

Newsletter - 30-November-1 December 2016 - Plenary session - Brussels

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Plenary sessions

Debate and final vote on EU budget 2017

Parliament's provisional deal with the Council on the EU budget for 2017, struck on Thursday 17 November, will be debated on Wednesday and voted on Thursday. Its negotiators fought for and won better support for unemployed youngsters and additional funds to boost key initiatives supporting SMEs, transport infrastructure projects, research and Erasmus+ student mobility.

The preliminary figures are €157.86 billion in commitment appropriations and €134.49 billion in payment appropriations.

Parliament secured €500 million on top of the draft budget for the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) to help youngsters find jobs. A further €200 million will boost key growth and jobs schemes such as COSME (competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises), the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF, financing infrastructure projects), Horizon 2020 (research projects) and Erasmus+ (student mobility).

MEPs also secured a €725 million booster package for migration-related funds, including €28 million more for UNRWA support for Palestine refugees (total €310m) and €3m more to support peace talks in Cyprus (total €34.8m).

Next steps in the 2017 budget procedure

The Council formally approved the compromise on 28 November. Parliament will put it to a plenary vote in Brussels on 1 December and, if approved, its President will sign it into law.

Mid-term revision of the multiannual financial framework (MFF)

In a separate debate, MEPs will quiz the Council on the state of play of deliberations on the mid-term revision of the EU's long-term budget 2014-2020, on which member states have yet to agree a common position.

Procedure: Budgetary

Debate: Wednesday, 30 November

Vote: Thursday, 1 December

Press conference: Thursday 1st December 12:30 (after the votes), with rapporteurs Jens Geier (S&D, DE), Indrek Tarand (Greens/EFA, EE)

#EUBudget #EUBudget2017 #MFF

Further information

- [EU Budget deal: EP achieves best support for youth and growth initiatives](#)
- [EP Think Tank: Conciliation agreement on the 2017 EU budget](#)
- [Rapporteur Jens Geier \(S&D, DE\) for Section III – Commission](#)
- [Rapporteur Indrek Tarand \(Greens/EFA\) for the other sections](#)

Plenary sessions

Vote on EU-US data protection deal for law enforcement purposes

The EU-US “Umbrella Agreement” on the protection of personal data exchanged for law enforcement purposes will be debated on Wednesday afternoon and voted on Thursday. It aims to ensure high, binding data protection standards for data exchanged by police and law enforcement authorities.

The agreement was signed between the European Commission and the US in June, but needs Parliament’s consent to enter into force.

The agreement covers transfers of all personal data, such as names, addresses or criminal records, exchanged between the EU and US for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses, including terrorism.

Procedure: consent

[2016/0126\(NLE\)](#)

Debate: Wednesday, 30 November

Vote: Thursday, 1 December

#UmbrellaAgreement #dataprotection

Further information

- [Press release on committee vote \(24.11.2016\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Jan Philipp Albrecht \(Greens, DE\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [EP Research: EU- US Umbrella Agreement on data protection \(Nov. 2016\)](#)
- [Signing of the Umbrella Agreement - press release from the European Commission 02.06.2016](#)
- [Fact sheet on the Umbrella Agreement \(from the European Commission\):](#)
- [Audiovisual material for media](#)

Plenary sessions

Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi to address Parliament

President of the Republic of Tunisia Beji Caid Essebsi will address MEPs at 11.00 on Thursday in the Brussels chamber.

Mr Essebsi became President on 23 December 2014 after the first presidential elections since the Arab Spring removed long-term President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali. Previously he had served as Minister of Foreign Affairs (1981 to 1986) and as Prime Minister, after the Jasmine revolution (2011).

The European Union is supporting the democratic transition process in Tunisia by facilitating trade, access to loans and a neighbourhood policy tailored to ensure the country's peaceful economic development.

Formal Sitting - Address by Beji Caid Essebsi, President of the Republic of Tunisia

Thursday, 1 December

[#Tunisia @BejiCEOfficial](#)

Further information

- [EP Press release: MEPs approve €500m in fresh EU loans to Tunisia \(08.06.2016\)](#)
- [EP Press release: Migration: MEPs back cooperation with Africa but warn against new "Turkey deals" \(08.06.2016\)](#)
- [EP Press release: MEPs back more duty-free olive oil imports to help Tunisia but want safeguards \(25.02.2016\)](#)
- [EP Study EU Policies in Tunisia before and after the Revolution \(21.04.2016\)](#)
- [EPRS EU continues to assist Tunisia's transition \(22.02.2016\)](#)
- [Audiovisual material for media](#)

Plenary sessions

Parliament to demand better protection for small investors

Small investors need better information about the possible risks and fees for investment products they might buy, say MEPs. They have criticised as “flawed and misleading” proposed rules on a key information document supplied by investment providers to buyers of consumer investments.

Parliament will vote Thursday on a resolution which gives the EU Commission one year to come up with better measures requiring providers of “packaged retail and insurance-based investment products” (PRIIPs) to produce a “Key Information Document” explaining the main features of their products.

The Economics and Monetary Affairs Committee rejected draft rules for the KID in September, saying they failed to protect investors adequately. If the resolution for a delay is passed on Thursday, the KID could be introduced from 1 January 2018.

Procedure: Co-decision (Ordinary Legislative Procedure)

[2016/0355\(COD\)](#)

Vote: Thursday, 1 December

#Priips #PRIIPS

Further information

- [Draft report on “Key information documents for packaged retail and insurance-based investment products as regards the date of its application”.](#)
- [Press release on committee vote \(01.09.2016\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur : Pervenche Berès](#)
- [Procedure file:](#)
- [Background note on PRIIPS](#)

Commission code of conduct: MEPs to call for detailed declarations of interest

The European Commission should revise its code of conduct for Commissioners to ensure that their declarations of interests give a complete picture of the financial situation and activities of a Commissioner and his/her family, MEPs are set to say in a debate on Wednesday. They will vote a resolution on Thursday.

MEPs are likely to welcome a recent statement by Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker on prolonging the “cooling off” period, before ex-Commissioners may take private sector jobs in their areas of expertise, from 18 to 24 months, and even 36 months for the Commission President. The proposal is in line with Parliament’s recommendation.

They will call however for a bigger role for Parliament’s Legal Affairs Committee in analysing the declarations of financial interests.

Clearance from this committee on the absence of any conflict of interest should be a precondition for holding the hearing of a Commissioner-designate by the committee responsible for his/her future portfolio, says the draft resolution.

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

Plenary sessions

[2016/2080\(INI\)](#)

Debate: Wednesday, 30 November

Vote: Thursday, 1 December

[@eu_commission](#) [#declarationofinterest](#) [#CodeOfConduct](#)

Further information

- [Draft resolution on Commissioners' declarations of interests – guidelines](#)
- [Profile of the rapporteur: Pascal Durand \(GREENS/EFA, FR\)](#)
- [Procedure File](#)
- [European Commission: Code of conduct for Commissioners \(20.04.2011\)](#)
- [European Commission: Ethics for commissioners](#)

Italy: MEPs to ask Commission to speed up EU Solidarity Fund earthquake relief

MEPs will ask the EU Commission to “promptly assess and mobilise” EU Solidarity Fund support for Italy’s earthquake relief efforts in a debate on Wednesday. Parliament will vote Thursday on a resolution listing proposals to improve the fund’s operation in the coming years.

Allowing joint applications by more than one country, taking account of indirect damage caused by a natural disaster, raising the advance payments threshold and shortening the deadlines for processing applications are some of the key proposals listed in a non-legislative resolution by Salvatore CICU (EPP, IT) on the assessment of the EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF) to be voted on Thursday.

Background

On 24 August 2016 a devastating earthquake hit central Italy, followed by three other major quakes in central Italian regions, on 26 October and on 30 October. More than 290 people were killed and 400 reportedly injured, while a possible “domino effect” may lead to 100,000 people being displaced.

The European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) was set up under Regulation 2012/2002 after that summer’s disastrous flooding in Central Europe, thus enabling the EU to respond to major natural disasters and to extraordinary regional disasters.

The EUSF has so far contributed a total €3.8 billion towards repairing the damage done by more than 70 disasters in 24 EU and EU accession candidate countries. These disasters include earthquakes, flooding, forest fires, and storms and, more recently, drought.

Procedure: Oral question to the Commission; non-legislative resolution

[2016/2045\(INI\)](#)

Specialist: Kristina

Debate: Wednesday, 30 November

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Vote: Thursday, 1 December

#Italy #EUSF

Further information

- [Oral question to the Commission](#)
- [Draft resolution on the European Union Solidarity Fund: an assessment](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Salvatore CICU \(EPP, IT\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [EU Solidarity Fund](#)
- [Briefing note on the EU Solidarity fund](#)
- [Audiovisual material for media](#)

Political future of Congo

MEPs will debate the deep political crisis and latest developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on Thursday morning at around 10.00 and vote a resolution at noon.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been in a deep political crisis since Joseph Kabila's re-election in 2011, aggravated by its failure to hold fresh presidential elections on time, i.e. before President Kabila's second mandate expires on 19 December 2016.

On 17 November, President Kabila appointed opposition leader Samy Badibanga as Prime Minister following a controversial power-sharing deal between the government and fringe groups that will in effect extend the President's term in office. Presidential and legislative elections will be delayed until April 2018.

Statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Statement (with resolution)

2016/2885(RSP)

Debate: Thursday, 1 December 2016

Vote: Thursday, 1 December 2016

#Congo #RDC

Further information

- [Recording of the European Parliament plenary debate on Situation in Democratic Republic of Congo \(05.10.2016 from 18.10\)](#)
- [Resolution adopted 23 June 2016 on Massacres in eastern Congo 2016/2770\(RSP\)](#)
- [EU-ACP resolution of 15 June on "the pre-electoral and security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo"](#)
- [European Parliament resolution of 10 March 2016 on the Democratic Republic of the Congo \(2016/2609\(RSP\)\)](#)
- [Audiovisual material for professionals](#)

MEPs to approve €31.5m in EU aid to repair summer 2016 flood damage in Bavaria

Plenary sessions

MEPs are set to approve €31.5 million in EU aid to repair flood damage in Bavaria in a vote on Thursday. Seven people died in the May and June 2016 floods, which affected more than 47,000 people in Lower Bavaria. Over 2,000 were still unable to return to their homes two months later. Hardest hit was the district of Rottal-Inn. The aid would come from the EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF).

The EUSF aid of €31.5 million is intended to help restore essential infrastructure, reimburse the cost of emergency measures and cover the costs of some of the clean-up operations.

Next steps

The Council approved the aid on 15 November. If the European Parliament's plenary gives its green light, the funds could be available within weeks.

Background

The EUSF was set up in 2002 in response to disastrous flooding in central Europe in the summer of that year. Since then, repair work after more than 70 disasters — including floods, forest fires, earthquakes, storms and drought — in at least 24 EU countries has received EUSF aid totalling more than €3.7 billion.

Procedure: Budgetary

[2016/2267\(BUD\)](#)

Vote: Thursday, 1st December

[#EUBudget](#) [#EUSF](#) [#Germany](#)

Further information

- [Procedure file](#)
- [Committee on Budgets](#)
- [Rapporteur Monika Hohlmeier \(EPP, DE\)](#)
- [Commission press release: "EU Solidarity Fund: Commission supports Germany after the floods in Bavaria" \(14.10.2016\)](#)
- [European Parliament Factsheet "The Solidarity Fund"](#)
- [EU Solidarity Fund Interventions since 2002](#)

Other topics on the agenda

Other topics for debate and vote include the following:

- Combating racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance - *Council and Commission statement*
- Application of the European Order for Payment Procedure, *vote only*
- Liability, compensation and financial security for offshore oil and gas operations (INI), *vote Thursday Kostas Chrysogonos (GUE/NGL, EL)*
- Agreement on the short-stay visa waiver, *vote Thursday, rapporteur Mariya Gabriel (EPP, BG)*