
Newsletter

22-25 April 2024

Strasbourg plenary session

Strengthening consumers' right to repair

Parliament is set to approve new rules promoting the repair of goods, resulting in sustainable consumption and reducing costs from new purchases.

7

Final vote on new EU rules for sustainable packaging

Revamped rules to reduce, reuse and recycle packaging will be put to a final vote by MEPs on Wednesday.

8

Parliament set to adopt first ever EU law on combating violence against women

The new rules aim to prevent rape and raise awareness on consent, while female genital mutilation and forced marriage will be included as crimes under EU law.

9

Air pollution: MEPs to adopt new requirements to improve EU air quality by 2030

The new law aims to reduce air pollution in the EU, so that citizens can benefit from a cleaner and healthier environment, in line with the EU zero pollution vision for 2050.

10

Fighting money laundering: final vote on a single EU rulebook and a new watchdog

MEPs will assess plans to beef up the EU's response to money laundering, terrorist financing and sanctions evasion, and to set up a new enforcer for the common rules.

11

MEPs set to greenlight new EU due diligence rules for companies

Parliament will vote on Wednesday on the provisional agreement reached with member states requiring companies to mitigate their adverse impact on people and the planet.

12

Final vote on the Platform Work Directive

On Wednesday, MEPs are expected to approve new rules to improve the working conditions of platform workers.

13

MEPs to debate Iran's attack on Israel

On Wednesday, MEPs will discuss Iran's unprecedented attack on Israel, the need for de-escalation and for an EU response. They will vote on a resolution on Thursday. 14

MEPs to assess EU summit outcome

MEPs will evaluate the results of the most recent European Council meetings, including this week's special summit. 15

Parliament celebrates the 20th anniversary of the EU's biggest enlargement

On Wednesday morning, MEPs, EU and member state representatives, and young people born in May 2004, will mark the ten countries joining the EU 20 years ago. 16

Final vote on updated EU fiscal rules

The overhaul, to be put to a vote on Tuesday, will encourage EU countries to commit to national reforms, be more investment friendly, and lead to better debt reduction. 17

Vote on a review of the EU's agriculture policy to enhance support to farmers

On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a targeted review of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to reduce the administrative burden and increase flexibility for farmers. 18

Body for Ethical Standards: vote on the deal between EU institutions and bodies

The Body would develop and interpret common minimum standards of ethical conduct, as well as publish reports on how these have been applied in internal rules. 20

Final vote to ban products made with forced labour from the EU market

On Tuesday, plenary is set to give its go ahead to a new regulation enabling the EU to ban the sale, import and export of goods made using forced labour. 21

Human trafficking: final vote to boost law enforcement and victims' rights

MEPs are expected to endorse the revised rules to more effectively fight trafficking in human beings, and to protect its victims. 22

MEPs to discuss Israeli attacks on Gaza

On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will debate the EU's response to the continuous killing of civilians in the Gaza Strip. 23

MEPs to take stock of alleged Russian interference in the European Parliament

On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a resolution assessing alleged Russian attempts to interfere in the European Parliament and the upcoming European elections. 24

Parliament to assess the outcome of Russia's presidential election

On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a resolution on Russia's latest stage-managed presidential election, which saw Vladimir Putin strengthen his grip on power. 25

Rule of law in Hungary: resolution on the latest developments

MEPs will give their final assessment for this term on the release of frozen EU funds, the dead-end Article 7 procedure, and other threats to EU values in the country. 26

Final vote on faster cross-border investigations into traffic offences

To prevent reckless driving abroad, MEPs are set to expand the list of punishable offences committed by non-resident drivers and close loopholes to find offenders. 27

MEPs to give final go-ahead to renewed trade support for Ukraine

On Tuesday, Parliament will vote on extending temporary trade liberalisation measures for Ukraine while protecting EU farmers. 28

New EU rules to make sustainable products the norm

On Thursday, Parliament is set to approve new "ecodesign" measures to make products sold in the EU last longer, and make them easier to repair, upgrade and recycle. 29

EU plans to accelerate ultra-fast network rollout and end intra-EU call fees

On Tuesday, MEPs will give their final approval to the "Gigabit infrastructure Act", designed to reduce costs for the deployment of very high-speed networks. 30

MEPs to vote on updated guidelines for trans-European transport network

Parliament is set to renew the EU's commitment to finishing major trans-European transport projects, such as cross-border roads, railways and bridges by the end of 2030. 31

EU Health Data Space: more efficient treatments and life-saving research

MEPs will take a final vote on creating a European Health Data Space to improve access to personal health data and to boost secure sharing for the public interest. 32

Parliament set to adopt European Disability and Parking Cards

In a debate on Tuesday and a vote on Wednesday, MEPs are set to adopt the first EU-wide Disability Card and Parking Card for persons with disabilities. 33

Mandatory training on conflict and harassment for all MEPs

Parliament will vote on Wednesday to introduce training on preventing conflict and harassment in the workplace and fostering good office management. 34

Parliament to vote on stricter rules to reduce microplastics losses

MEPs will debate on Monday and adopt on Tuesday proposals to prevent and address plastic pellets losses throughout the supply chain, to minimise pollution. 35

Revised rules for use of blood, tissues and other substances of human origin

New rules to ensure improved protection for citizens that donate or are treated with blood, tissues, or cells will be put to a final vote by MEPs on Wednesday. 36

Plans to boost Europe's Net-Zero technology production

On Thursday, MEPs are set to adopt legislation intended to bolster Europe's production in technologies needed for decarbonisation. 37

MEPs to vote on EU withdrawal from the Energy Charter Treaty

Parliament will vote on whether to give its consent to proceed with an EU withdrawal from the treaty, considered as hampering the climate transition. 38

Combating late payment in commercial transactions

The proposed rules aim to protect companies, particularly SMEs, against those who pay late and ensure timely receipt of payments to avoid cash flow disruptions. 39

Support for Ukraine and the Western Balkans

MEPs are set to approve a new facility to support the EU's Western Balkans partners and a €5.8 billion increase for the 2024 EU budget, mainly to support Ukraine. 40

MEPs to vote on measures to improve access to cash and protection against fraud

On Tuesday, plenary will adopt proposals for a more open and competitive payment services sector in the EU, with strong defences against fraud and data breaches. 41

Cybersecurity: plans to increase EU cooperation against threats

The "Cyber Solidarity Act" aims to build a more resilient, collective EU response against cyber-threats. 42

New system to ensure the single market keeps functioning in a crisis

On Wednesday, MEPs are expected to greenlight a new crisis preparedness and coordination system to keep essential goods and workers moving in future crises. 43

Air passenger data: clearer rules to increase EU security

On Wednesday, MEPs will vote on updated rules on how airlines should gather and transmit passengers' data ahead of their trips. 44

Vote on EU job seeker's aid for dismissed workers in Denmark and Germany

MEPs are set to approve €1.9 million for 390 dismissed meat workers in Denmark and €3 million for 835 steel workers in Germany. 45

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.

46

Other topics on the agenda

Other topics on the agenda

47

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2024-04-22>

Newsletter - 22-25 April 2024 - Strasbourg plenary session

Further information

[Draft agenda](#)

[Follow the plenary live](#)

[Press conferences and other events](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre](#)


[Election Press Kit](#)

Contacts

Andreas KLEINER

Editorial Coordinator / Press Officer (DE)

 (+32) 2 28 32266 (BXL)

 (+33) 3 881 72336 (STR)


 (+32) 498 98 33 22

 andreas.kleiner@europarl.europa.eu

Estefanía NARRILLOS

Editorial Coordinator / Press Officer (ES)

 (+32) 2 28 31324 (BXL)

 (+33) 3 881 73661 (STR)

 (+32) 498 98 39 85

 estefania.narrillos@europarl.europa.eu

Natalie Kate KONTOULIS

Press Officer

☎ (+32) 2 28 43562 (BXL)

📱 (+32) 470 88 37 82

✉ natalie.kontoulis@europarl.europa.eu

✉ europarlpress@europarl.europa.eu

Strengthening consumers' right to repair

Parliament is set to approve new rules promoting the repair of goods, resulting in sustainable consumption and reducing costs from new purchases.

MEPs will debate on Monday evening and vote on Tuesday on the [provisional agreement reached with member states](#) on the so-called “right to repair” for consumers, which aims to promote the repair of goods within and beyond the legal guarantee period. Beyond the legal guarantee, consumers will have a new right to claim repair for products that are technically repairable under EU law (e.g. washing machines, vacuum cleaners, and smartphones). To encourage repair and to revitalise the EU repair market, the rules put in place a European online platform to find local repair shops or sellers of refurbished goods. They also allow access to spare parts, tools, and maintenance information, and ban the use of hardware and software practices that obstruct repairs.

Procedure code: 2023/0083(COD)

Procedure type: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Debate: Monday, 22 April

Vote: Tuesday 23 April

Press conference: Tuesday, 23 April 14.30 CEST

Further information

[Text of the provisional agreement](#)

[EP Study: Right to repair, new consumer right \(September 2023\)](#)

Final vote on new EU rules for sustainable packaging

Revamped rules to reduce, reuse and recycle packaging will be put to a final vote by MEPs on Wednesday.

The legislation, which has been [provisionally agreed on with the Council](#), aims to make packaging used in the EU safer and more sustainable. The rules require all packaging to be recyclable, minimise the presence of harmful substances, reduce unnecessary packaging, boost the uptake of recycled content, and improve collection and recycling.

Background

In 2018, packaging generated a turnover of EUR 355 billion in the EU. It is an [ever-increasing source of waste](#); the EU total has increased from 66 million tonnes in 2009 to 84 million tonnes in 2021. Europeans generated 188.7 kg of packaging waste per person in 2021, a figure that is expected to increase to 209 kg in 2030 without additional measures.

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Procedure code: 2022/0396(COD)

Vote: Wednesday, 24 April

Further information

[Provisional agreement](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Rapporteur Frédérique Ries \(Renew Europe, BE\)](#)

[Legislative train](#)

[EP Research: Revision of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive \(November 2023\)](#)

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

Parliament set to adopt first ever EU law on combating violence against women

The new rules aim to prevent rape and raise awareness on consent, while female genital mutilation and forced marriage will be included as crimes under EU law.

After the [deal reached between the Parliament and the Council](#), MEPs will debate on Tuesday and vote on Wednesday on the first EU rules on combating violence against women and domestic violence. The new directive will prohibit forced marriage and female genital mutilation and have specific rules on cybercrimes, such as cyber-flashing and cyber-stalking. Victims will have improved access to justice and to healthcare, including sexual and reproductive services, while the legislation will include provisions to prevent rape.

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Procedure code: 2022/0066 (COD)

Debate: Tuesday 23 April

Vote: Wednesday 24 April

Further information

[Steps of the procedure](#)

[Rapporteur from the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee: Frances Fitzgerald \(EPP, IE\)](#)

[Rapporteur from the Civil Liberties Committee: Evin Incir \(S&D, SE\)](#)

[European Parliament Research Service: Definitions of rape in the legislation of EU member states \(January 2024\)](#)

[Briefing by the EP Think Tank - "Combating violence against women and domestic violence"](#)

[Free photos, video and audio material \(violence against women\)](#)

Air pollution: MEPs to adopt new requirements to improve EU air quality by 2030

The new law aims to reduce air pollution in the EU, so that citizens can benefit from a cleaner and healthier environment, in line with the EU zero pollution vision for 2050.

[The deal between Council and Parliament](#), to be put to a vote on Wednesday, sets stricter 2030 limits and target values for several of the pollutants with a severe impact on human health including particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10), NO2 (nitrogen dioxide), and SO2 (sulphur dioxide). The new rules also make currently-fragmented air quality indices across the EU comparable, clear and publicly available.

If the new national rules are being violated, those affected by air pollution will be able to take legal action, and citizens may receive compensation if their health has been damaged.

Background

Air pollution continues to be the number one environmental cause of premature death in the EU, with around 300 000 deaths per year linked to air pollution (check here to see how clean the air is in European cities).

Procedure Code: 2022/0347(COD)

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Vote: Wednesday 24 April

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Infoclip: Ambient air quality](#)

[How clean is the air in my city? \(European Environmental Agency\)](#)

[Legislative train](#)

[EP Think Tank: Towards cleaner air for Europe \(06.09.2023\)](#)

[EP Think Tank: Revision of EU air quality legislation: Setting a zero pollution objective for air](#)

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

Fighting money laundering: final vote on a single EU rulebook and a new watchdog

MEPs will assess plans to beef up the EU's response to money laundering, terrorist financing and sanctions evasion, and to set up a new enforcer for the common rules.

A new set of laws provides access to beneficial ownership information and gives more powers to Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) to analyse and detect money laundering and terrorist financing cases, as well as to suspend suspicious transactions. MEPs ensured that, from 2029, when professional football clubs are involved in transactions, they will be obliged to verify their customers' identity, monitor transactions and report any suspicious transaction to FIUs. They also achieved the addition of enhanced vigilance regarding ultra-rich individuals (persons with a total wealth value of at least 50 000 000 euro, excluding their main residence). Provisions include an EU-wide limit on large cash payments of €10 000.

A new Authority for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AMLA) will be [established in Frankfurt](#), tasked with directly supervising the riskiest financial entities, intervening in case of supervisory failures and acting as a central hub and mediator for supervisors.

The Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) package, to be discussed and put to a vote on Wednesday, was agreed with the Council in January. It includes [the sixth Anti-Money Laundering \(AML\) directive](#), [the EU "single rulebook" regulation](#) and [the Anti-Money Laundering Authority \(AMLA\)](#).

Procedure codes: 2021/0250(COD)directive, 2021/0239(COD) regulation, 2021/0240 AMLA regulation

Debate: Wednesday, 24 April

Votes: Wednesday, 24 April

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Further information

[Procedure file \(directive\)](#)

[Procedure file \(regulation\)](#)

[Procedure file \(AMLA regulation\)](#)

[EP Research briefing: Anti-money-laundering authority \(AMLA\)](#)

[EU context of anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism \(European Commission\)](#)

MEPs set to greenlight new EU due diligence rules for companies

Parliament will vote on Wednesday on the provisional agreement reached with member states requiring companies to mitigate their adverse impact on people and the planet.

According to the new directive, firms and their upstream and downstream partners will have to prevent, end or mitigate their negative effects on people and the environment, including child labour, slavery, pollution and biodiversity loss. It will apply to EU and non-EU companies and parent companies with over 1000 employees and with a turnover of more than 450 million euro. Firms will also have to put in place a transition plan making their business model compatible with the global warming limit of 1.5°C under the [Paris Agreement](#).

Member states will designate a supervisory authority investigating firms' conduct and imposing penalties on non-compliant companies, including fines of up to 5% of their net worldwide turnover. Firms will also be liable for damages and will have to compensate their victims.

Background

The Commission [proposal](#) introduced on 23 February 2022 is consistent with the European Parliament's 2021 call for [mandatory due diligence legislation](#). It complements other existing and upcoming legislative acts in the area, such as the [deforestation regulation](#), [conflict minerals regulation](#) and the [draft regulation prohibiting products made with forced labour](#).

Vote: Wednesday 24 April

Press conference: Wednesday 24 April at 15.00 with lead MEP [Lara Wolters \(S&D, NL\)](#)

Procedure: Directive 2022/0051(COD), COD - Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Further information

[Text of the provisional agreement](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Rapporteur Lara Wolters \(S&D, NL\)](#)

[Think Tank EP: Corporate sustainability due diligence](#)

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

Final vote on the Platform Work Directive

On Wednesday, MEPs are expected to approve new rules to improve the working conditions of platform workers.

The new rules, already agreed on by the Parliament and the Council in February, aim to ensure that platform workers have their employment status classified correctly and to correct bogus self-employment.

The law introduces a presumption of an employment relationship (as opposed to self-employment) that is triggered when facts indicating control and direction are present, according to national law and collective agreements, and taking into account EU-case law.

The directive also regulates, for the first time ever in the EU, the use of algorithms in the workplace. A person performing platform work cannot be fired or dismissed based on a decision taken by an algorithm or an automated decision-making system: platforms must ensure human oversight on important decisions that directly affect platform workers. Platforms will also be forbidden from processing certain types of personal data.

Vote: Wednesday, 24 April

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Procedure code: 2021/0414(COD)

Press conference: Wednesday 24 April 15.30 CEST with rapporteur [Elisabetta Gualmini](#) (S&D, IT)

Further information

[Press release following the provisional agreement \(08.02.2024\)](#)

[Steps of the procedure](#)

[European Parliament Research Service: At a glance - Digital platform workers: EU rules one step closer](#)

MEPs to debate Iran's attack on Israel

On Wednesday, MEPs will discuss Iran's unprecedented attack on Israel, the need for de-escalation and for an EU response. They will vote on a resolution on Thursday.

EP President Roberta Metsola described Iran's direct drone and missile attack on Israel on 20 and 21 April as a major escalation in the region and warned it risks igniting further chaos across the Middle East.

MEPs will assess the situation in a key debate on Wednesday morning, followed by a resolution on which they will vote on Thursday.

Debate: Wednesday 24 April

Vote: Thursday 25 April

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

Further information

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

MEPs to assess EU summit outcome

MEPs will evaluate the results of the most recent European Council meetings, including this week's special summit.

Tuesday morning's key debate will focus on the EU's competitiveness and its strategic agenda. MEPs are also expected to debate foreign relations issues and the current unstable geopolitical situation. The ongoing Russian war against Ukraine and the EU's support for Ukraine's defense, as well as the latest developments regarding Israel's operation in Gaza and the escalating tensions in the Middle East, will feature prominently in the debate. EU relations with Türkiye are also on the European Council agenda.

Procedure: European Council and Commission statements, without resolution

Debate: Tuesday 23 April

Further information

[EP Multimedia centre](#)

Parliament celebrates the 20th anniversary of the EU's biggest enlargement

On Wednesday morning, MEPs, EU and member state representatives, and young people born in May 2004, will mark the ten countries joining the EU 20 years ago.

EP President Roberta Metsola, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, former EP President Pat Cox, and former Commission President Romano Prodi will participate in a formal sitting of Parliament to mark the 20th anniversary of the 2004 EU enlargement round.

They will be joined by representatives from the ten countries, that joined the EU 20 years ago.

During the ceremony, the guests will answer questions from a group of young people born on or around 1 May 2004 from the new member states, who will be invited to attend the sitting.

The ceremony will end with Beethoven's Ode to Joy, performed by the Voix de Stras' acapella choir.

Background

On 1 May 2004, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia joined the European Union. It was the the biggest EU enlargement in its history.

Final vote on updated EU fiscal rules

The overhaul, to be put to a vote on Tuesday, will encourage EU countries to commit to national reforms, be more investment friendly, and lead to better debt reduction.

The legislation, which was provisionally agreed with the Council in February, aims to put in place a new system of fiscal rules that will return member states' public finances to sustainable levels after the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, the law will provide considerably more room for essential investments in priority areas such as the climate and digital transitions. The rules will also better factor in social priorities and allow for a better dialogue between national governments and the EU institutions, thereby enhancing national ownership.

Background

The current EU fiscal rules were suspended following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the significant public finances that were needed to combat it. After the pandemic, there was consensus that a review of the rules was necessary. The Commission made a proposal in April 2023 consisting of three pieces of legislation.

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure and consultation procedure

Procedure code: 2023/0138(COD), 2023/0137(CNS), 2023/0136(NLE)

Debate: Tuesday 23 April

Vote: Tuesday, 23 April

Further information

[Provisional agreement - Preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact](#)

[Procedure file - Preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact](#)

[Procedure file - Corrective arm of the Stability and Growth Pact \(fines\)](#)

[Procedure file - Rules for budgetary frameworks](#)

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

[Rapporteur Margarida Marques \(S&D, PT\)](#)

Vote on a review of the EU's agriculture policy to enhance support to farmers

On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a targeted review of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to reduce the administrative burden and increase flexibility for farmers.

To speed up the adoption of the measures, the Parliament has [agreed to deal](#) with the file under the [urgent procedure](#). The [proposal tabled by the Commission](#) foresees a review of the [CAP Strategic Plans Regulation](#) and the [CAP Horizontal Regulation](#). MEPs will vote on the Commission proposal with technical modifications [proposed](#) by the Council.

In a separate vote on Tuesday, plenary must decide whether to object to the Commission [proposal](#) to allow more flexibility to member states when applying another CAP condition: the requirement of keeping the ratio of permanent grassland to agricultural area above 5% compared to 2018 (GAEC 1).

Background

The CAP review changes the rules for three environmental “conditionalities” farmers must adhere to in order to receive funding. It also provides more flexibility to EU countries to grant exemptions from CAP standards if there are problems with applying them and in case of issues caused by extreme weather. Small farms under ten hectares would be exempt from controls and penalties for non-compliance with the CAP rules.

In response to farmers protesting, the Chair of the Agriculture Committee sent a [letter](#) to the Commission on 20 February identifying six areas where concrete and immediate actions were necessary to address difficulties that farmers are experiencing.

Procedure Codes: (CAP review - 2024/0073 (COD)), (GAEC 1 - 2024/2663(DEA))

Procedure: CAP review - ordinary legislative procedure, first reading; GAEC 1 - delegated acts procedure

Votes: Thursday 25 April (simplification), Tuesday 23 April (GAEC)

Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research Service briefing: Targeted CAP amendments on environmental conditionality](#)

[Commission: Q&A on the package of support to EU farmers](#)

[Free photos, video and audio material \(common agricultural policy\)](#)

Body for Ethical Standards: vote on the deal between EU institutions and bodies

The Body would develop and interpret common minimum standards of ethical conduct, as well as publish reports on how these have been applied in internal rules.

Parliament will decide on Thursday whether to approve the agreement to establish an Interinstitutional Body for Ethical Standards, which aims to set up a framework for cooperation for the EU's institutions and bodies. Even though Parliament's negotiators managed to improve the Commission's proposal significantly, which was [described as "unsatisfactory"](#) by MEPs in July 2023, MEPs are set to raise issues related to the scope and powers of the envisioned body (including Council's limited participation) in the debate preceding the vote.

The agreement is the result of negotiations between eight of the EU's institutions and bodies, based on a Commission proposal responding to [Parliament's request](#). It was subsequently endorsed by Parliament's Conference of Presidents (Parliament's President and political group chairs) and the corresponding report will be tabled during an extraordinary meeting of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs on Monday.

Procedure: interinstitutional agreement

Procedure code: 2024/2008(ACI)

Debate: Thursday 25 April

Vote: Thursday 25 April

Further information

[Steps of the procedure](#)

[Rapporteur: Daniel Freund \(Greens/EFA, DE\)](#)

[Parliament strengthens rules on integrity, transparency and accountability \(13.09.2024\)](#)

[EP Research Service - At A Glance: Interinstitutional body for ethical standards \(16.04.2024\)](#)

[European Parliament webpage: lobby groups and transparency](#)

[Article 13 of the Treaty on European Union \(institutional framework\)](#)

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

Final vote to ban products made with forced labour from the EU market

On Tuesday, plenary is set to give its go ahead to a new regulation enabling the EU to ban the sale, import and export of goods made using forced labour.

Products would be banned based on the results of an investigation conducted by member state authorities or the European Commission, leading to them being withdrawn from the EU market and subsequently donated, recycled or destroyed. Non-compliant companies could be fined. Goods would be allowed back on the market if the company eliminates forced labour from its supply chains.

MEPs will discuss the draft law on Monday. After the vote on Tuesday, rapporteurs Maria-Manuel Leitão-Marques (S&D, PT) and Samira Rafaela (Renew, NL) will hold a press conference, at 14.00.

Procedure Code: 2022/0269(COD)

Debate: Monday, 22 April

Vote: Tuesday, 23 April

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Press conference with rapporteurs: Tuesday, 23 April at 14.00 CET.

Further information

[Draft regulation](#)

[Steps of the procedure](#)

[Rapporteur Maria-Manuel Leitão-Marques \(S&D, PT\)](#)

[Rapporteur Samira Rafaela \(Renew, NL\)](#)

[Press release on reaching a deal with the Council \(05.03.2024\)](#)

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

Human trafficking: final vote to boost law enforcement and victims' rights

MEPs are expected to endorse the revised rules to more effectively fight trafficking in human beings, and to protect its victims.

Following the [deal reached between Parliament and Council](#), MEPs will debate on Monday and vote on Tuesday to expand current laws to include forced marriage, illegal adoption and exploitation of surrogacy. There will be a broader scope to dismantle criminal organisations and penalties for companies convicted for trafficking. Protection of and adequate support to the most vulnerable, including women, people with disabilities and unaccompanied children, are prioritised in the updated rules.

Procedure code: 2022/0426(COD)

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Debate: Monday 22 April

Vote: Tuesday 23 April

Further information

[Steps of the procedure](#)

[Video-recording of the press conference with lead MEPs following the provisional agreement \(24.01.2024\)](#)

[Co-rapporteur for the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee Eugenia Rodríguez Palop \(The Left, Spain\)](#)

[Co-rapporteur for the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee Malin Björk \(The Left, Sweden\)](#)

[EP Research Service Briefing: Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings \(14.06.2023\)](#)

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

[Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality](#)

MEPs to discuss Israeli attacks on Gaza

On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will debate the EU's response to the continuous killing of civilians in the Gaza Strip.

In a plenary debate, MEPs will discuss the EU's response to the repeated killing of humanitarian aid workers, journalists and civilians by the Israel Defence Forces in Gaza.

In March, Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) warning about the desperate food insecurity and impending starvation in Gaza. MEPs deplored the catastrophic impact of attacks on humanitarian aid deliveries and civilians in Gaza, particularly on children, urged all parties to immediately cease these attacks, and demanded an independent international investigation.

More than 33 000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli strikes on Gaza since 7 October 2023 as part of Israel's response to the attack during which Hamas militants killed some 1 200 people, mainly civilians, in southern Israel and kidnapped around 250 others.

Debate: Tuesday 23 April

Procedure: VP/HR statement, without resolution

Further information

[Press Release: Annual reports on the Common Foreign, Security and Defence Policies, 28.02.2024](#)

[Resolution on the humanitarian situation in Gaza, 18.01.2024](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre, Situation in Israel and Gaza - Free photos, video and audio material](#)

MEPs to take stock of alleged Russian interference in the European Parliament

On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a resolution assessing alleged Russian attempts to interfere in the European Parliament and the upcoming European elections.

Revelations recently emerged about a Russian influence campaign targeting the European Parliament, including allegations of Moscow having paid individual MEPs to interfere in the upcoming European elections. The news broke in connection with the Czech government sanctioning the media outlet 'Voice of Europe' as part of a pro-Russian influence operation.

The upcoming resolution will wrap up the plenary debate already held on 10 April.

Debate: Wednesday 10 April

Vote: Thursday 25 April

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

Further information

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

Parliament to assess the outcome of Russia's presidential election

On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a resolution on Russia's latest stage-managed presidential election, which saw Vladimir Putin strengthen his grip on power.

With his illegal war in Ukraine raging on, and in the absence of any credible democratic opposition, incumbent Russian President Vladimir Putin officially secured 88.48% of the vote. The ballot on 15-17 March took place in a highly restrictive environment featuring a ruthless crackdown on dissent, and not long after one of Russia's most prominent oppositional voices, Alexei Navalny, died under mysterious circumstances in an Arctic prison colony.

With the adoption of a resolution, MEPs will wrap up the debate held in plenary on 10 April. The EU has also strongly condemned and refused to recognise the illegal holding of these so-called elections in the territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by Russia.

In a separate debate on Tuesday, MEPs will quiz European Commission representatives on the EU's latest efforts to confiscate frozen Russian assets and use them to fund war-torn Ukraine's victory and reconstruction.

Debate: Wednesday 10 April (interference) / Tuesday 23 April (asset confiscation)

Vote: Thursday 25 April (interference)

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

Further information

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

Rule of law in Hungary: resolution on the latest developments

MEPs will give their final assessment for this term on the release of frozen EU funds, the dead-end Article 7 procedure, and other threats to EU values in the country.

The resolution to be put to a vote on Wednesday will wind up the [debate that took place in the last plenary session](#). The text is expected to focus on the Commission's role regarding the [unfreezing of EU cohesion funds for Hungary](#), especially in light of Parliament's legal action on this issue. MEPs will also take stock of the continuing threat to EU values, institutions, and funds posed by the Hungarian government, including the lack of progress on the [Article 7\(1\) procedure initiated by Parliament](#) in 2018. Last January, MEPs asked the European Council to determine whether Hungary has committed "serious and persistent breaches of [EU values](#)" under the [more direct Article 7\(2\) procedure](#).

They will likely also raise the upcoming Hungarian Presidency of the Council of EU (in the second half of 2024), Hungary's repeated abuse of the right of veto and blackmail in the European Council, and the Commission's launch of an [infringement procedure concerning the country's "sovereignty law"](#).

Procedure code: 2024/2683(RSP)

Debate: Wednesday 10 April

Vote: Wednesday 24 April

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

Further information

[The Hungarian government threatens EU values, institutions, and funds, MEPs say \(18.01.2024\)](#)

[Steps of the procedure](#)

[MEPs: Hungary can no longer be considered a full democracy \(15.09.2022\)](#)

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

[Free photos, video and audio material \(rule of law in Hungary\)](#)

Final vote on faster cross-border investigations into traffic offences

To prevent reckless driving abroad, MEPs are set to expand the list of punishable offences committed by non-resident drivers and close loopholes to find offenders.

With approximately 40% of cross-border traffic offences currently going unpunished, MEPs secured EU countries will cooperate more and help each other to find a person liable for a traffic offence.

Under new rules, informally agreed with Council, in addition to speeding, drink-driving or failing to stop at a red traffic light, new offences, such as dangerous parking and overtaking, crossing a solid line and hit and run offences will trigger cross-border assistance possibly resulting in a fine for dangerous drivers. The EU country in which the traffic offence occurred will have eleven months from the date of the offence to issue a traffic offence notice.

Procedure Code: 2023/0052 (COD),

Vote: Wednesday 24 April

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Further information

[Press release on trilogue agreement \(12.03.2024\)](#)

[Interinstitutional agreement on cross-border exchange of information on road-safety-related traffic offences](#)

[EP rapporteur Kosma Złotowski \(ECR, PL\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research Service briefing on the revision of the directive on cross-border exchange of information on road-safety-related traffic offences \(April 2024\)](#)

MEPs to give final go-ahead to renewed trade support for Ukraine

On Tuesday, Parliament will vote on extending temporary trade liberalisation measures for Ukraine while protecting EU farmers.

MEPs and the Council presidency reached a provisional agreement earlier this month to suspend import duties and quotas on Ukrainian agricultural imports until 5 June 2025, to support Ukraine amidst Russia's continuing brutal war of aggression. Parliament is set to endorse the deal next week.

Under the agreed text of the regulation, the Commission can take swift action and impose any measures it deems necessary, should there be significant disruption to the EU market or the markets of one or more EU countries due to Ukrainian imports. As part of reinforced safeguard measures to protect EU farmers, an emergency brake can be triggered for particularly sensitive agricultural products, and the Commission committed to step up its monitoring of imports of grain, in particular wheat. The Commission also pledged to launch talks with Ukraine soon on permanent trade liberalisation, keeping the Parliament closely engaged in the process.

Procedure file: 2024/0028(COD)

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Vote: Tuesday 23 April

Further information

[Press release on provisional agreement](#)

[Text of the provisional agreement](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EU trade relations with Ukraine \(Commission site\)](#)

[Invasion of Ukraine: impact on agricultural markets \(Commission site\)](#)

[Positive EU agri-food trade balance confirms competitiveness of EU exports \(Commission data\)](#)

New EU rules to make sustainable products the norm

On Thursday, Parliament is set to approve new “ecodesign” measures to make products sold in the EU last longer, and make them easier to repair, upgrade and recycle.

The law, [already agreed provisionally with EU governments](#), focusses on a number of product groups, such as iron, steel, aluminium, textiles, furniture, and tyres; their specific sustainability requirements will be outlined through [secondary legislation](#). The destruction of unsold clothing and footwear will be banned. Digital “product passports” containing accurate and up-to-date information will enable consumers to make informed purchasing choices.

Background

The revised ecodesign rules, [proposed by the Commission](#) in March 2022, establish a general framework for setting sustainability requirements. They are part of a [circular economy package](#) and will apply to almost all products on the internal market (except food, animal feed, medicinal products, and living organisms).

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Procedure code: 2022/0095(COD)

Vote: Tuesday 23 April

Further information

[Provisional agreement](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Rapporteur Alessandra Moretti \(S&D, IT\)](#)

[Legislative train](#)

[EP Research briefing: Ecodesign for sustainable products \(February 2024\)](#)

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

EU plans to accelerate ultra-fast network rollout and end intra-EU call fees

On Tuesday, MEPs will give their final approval to the "Gigabit infrastructure Act", designed to reduce costs for the deployment of very high-speed networks.

The draft legislation, already informally agreed upon with EU governments, will reduce the costs of using gigabit-capable networks (which can allow data downloads at a speed of 1 gigabit per second). It also seeks to stimulate investments in digital infrastructure, foster economic growth and ensure that European businesses remain at the forefront of global innovation.

During negotiations, MEPs secured a political path towards abolishing fees for end-users for intra-EU calls and SMS. By 2029, there should be no differentiation in retail prices solely based on the fact that calls originate or terminate in different member states, the bill says.

The agreed text also extends the existing price caps on intra-EU calls, which were to expire in May 2024, until 2032.

Procedure Code: 2023/0046(COD)

Vote: Tuesday 23 April

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Press conference Tuesday PM, timing tbc

Further information

[Report on the proposal for a regulation on measures to reduce the cost of deploying gigabit electronic communications networks](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Alin MITUȚA \(Renew, RO\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP research briefing](#)

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

MEPs to vote on updated guidelines for trans-European transport network

Parliament is set to renew the EU's commitment to finishing major trans-European transport projects, such as cross-border roads, railways and bridges by the end of 2030.

Last December, [Parliament and Council negotiators reached a deal](#) to update the EU's plan for a network of railways, roads, inland waterways, and short sea shipping routes connected through ports and terminals across the European Union. Current TEN-T projects range from [Rail Baltica](#), connecting Helsinki and Warsaw, to the [Brenner Base Tunnel](#), linking Austria and Italy, and the [Lisbon–Madrid](#) high-speed rail line.

During the negotiations, MEPs secured more focus on intermodal transport undertaken primarily by rail, inland waterways, and short-sea shipping. Electrified railways in the core TEN-T network will run at speeds of 160 km/h for passenger rail and 100 km/h for freight, and crossing internal EU borders will take less than 25 minutes on average by the end of 2030.

EU countries have committed to complete major transport infrastructure projects on the [core TEN-T network](#) by the end of 2030 and on a comprehensive network by the end of 2050, focussing on getting rid of bottlenecks and fixing missing transport links.

Procedure Code: 2021/0420 (COD),

Vote: Wednesday 24 April

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Further information

[Press release on trialogue agreement \(19.12.2023\)](#)

[Interinstitutional agreement on updated TEN-T guidelines](#)

[EP rapporteur Barbara Thaler \(EPP, AT\)](#)

[EP rapporteur Dominique Riquet \(Renew, FR\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP research service note on TEN-T revision \(March 2024\)](#)

EU Health Data Space: more efficient treatments and life-saving research

MEPs will take a final vote on creating a European Health Data Space to improve access to personal health data and to boost secure sharing for the public interest.

On Wednesday, Parliament is set to approve [the agreement](#) reached with the Council, allowing patients to access their health data in an electronic format, and allowing health professionals to consult their patients' files with their consent.

Additionally, the Health Data Space would unleash the research potential of health data in an anonymised or pseudonymised format, which could be processed, for example, to find treatments for rare diseases. The scheme also includes robust privacy safeguards for data: patients can prevent their health data from being accessed by practitioners and processed for research purposes, apart from under certain public-interest exemptions.

Vote: Wednesday 24 April

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Further information

[Agreed text](#)

[Steps of the procedure](#)

[EP Research Service briefing: European Health Data Space \(06.12.2023\)](#)

[Profile of the Environment and Public Health Committee co-rapporteur Tomislav Sokol \(EPP, Croatia\)](#)

[Profile of the Civil Liberties Committee co-rapporteur Annalisa Tardino \(ID, Italy\)](#)

Parliament set to adopt European Disability and Parking Cards

In a debate on Tuesday and a vote on Wednesday, MEPs are set to adopt the first EU-wide Disability Card and Parking Card for persons with disabilities.

The new rules, already agreed on by the Parliament and the Council, will establish an EU-wide disability card to make sure that, when travelling for a short period, people with disabilities have equal access to preferential conditions, such as reduced or zero entry fees, priority access and access to reserved parking. Both cards will grant card holders, as well as those accompanying them and assistance animals, access to most of the same conditions as national card holders.

Also on Tuesday, MEPs will debate extending the EU Disability and Parking Cards to third-country nationals legally residing in the member states, including asylum-seekers and stateless persons. A vote on the provisional agreement is scheduled for Wednesday.

Debate: Tuesday 23 April

Vote: Wednesday 24 April

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Procedure code: 2023/0311(COD) (Disability and Parking Cards) and 2023/0393(COD) (extension)

Further information

[Press release on the provisional agreement "EU Disability and Parking cards: Parliament and Council reach provisional deal" \(09.02.2024\)](#)

[Press release on the provisional agreement "Deal on extending EU disability card rules to third-country nationals in the EU" \(04.03.2024\)](#)

[EP Think Thank briefing: "The European Disability Card and European parking card" \(February 2024\)](#)

Mandatory training on conflict and harassment for all MEPs

Parliament will vote on Wednesday to introduce training on preventing conflict and harassment in the workplace and fostering good office management.

The training outlines the financial and administrative rules on hiring assistants as well as team management principles, including addressing conflict and preventing harassment.

MEPs who do not complete this training within the first six months of their term of office (barring extraordinary circumstances or if they have completed it beforehand) will face concrete repercussions. They would be subject to [penalties](#) and would not be eligible to be elected as office-holders (e.g. to the EP Bureau or as committee chair), be appointed as rapporteur, or participate in an official delegation or interinstitutional negotiations.

Procedure: Reform of the EP Rules of Procedure

Votes: Wednesday 24 April

Further information

[Press Release: "Conflict and harassment in the workplace: towards mandatory training for MEPs" \(03.04.2024\)](#)

[Rapporteur: Gabriele Bischoff \(S&D, DE\)](#)

[MeToo: MEPs call for more to be done to tackle sexual harassment in the EU \(01.06.2023\)](#)

[Parliament strengthens its anti-harassment policy \(10.07.2023\)](#)

[Committee on Constitutional Affairs](#)

[Appropriate behaviour rules for MEPs](#)

[EP Rules of Procedure](#)

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

Parliament to vote on stricter rules to reduce microplastics losses

MEPs will debate on Monday and adopt on Tuesday proposals to prevent and address plastic pellets losses throughout the supply chain, to minimise pollution.

The new rules would require all entities handling plastic pellets to take measures to avoid losses. If these occur, they would have to take immediate action to contain and clean up spills.

The vote will close Parliament's first reading and the file will be followed up after the 6-9 June European elections.

Background

In its 2021 action plan "[Towards zero pollution for Air, Water and Soil](#)", the Commission proposed that, by 2030, the EU should reduce the number of microplastics released into the environment (intentionally and unintentionally) by 30%. Around 57 million tonnes of pellets were produced and handled in the EU in 2021. Between 52 140 and 184 290 tonnes of pellets are estimated to have been lost in the environment in the EU in 2019.

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Procedure code: 2023/0373(COD)

Debate: Monday 22 April

Vote: Tuesday 23 April

Further information

[Draft report](#)

[Press release following the vote in committee \(19.03.2024\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Rapporteur João Albuquerque \(S&D, PT\)](#)

[Legislative train](#)

[EP Research: Combating microplastic pollution in the EU: Unintentional releases of plastic pellets \(January 2024\)](#)

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

Revised rules for use of blood, tissues and other substances of human origin

New rules to ensure improved protection for citizens that donate or are treated with blood, tissues, or cells will be put to a final vote by MEPs on Wednesday.

The regulation, [provisionally agreed with the Council](#) in December 2023, updates EU measures governing the use of so-called substances of human origin (SoHO), such as blood and its components (red/white cells, plasma), tissues and cells – used for transfusions, therapies, transplantations or medically assisted reproduction.

SoHO donations in the EU are currently voluntary and unpaid. With these new rules, EU countries will be able to compensate donors under conditions established through national legislation. They will also be required to develop and regularly update “national SoHO emergency plans”, setting out measures to ensure the security of supply for critical substances.

Background

Every year, EU patients benefit from over 25 million blood transfusions, a million cycles of medically assisted reproduction, over 35 000 transplants of stem cells (mainly for blood cancers) and hundreds of thousands of replacement tissues (e.g. for orthopaedic, skin, cardiac or eye problems).

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Procedure code: 2022/0216(COD)

Vote: Wednesday 24 April

Further information

[Provisional agreement](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Rapporteur Nathalie Colin-Oesterlé \(EPP, FR\)](#)

[Legislative train](#)

[EP Research Service: Better quality standards for substances of human origin intended for human application](#)

[Free photos, videos and audio material - EU health policy](#)

Plans to boost Europe's Net-Zero technology production

On Thursday, MEPs are set to adopt legislation intended to bolster Europe's production in technologies needed for decarbonisation.

The "Net-Zero Industry Act", already agreed upon with the Council, sets a target for Europe to produce 40% of net-zero technologies such as solar panels, heat pumps, or electrolyzers, by 2030 and to capture 15% of the global market value for these technologies. It also addresses the challenges in scaling up manufacturing capacities in these technologies.

During negotiations, MEPs ensured that technologies in the renewables sector, nuclear, industrial decarbonisation, grid, energy storage technologies, and biotech would all be supported. The law will simplify the permitting process, setting maximum timelines for projects to be authorised depending on their scope and output.

The legislation will encourage funding from national Emission Trading System (ETS) revenues and for most strategic projects through the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP).

Procedure Code: 2023/0081(COD)

Debate: Thursday 25 April

Vote: Thursday 25 April

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Further information

[Report on establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's net-zero technology products manufacturing ecosystem \(Net Zero Industry Act\)](#)

[Press release on trilogue agreement \(06.02.2024\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Christian Ehler \(EPP, DE\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP research briefing](#)

[Legislative train: Net-Zero Industry Act](#)

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

MEPs to vote on EU withdrawal from the Energy Charter Treaty

Parliament will vote on whether to give its consent to proceed with an EU withdrawal from the treaty, considered as hampering the climate transition.

On Wednesday, Parliament will decide whether to consent to the EU withdrawing from the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), by voting on a recommendation from the Industry, Research, Energy, and International Trade committees advocating to do so.

If Parliament consents, the Council will be able to adopt the decision by qualified majority.

The Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) was established in 1994, with the purpose of governing trade and investment in the energy sector. It has now become a focal point of controversy. The European Parliament has also voiced the need to exit the Treaty in a resolution adopted in 2022. The European Commission considers the Treaty to be no longer compatible with the EU's climate goals under the European Green Deal and the Paris Agreement, predominantly due to concerns over continued fossil fuel investments.

Procedure Code: 2023/0273(NLE)

Debate: Tuesday 23 April

Vote: Wednesday 24 April

Procedure: Consent

Further information

[Recommendation on the draft Council decision on the withdrawal of the Union from the Energy Charter Treaty](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(09.04.2024\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Anna Cavazzini \(Greens/EFA, DE\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Marc Botenga \(The Left, BE\)](#)

[EP research briefing](#)

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

[Procedure file](#)

Combating late payment in commercial transactions

The proposed rules aim to protect companies, particularly SMEs, against those who pay late and ensure timely receipt of payments to avoid cash flow disruptions.

On Tuesday, MEPs are set to adopt their position on revised rules to tackle late payments and boost the competitiveness of companies, particularly smaller ones. The draft regulation introduces a series of measures to eliminate ambiguities and legal gaps that have limited the effectiveness of the current directive.

The rules would introduce stricter maximum payment deadlines depending on the type of transaction and sector, while maintaining contractual freedom. MEPs propose 30 days in both business-to-business (B2B) and government-to-business (G2B) transactions; 60 calendar days in B2B transactions, if expressly agreed in the contract; and 120 days in retail sectors with low product turnover or seasonality (e.g. toys, jewellery, sporting equipment or books).

Procedure code: 2023/0323(COD)

Procedure type: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Vote: Tuesday 23 April

Press conference: Tuesday, 23 April 15.00 CEST

Further information

[EP Research Service: Combating late payment](#)

Support for Ukraine and the Western Balkans

MEPs are set to approve a new facility to support the EU's Western Balkans partners and a €5.8 billion increase for the 2024 EU budget, mainly to support Ukraine.

The €5.8 billion update of the current budget was necessary to make funds available in 2024 from the delayed but now adopted [mid-term revision of the EU's long-term budget](#). €4.8 billion have been allocated to support Ukraine, through the newly established [Ukraine Facility](#). The new Western Balkans Facility will receive a first tranche of €500 million for 2024. [More information on the EU 2024 update here](#)

Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans

In a separate vote, MEPs are set to establish the new facility to support the EU's Western Balkans partners. Spanning from 2024 to 2027, the [facility would allocate up to €2 billion in grants and €4 billion in loans](#), supporting the six partner countries on their accession path, strengthening economic convergence and facilitating socio-economic reforms, enhancing rule of law, and fundamental rights.

Debate (Western Balkans Facility): Tuesday, 23 April

Votes: Wednesday 24 April (Western Balkans Facility), Thursday 25 April (EU 2024 budget update)

Procedures: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement (Western Balkans Facility), budgetary procedure (EU 2024 update)

Further information

[Procedure file \(Western Balkans Facility\)](#)

[Procedure file \(EU 2024 update\)](#)

MEPs to vote on measures to improve access to cash and protection against fraud

On Tuesday, plenary will adopt proposals for a more open and competitive payment services sector in the EU, with strong defences against fraud and data breaches.

Parliament is set to vote on changes to the payment services regulation and [directive](#), which aim to foster a level playing field between banks and non-bank payment service providers while protecting users from fraud, misuse of their data and hidden fees and charges. MEPs also want to ensure better access to cash for all citizens, especially those in remote or rural areas.

With this vote, the European Parliament will close its first reading on the proposals. Legislative work on both files will continue after the 6-9 June European elections.

Procedure code: 2023/0209(COD) - directive; 2023/0210(COD) - regulation

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

Votes: Tuesday 23 April

Further information

[Procedure file \(regulation\)](#)

[Procedure file \(directive\)](#)

[Rapporteur for the regulation, Marek BELKA \(S&D, PL\)](#)

[Rapporteur for the directive, Ondřej KOVAŘÍK \(Renew, CZ\)](#)

[EP Briefing: Second revision of payment services in the EU \(January 2024\)](#)

Cybersecurity: plans to increase EU cooperation against threats

The “Cyber Solidarity Act” aims to build a more resilient, collective EU response against cyber-threats.

The legislative proposal, already agreed upon with the Council, seeks to bolster the European Union’s ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to cybersecurity threats and incidents. The proposal’s key objectives include strengthening EU-wide detection and situational awareness of cyber threats, enhancing preparedness and response capabilities for significant cybersecurity incidents, and fostering European technological sovereignty in cybersecurity.

These objectives would be primarily achieved through a pan-European network of National Cyber Hubs and by establishing a Cyber Emergency Mechanism and a European Cybersecurity Incident Review Mechanism.

Procedure Code: 2023/0109(COD)

Vote: Wednesday 24 April

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Further information

[Report on the proposal to strengthen solidarity and capacities in the Union to detect, prepare for and respond to cybersecurity threats and incidents](#)

[Profile of rapporteur Lina Gálvez Muñoz \(S&D, ES\)](#)

[Steps of the procedure](#)

[EP research briefing](#)

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

New system to ensure the single market keeps functioning in a crisis

On Wednesday, MEPs are expected to greenlight a new crisis preparedness and coordination system to keep essential goods and workers moving in future crises.

The new Internal Market Emergency and Resilience Act (IMERA) should help avoid mistakes such as those made during the COVID-19 pandemic. It puts in place a three-tier crisis alert system with corresponding preparative measures to harmonise and coordinate member state actions.

The main objective is to avoid running out of crisis-relevant goods and to ensure essential goods and services can continue to move across borders even if they close and movement is restricted. Additionally, the new system requires countries to inform companies and citizens more effectively of any exceptional measures and allows companies to prioritise production orders from the European Commission without being liable for other unmet contractual obligations.

Procedure Code: 2022/0278(COD) + accompanying measures in 2022/0279(COD) and 2022/0280(COD)

Vote: Wednesday 24 April

Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Further information

[Draft main regulation](#)

[Draft accompanying omnibus regulation](#)

[Draft accompanying omnibus directive](#)

[Procedure file \(main regulation\)](#)

[Procedure file \(accompanying omnibus directive\)](#)

[Rapporteur Andreas Schwab \(EPP, DE\)](#)

[Work done at the Parliament and links to documents](#)

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

Air passenger data: clearer rules to increase EU security

On Wednesday, MEPs will vote on updated rules on how airlines should gather and transmit passengers' data ahead of their trips.

The legislation on collecting Advance Passenger Information (API), [already agreed with the Council](#), would enhance security at the EU's external borders and boost the fight against crime. Companies will have to collect and transmit passenger data, including their name, date of birth, nationality, and passport details systematically to competent authorities. The rules will apply to flights arriving into the EU from a third country, and for law enforcement purposes, also to flights departing from EU countries.

Biometric data will be excluded, and data will be stored only while strictly necessary (in most cases, for 48 hours).

Votes: Wednesday 24 April

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Further information

[Procedure file \(border control\)](#)

[Procedure file \(law enforcement\)](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur on border management, Jan-Christoph Oetjen \(Renew, Germany\)](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur on law enforcement and crime prevention, Assita Kanko \(ECR, Belgium\)](#)

[EP Research Service study: "An analysis of the European Commission's proposals to reform the API legal framework"](#)

Vote on EU job seeker's aid for dismissed workers in Denmark and Germany

MEPs are set to approve €1.9 million for 390 dismissed meat workers in Denmark and €3 million for 835 steel workers in Germany.

Parliament will vote on Wednesday on requests by Denmark and Germany for support from the [European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers](#) (EGF).

390 employees of the “Danish crown” meat processing company, who lost their jobs due to the closure of its Sæby slaughterhouse, should receive €1.9 million in EU aid. [More information here](#)

835 employees of Vallourec Deutschland GmbH, who lost their jobs due to the closure of the company's German tube mills, should receive almost €3 million in EU aid. [More information here](#)

The funding will go to tailor-made support for the workers, including job seeking assistance and training.

Further information

[Procedure file \(Denmark\)](#)

[Procedure file \(Germany\)](#)

[Committee on Budgets](#)

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.

- Azerbaijan, in particular the repression of civil society and the cases of Dr Gubad Ibadoghlu and Ilhamiz Guliyev
- The proposed repeal of a law banning female genital mutilation in The Gambia
- The new security law in Hong Kong and the cases of Andy Li and Joseph John

Debate: Wednesday 24 April

Vote: Thursday 25 April

Procedure: non-legislative resolutions

Further information

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

Other topics on the agenda

Other topics on the agenda

- Plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques, *POLFJÄRD, vote Wednesday*
- Schengen Borders Code, *GUILLAUME, vote Wednesday*
- Surface water and groundwater pollutants, *BRGLEZ, vote Wednesday*
- Plant and forest reproductive material, *DORFMANN, Debate Tuesday, Vote Wednesday*
- Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) rating activities, *LALUCK, vote Wednesday*
- Classification, labelling and packaging of substances, *SPYRAKI, vote Tuesday*
- Recovery of insurance and reinsurance undertakings, *FERBER, vote Tuesday*
- Banking Union, *FERNANDEZ, debate Wednesday, vote Thursday*
- Protective measures against pests of plants, *AGUILERA, vote Wednesday*
- *European Parliament's right of inquiry, Oral questions Council/Commission, debate Wednesday*
- Regulation on import, export and transit measures for firearms, their essential components and ammunition (recast), *LANGE, vote Tuesday*
- The attack on climate and nature: far right and conservative attempts to destroy the Green Deal and prevent investment in our future, *Topical debate, Wednesday*
- EU-Egypt strategic and comprehensive partnership and agreements with key third countries, *Council and Commission statements, Tuesday*
- Attempts to reintroduce a foreign agent law in Georgia and its restrictions on civil society, *Statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Tuesday*
- Situation in Haiti, *Statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Tuesday*
- La Hulpe declaration on the future of social Europe, *Council and Commission statements, Wednesday*
- Forging a sustainable future together: economic, social and territorial challenges for a competitive, cohesive and inclusive Europe, *Council and Commission statements, Wednesday*

- Pre-enlargement reforms and policy reviews, *Commission statement, Thursday*