includes intermediate emissions reduction targets for 2030 (55% for cars and 50% for vans), as well as a new methodology for assessing CO2 emissions throughout the full life-cycle of a vehicle.

Background

On 14 July 2021, as part of the 'Fit for 55' package, the Commission presented a [legislative proposal for a revision of the CO2 emission performance standards](#) for new passenger cars and light commercial vehicles. The proposal aims to contribute to the EU 2030 and 2050 climate objectives, deliver benefits to citizens and stimulate innovation in zero-emission technologies.

Procedure Code: 2021/0197(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure

Debate: Tuesday, 14 February

Vote: Tuesday, 14 February

Further information

[Provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations](#)

[Press release: “Deal confirms zero-emissions target for new cars and vans in 2035” \(27.10.2022\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Legislative train](#)

[EP Research briefing: CO2 emission standards for new cars and vans \(December 2022\)](#)

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

REPowerEU: energy measures to be included in national recovery plans

REPowerEU measures in national recovery plans aim to support independence from Russian fossil fuels, accelerate the green transition and tackle energy poverty.

MEPs will discuss on Monday and vote on Tuesday on a [deal](#) reached with the Council in December 2022. Under the agreement, member states applying to receive additional funds through an amended [recovery and resilience plan](#) will be required to include measures to save energy, produce clean energy and diversify energy supplies, as foreseen in the EU's [REPowerEU](#) plan.

During negotiations, MEPs made sure that the new measures support vulnerable households, SMEs and micro-enterprises. They also convinced EU countries to allocate at least 30% of their spending under REPowerEU to projects that address existing bottlenecks in energy transmission, distribution and storage as well as increasing cross-border flows. Finally, MEPs introduced new transparency rules concerning final recipients receiving the highest amount of funding.

Procedure Code: 2022/0164(COD)

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Debate: Monday, 13 February

Vote: Tuesday, 14 February

Further information

[Text agreed during the negotiations \(14.12.2022\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Profile of co-rapporteur: Siegfried MUREȘAN \(EPP, RO\)](#)

[Profile of co-rapporteur: Eider GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL \(S&D, ES\)](#)

[Profile of co-rapporteur: Dragoș PÎSLARU \(Renew, RO\)](#)

[EP Think Tank: Agreement on REPowerEU chapters in recovery and resilience plans](#)

Parliament to take stock of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

On Wednesday morning, MEPs will look back at a year marked by Russia's assault on Ukraine and set out what the EU must do in support of Kyiv.

Russia began its full-scale military invasion of neighbouring Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Since then, the EU and its international allies have rallied firmly behind the Kyiv government. This support has resulted in unprecedented levels of financial aid, assistance, weapons deliveries to Ukraine, sweeping sanctions against Moscow, and the granting of EU candidate status to Ukraine and Moldova.

The plenary debate with representatives of the European Commission and the Swedish Council Presidency will be followed by a resolution on which MEPs will vote on Thursday.

Procedure: Council and Commission statements followed by a resolution

Debate: Wednesday 15 February

Vote: Thursday 16 February

Further information

[Press release: President Zelenskyy says Russia is a grave threat to the European way of life \(9.02.2023\)](#)

[The European Parliament's 'Stand With Ukraine' website](#)

[Video clip: interview with David McAllister, Chair of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, on Russia's war in Ukraine](#)

[Press release: "European Parliament declares Russia to be a state sponsor of terrorism" \(23.11.2022\)](#)

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

Inflation at centre stage in debate with ECB President

Inflation and efforts to curb it are set to be the focus of a plenary debate with European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde on Wednesday afternoon.

During the yearly plenary debate with the ECB President, MEPs are expected to concentrate on high inflation rates and divergences in inflation levels across the EU, seeking reassurances from Ms Lagarde about the ECB's work to tackle it.

Other topics expected to feature in the debate are the ECB's policy and actions to address climate change as well as increasing the transparency and gender equality at the ECB.

On Thursday, MEPs will adopt a resolution on the ECB's 2022 work.

Procedure Code: 2022/2037 (INI)

Procedure: Own initiative procedure

Debate: Wednesday, 15 February

Vote: Thursday, 16 February

Further information

[Draft resolution on the European Central Bank – annual report 2022](#)

[Profile of rapporteur: Rasmus Andresen \(Greens/EFA, DE\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

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

Istanbul Convention: MEPs to call for an end to delays in EU accession

The European Union should ratify the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women, in view of the Court of Justice opinion of 2021.

The Istanbul Convention remains the international standard to eradicate gender-based violence, say MEPs in the draft resolution they will debate on Tuesday and put to the vote on Wednesday. Condemning the backlash against gender equality in some member states, for example in Poland, where the government is looking to withdraw from the Convention and has introduced a [de facto ban on abortion](#) - MEPs are expected to call on national authorities to fight against disinformation about the Convention.

Six years after the EU signed the Convention, it has still not ratified it, due to the refusal of a few member states in the Council. In an [opinion issued on 6 October 2021](#), the EU Court of Justice confirmed that the Council can proceed with ratifying the Convention without first having the agreement of all member states. MEPs are also set to urge the remaining six EU countries that have not yet ratified the Convention - Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia - to do so without delay, in parallel to the EU process.

Procedure Code: 2016/0062R(NLE)

Procedure: interim report under consent procedure

Debate: Tuesday 14 February

Vote: Wednesday 15 February

Further information

[Draft interim report](#)

[Press release on vote by Women's Rights and Civil Liberties committees \(25.01.2023\)](#)

[Arba Kokalari \(EPP, Sweden\) rapporteur for the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee](#)

[Łukasz Kohut \(S&D, Poland\), rapporteur for the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee](#)

[Steps of the procedure](#)

[European Parliament Research Service - Accession to the Istanbul Convention At a Glance, February 2023](#)

[European Parliament Study on the legislative framework for victims of gender-based violence, October 2022](#)

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

Parliament's views on a new EU industrial strategy and on critical raw materials

On Wednesday, MEPs will comment on the new proposal for a Green Deal Industrial Plan and on measures for securing the supply of critical raw materials.

On 1 February, the European Commission presented its [Green deal industrial plan for the net-zero age](#) to stimulate development in clean technology in the EU and secure strategic autonomy for the EU by reducing its dependence on third countries. Parliament will debate the new plan with Commission President von der Leyen on Wednesday and adopt a resolution on “An EU strategy to boost industrial competitiveness, trade and quality jobs” on Thursday. The resolution also takes into account the [plenary debate](#) held in the January 2023 plenary. MEPs are likely to express concern over the provisions of the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which would discriminate against EU companies on the US market.

Towards a plan to secure access to critical raw materials

On Wednesday afternoon, MEPs will hear from Council and the European Commission on future measures to secure access to critical raw materials, which are crucial for the European industry's digital and climate transitions. Parliament [adopted a report](#) calling for measures at EU level, in November 2021.

Procedure Code: 2023/2513(RSP)

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

Debate: Wednesday, 18 January 2023, Wednesday 15 February

Vote: Thursday, 16 February

Further information

[Draft resolutions on an EU strategy to boost industrial competitiveness, trade and quality jobs](#)

[Procedure file](#)

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

A new independent EU ethics body: Parliament to discuss next steps

In a debate with Council and the Commission, MEPs are set to repeat their demand for the creation of an independent ethics body for the EU institutions.

In a [resolution adopted only a few days after the revelation of allegations of corruption](#) in December 2022, Parliament reiterated its call for the EU to create an independent ethics body to monitor all EU institutions. MEPs first [called on the Commission](#) to make a proposal in September 2021, to improve transparency and integrity in EU-level decision making.

This body would aim to guarantee that public decisions are taken “with a view to the common good and citizens’ trust in the EU institutions”. It would be established through an [interinstitutional agreement \(IIA\)](#) between Parliament and the Commission, and would be open to all EU institutions, agencies and bodies, with powers to investigate or advise depending on the issue at hand. Commission President von der Leyen [pledged the establishment of this kind of body before her election](#), and entrusted Vice-President Jourová with the task.

EU funding allocated to NGOs involved in Qatargate

In a separate debate on Monday, MEPs will discuss with the Commission the use of EU funds by NGOs incriminated in the recent corruption revelations and the need to protect the EU’s financial interests.

Debate: Monday 13 February and Tuesday 14 February

Procedure: Council and Commission statements, no resolution

Further information

[EP webpage: lobby groups and transparency](#)

[EP Study: Strengthening transparency and integrity via the new ‘Independent Ethics Body’ \(31.10.2020\)](#)

[EP Study: The Effectiveness of Conflict of Interest Policies in the EU Member States \(17.12.2020\)](#)

[Free videos, photos, and audio material \(fight against corruption\)](#)

The EU's response to the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria

On Monday, MEPs will debate with the Commission the EU's emergency and humanitarian response to the catastrophic earthquake.

On Monday morning, a massive magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit near the south-eastern Turkish city of Gaziantep, followed by a magnitude 7.6 aftershock later the same day. International estimates suggest the devastation caused by the earthquake could claim up to 20 000 lives. It has destroyed tens of thousands of buildings in the region, and left hundreds of thousands without a home.

European Parliament President Metsola will open next week's session with a statement on the earthquake. MEPs will, together with the Commission, then discuss the EU's response to the humanitarian situation on the ground in Türkiye and Syria.

Procedure: Commission statement, no resolution

Debate: Monday 13 February

Further information

[Statement on the powerful earthquake in southern Türkiye and northern Syria \(07.02.23\)](#)

Making participation in elections easier for EU citizens in another member state

MEPs are set to suggest ways to remove the barriers that EU citizens living in another member state face when standing and voting in European and local elections.

More than 11 million European citizens of voting age live in another EU country, where they have the right to stand as candidates and vote in European and local elections. However, they face a number of obstacles in exercising these rights, which Parliament wants member states to address.

The two draft reports, to be debated on Monday and put to the vote on Tuesday, were prepared by the committees on Constitutional Affairs (for European elections) and Civil Liberties (for municipal elections) and their proposals are closely aligned. These include simplifying voter and candidate registration procedures, proactively offering information in other official EU languages in a timely manner, facilitating vulnerable groups in exercising their rights, and introducing alternatives to physical ballots and in-person voting.

MEPs are also set to ask for the so-called “derogation” provisions to be removed. They currently allow a member state to restrict the electoral rights of nationals of other EU countries when they represent more than 20% of all EU citizens residing in its territory. The possibility of reserving top local government positions for their own nationals should also be scrapped, according to the draft texts.

As established by [Article 22](#) of the EU Treaty, these changes require unanimity in the Council, after a consultation with the Parliament.

Procedure: consultation

Debate: Monday 13 February

Vote: Tuesday 14 February

Press conference: Tuesday 14 February, 15.00 CET, with Damian Boeselager (Greens/EFA, DE), rapporteur for the rules on European elections

Further information

[Draft report on European elections](#)

[Draft report on municipal elections](#)

[AFCO rapporteur: Damian Boeselager \(Greens/EFA, DE\)](#)

[LIBE rapporteur: Joachim Stanisław BRUDZIŃSKI \(ECR, PL\)](#)

[EP Research Service briefing - "Voting and candidacy rights of mobile EU citizens in European elections under Council Directive 93/109/EC" \(29.10.2021\)](#)

[EP Research Service briefing: "Voting and candidacy rights of mobile EU citizens in municipal elections under Directive 94/80/EC" \(29.10.2021\)](#)

[Legislative train \(European elections\)](#)

[Legislative train \(municipal elections\)](#)

[Procedure file \(European elections\)](#)

[Procedure file \(municipal elections\)](#)

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

More bike lanes, better infrastructure, and support for cycling

Parliament is set to demand more dedicated cycling lanes, parking places for bikes and reduced VAT to help boost the EU cycling industry and facilitate the EU's green transition.

The draft resolution to be debated by MEPs on Wednesday and put to the vote on Thursday says cycling must be recognised as a fully-fledged mode of transport and urges the Commission to develop a European cycling strategy with the aim of doubling the number of kilometres cycled in Europe by 2030.

A lack of secured parking and dedicated bike lanes, but also insufficient measures to prevent theft are some of the obstacles preventing the growth of cycling in cities, the draft argues. It encourages EU governments and local authorities to invest significantly more money in the construction of segregated cycling infrastructure and reduce VAT rates for the supply, rental and repair of bikes and e-bikes.

Procedure: Non-binding resolution

Debate: Wednesday, 15 February

Vote: Thursday, 16 February

Press conference: Wednesday, 15 February at 14.00

Further information

[Draft EP resolution on developing an EU cycling strategy](#)

[Press release after the committee vote \(31.01.2023\)](#)

[EP rapporteur Karima Delli \(Greens/EFA, FR\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

A new telecom satellites network to enhance EU's strategic autonomy

A new network of European telecommunication satellites will be active from 2024, under legislation agreed with member states to secure government communications.

The regulation, on which MEPs will debate on Monday and vote on Tuesday, foresees a budget of €2.4 billion for setting up the first European multi-orbital satellite system. The new satellites will provide a secure communications infrastructure for EU government bodies and agencies, emergency services and European delegations around the world.

The scheme will ensure the EU's strategic autonomy in the field of secure government communications, in a context where cyber security threats are becoming increasingly relevant, especially following Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

Background

Satellite communication is becoming a strategic asset for governments and civil society alike, in the context of the twin digital and ecological transition. Complementary to terrestrial networks, it can contribute to seamless digital communication, even when networks are absent or disrupted.

Procedure Code: 2022/0039(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure

Debate: Monday 13 February

Vote: Tuesday 14 February

Press conference: Tuesday 14 February timing tbc

Further information

[Draft report on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period 2023-2027](#)

[EP research: 2023-2027 EU secure connectivity programme: Building a multi-orbital satellite constellation](#)

[Press release on inter-institutional agreement \(17.11.2022\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Christophe Grudler \(Renew, FR\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

EU enlargement: Parliament to debate the way forward for the Western Balkans

On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will quiz Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi on the prospects of EU accession for the Western Balkans.

In November 2022, Parliament [called on the EU to overcome the status quo and reenergise the enlargement process](#) both among member states and in applicant countries. They also argued that, in light of the growing Russian threat to European peace and stability, an enhanced enlargement policy remains the strongest geopolitical tool at the EU's disposal.

The plenary debate will be organised as a 'Question Time', with Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi answering consecutive questions from MEPs.

Currently, five Western Balkans countries -Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia- are on the EU candidate list, while Kosovo is a so-called "potential candidate".

Procedure: Question Time

Debate: Tuesday 14 February

Further information

[European Parliament recommendation of 23 November 2022 concerning the new EU strategy for enlargement](#)

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

Minimum Income: MEPs to call for more support, accessibility and inclusion

Parliament is set to call for a new law that raises the national minimum income in EU member states to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

MEPs will vote on Thursday on a resolution demanding EU countries gradually increase their minimum income schemes to be at least above the national threshold for those at risk of poverty ([AROPE](#)). The text also calls for these schemes to be made available to the more disadvantaged social groups, and to provide incentives for re-integrating workers into the labour market.

During a debate on Wednesday afternoon, MEPs will also enquire about the Commission's plans to monitor if the minimum income has been effectively integrated in EU countries and to involve social partners at EU level. MEPs are likely to ask how member states will ensure that minimum income schemes do not substitute social policy measures in other areas such as housing, healthcare, disability support or labour market integration.

Procedure: Oral questions to Council and Commission, with resolution

Procedure Code: 2022/2840(RSP)

Debate: Wednesday, 15 February

Vote: Thursday, 16 February

Further information

[Press release on vote in parliamentary committee \(24.01.2023\)](#)

[Oral questions to the Commission](#)

[Oral questions to the Council](#)

[European Commission proposal on Council Recommendation on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion \(September 28\)](#)

President of Latvia to address the European Parliament

Egīls Levits, President of Latvia, will address MEPs at a formal sitting on Tuesday at 11.30.

In his address, Mr Levits is set to focus on Russia's war against Ukraine, Russia's responsibility for crimes committed under international law, the EU's continued support for Ukraine as well as strengthening democracy in the face of current threats.

Mr Levits became the tenth [president of Latvia](#) on 8 July 2019.

He has served as Latvian Minister for Justice and was Latvian ambassador to Hungary, Austria and Switzerland. In 1995, Mr Levits was elected to the European Court of Human Rights, and was a member of the [European Court of Justice](#) from 2004 to 2019.

He is one of the authors of the preamble to Latvia's [Constitution](#).

There will be short press statements by the two Presidents after their bilateral meeting, at 11:15-11:30 - protocol area

Debate: Tuesday, 14 February

Procedure: Formal sitting

Further information

[Webpage of Latvian president](#)

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

Mikheil Saakashvili: MEPs worried about health of imprisoned Georgian ex-President

On Wednesday, Parliament will vote on a resolution on the status of former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili, in prison since 2021.

Mikheil Saakashvili was arrested by Georgian police when returning to his home country in 2021. He was originally sentenced in absentia by a national court to six years in prison in 2018 for, among other things, abuse of power when he was President. His supporters claim the charges are politically motivated and pushed by the Georgian Dream party currently leading the government in Georgia.

Having suffered dramatic weight loss in prison, reports have surfaced recently that Saakashvili has been subjected to torture and attempted poisoning.

Mikheil Saakashvili led Georgia during the Russo-Georgian war in 2008. He is known to be a staunch opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The plenary debate took place during the February mini-plenary session in Brussels. You can watch it [here](#). (01.02.2023)

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

Debate: Thursday 2 February

Vote: Wednesday, 15 February

Further information

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

Resolutions on human rights and democracy

Parliament will hold urgent debates on the following human rights, democracy and rule of law topics on Wednesday afternoon, followed by votes on Thursday.

- The situation of human rights defenders in Eswatini, notably the murder of Thulani Maseko
- Violence against opposition activists in Equatorial Guinea, notably the case of Julio Obama Mefuman
- The recent deterioration of the inhuman imprisonment conditions of Alexey Navalny and other political prisoners in Russia

Debates: Wednesday, 15 February

Votes: Thursday, 16 February

Procedure: urgent (non-legislative) resolutions

Further information

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

Making sure that fertilisers are available and affordable in the EU

On Thursday, MEPs will debate and vote on a resolution calling on the Commission to step up its efforts to ensure fertilisers are available and affordable.

More measures to open up international fertiliser markets, while at the same time pursuing independence and the EU's self-sufficiency are some of the demands likely to be made by MEPs. They are also set to push for adequate advice and tools for farmers to improve soil fertility and fertiliser management.

Russia has abused its dominance in gas supplies and used fertilisers as a political weapon, states the draft text. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the supply of fertilisers to the EU has been significantly disrupted and prices have almost tripled. Up to 60% of EU potassium fertiliser imports come from Russia and Belarus and 31% of EU nitrogen fertiliser imports come from Russia.

Background

The draft text is the Parliament's response to the Commission [Communication](#) from 9 November 2022, addressing the scarcity of fertilisers exacerbated by the Russian war in Ukraine. This communication lists measures to tackle the impact of tough fertiliser markets on food security and food prices. In addition, it proposes some medium- to long-term measures to reduce the EU's dependence on imports of fertilisers and to help farmers optimise the use of fertilisers and shift to organic fertilisers whenever possible.

Procedure Code: 2022/2982(RSP)

Procedure: Non-legislative resolution

Debate: Thursday, 16 February

Vote: Thursday, 16 February

Further information

[Draft motion for a resolution](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(31.01.2023\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur: Norbert Lins \(EPP, DE\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

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

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

Other topics on the agenda

Other topics on the agenda

- Vote on amending the decision of 10 March 2022 on setting up a special committee on foreign interference in all democratic processes in the European Union, including disinformation (ING2), and adjusting its title and responsibilities, *Tuesday*
- Vote on a proposal for a decision - Setting up a subcommittee on Public Health, *Tuesday*
- Council and Commission statements - Response to the situation in Tunisia. *Debate Tuesday, no resolution*
- Commission statement - Tensions between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. *Debate Tuesday, no resolution*- Topical debate - The erosion of the rule of law in Greece: the wiretapping scandal and media freedom, *Wednesday*
- Oral questions to Council and Commission with resolution - The EU priorities for the 67th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. *Debate Tuesday, vote Wednesday*
- Commission statement - Cross-border adoptions - the need for more transparency and international cooperation. *Debate Wednesday*
- Commission statement - European initiative to promote civic engagement to protect and better support European volunteers. *Debate Thursday*
- Vote on consent to EU/North Macedonia Agreement: operational activities carried out by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in the Republic of North Macedonia, *vote Wednesday*