

# Newsletter - 31 May-1 June 2017 - Plenary session - Brussels

[30-05-2017 - 17:55]

## Plenary sessions

<a href="#">Fighting anti-Semitism in the EU and setting EU fundamental rights priorities . . .</a>	2
MEPs will debate the recent surge in anti-Semitism in Europe with the Council and Commission on Wednesday afternoon. On Thursday, they will vote on working priorities for the EU Fundamental Rights Agency for the next four years.	
<a href="#">Freedom of Czech media under scrutiny . . . . .</a>	3
Risk of political abuse of Czech media will be discussed by MEPs and the Commission on Thursday.	
<a href="#">MEPs to vote on further trade concessions to Ukraine . . . . .</a>	4
<a href="#">Mobility package: boosting sustainability and fair competition in road transport . .</a>	4
<a href="#">MEPs to set priorities for a new impetus in development . . . . .</a>	5
<a href="#">Digital Europe: Digitising European industry, the European gigabit society and 5G . . . . .</a>	6
<a href="#">Vote on reducing VAT on e-books, to match printed book rates</a>	
<a href="#">. . . . .</a>	7
<a href="#">Other topics on the agenda . . . . .</a>	7

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# Plenary sessions

## Fighting anti-Semitism in the EU and setting EU fundamental rights priorities

**MEPs will debate the recent surge in anti-Semitism in Europe with the Council and Commission on Wednesday afternoon. On Thursday, they will vote on working priorities for the EU Fundamental Rights Agency for the next four years.**

After Wednesday's debate on anti-Semitism and possible counter-measures, MEPs will vote on Thursday on the working priorities of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights in 2018-2022. These include asylum, integration of migrants and refugees, fighting racism and xenophobia, protecting personal data and Roma inclusion.

*Council and Commission statements with resolutions (anti-Semitism) and consent (FRA multiannual framework)*

[2017/2692\(RSP\) \(anti-Semitism\)](#) and [2016/0204\(APP\) \(FRA's multiannual framework\)](#)

*Debates: Wednesday, 31 May*

*Vote: 1 June (FRA multiannual framework)*

[@EURightsAgency](#)

### Further information

- [Motion of resolution on combating anti-Semitism on behalf of EPP, S&D and ALDE Groups](#)
- [Motion of resolution on combating anti-Semitism on behalf of GUE/NGL and Greens/EFA Groups](#)
- [Draft recommendation on the Multiannual Framework for the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights for 2018–2022](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Angelika Mlinar \(ALDE, AT\)](#)
- [Procedure file \(anti-Semitism\)](#)
- [Procedure file \(FRA\)](#)
- [EP Research Service: At a glance: Fundamental Rights Agency \(May 2016\)](#)
- [Audiovisual materials for media](#)

# Plenary sessions

## Freedom of Czech media under scrutiny

**Risk of political abuse of Czech media will be discussed by MEPs and the Commission on Thursday.**

The plenary debate is being held in reaction to a leaked audio recording, allegedly catching the leader of the coalition ANO party, the former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Andrej Babiš, instructing a journalist employed by his media group on how to attack his political rivals.

The matter was [discussed on Tuesday by the Parliament's Civil Liberties committee](#).

*Procedure: Debate with the Commission*

[2017/2696\(RSP\)](#)

*Debate: Thursday, 1 June*

#CzechRepublic #media

### Further information

- [Procedure file](#)
- [Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Plenary sessions

## MEPs to vote on further trade concessions to Ukraine

**New trade concessions to Ukraine are up for a vote on Thursday. MEPs could exclude some agricultural products from this additional support.**

The [draft resolution approved by the Trade Committee](#) amends the EU [Commission proposal](#) to ensure, among other things, that tomatoes, wheat, and urea, a raw material for fertilisers, do not enjoy additional concessions to those already outlined in the [Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area \(DCFTA\)](#). MEPs could also insist that the fight against corruption becomes a condition for granting Ukraine preferential exports.

### Next steps

Once the resolution is adopted, Parliament will start negotiations with national governments soon after the plenary vote.

### Facts

*The DCFTA, part of the [Association Agreement](#) and provisionally applied since January 2016, provides for the mutual opening of markets for goods and services, but the EU reduces and abolishes duties faster. In view of Ukraine's economic difficulties and its efforts to reform, the EU would offer additional new trade concessions to Kiev. The EU is Ukraine's largest trading partner, whereas Ukraine accounts for 0.8% of the EU's total trade.*

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure*

*Procedure Code: 2016/0308*

*Debate: Wednesday, 31 May*

*Vote: Thursday, 1 June, 2017*

*#EUTrade*

### Further information

- [EU-Ukraine trade relations in a nutshell \(by the Commission\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Jaroslaw Walesa \(EPP, PL\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [Audiovisual materials for media](#)

## Mobility package: boosting sustainability and fair competition in road transport

**The EU Commission will present its “mobility package” proposals to boost road transport sustainability and fair competition, in a debate on Wednesday afternoon.**

In a [resolution](#) put to a vote on 18 May, MEPs called for further efforts to boost road safety, cut emissions, take advantage of digitalisation and cut red tape caused by differing

# Plenary sessions

national rules. They want clearer rules on driving and rest times, “cabotage” (carriage by non-resident hauliers), the elimination of “letterbox” companies and better enforcement to tackle abusive practices and fraud that lead to unfair competition and violation of workers’ rights.

*Commission statement*

[2017/2606\(RSP\)](#)

*Debate: Wednesday, 31 May*

#EUTransport

## Further information

- [EP press release: Boost innovation, fairness, sustainability and safety with upcoming road initiatives, say MEPs \(18.05.2017\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [Audiovisual material for media](#)

## MEPs to set priorities for a new impetus in development

**The EU’s new overarching development policy, aiming to tackle climate change, migration and security problems, will be put to a vote on Thursday.**

MEPs will vote on a recent informal deal with ministers , revising the 2005 [European Consensus on Development](#), a joint policy statement setting out the EU’s values and objectives. The agreement keeps poverty eradication as a number one priority, aligns the private sector’s involvement in social and environmental standards and offers more democratic oversight of financial tools which tackle the root causes of migration.

### Facts

*The reform of the EU’s development policy is linked to new global challenges and to the adoption of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) at the UN Summit in 2015. While the number of people living in absolute poverty has fallen by 600 million since 1990, less progress has been made in other areas, such as reducing the number of deaths of mothers and babies during childbirth and providing access to clean drinking water. Over half of global development aid comes from the EU and its members, making them collectively the world’s largest aid donor.*

*Procedure: Resolutions on topical subjects*

*Procedure Code: 2017/2586(RSP)*

*Debate: Wednesday, 31 May*

*Vote: Thursday, 1 June*

#SDGs #Agenda2030

# Plenary sessions

## Further information

- [Press Release on Committee vote \(25.01.2017\)](#)
- [Commission Communication: A proposal for a new European Consensus on Development - Our World, our Dignity, our Future. \(November 2016\)](#)
- [Fact sheet: development cooperation in the EU and the EP's role \(September 2016\)](#)
- [EU's action plan for developing countries - EuroparlTV interview with rapporteurs](#)
- [Profile of co-rapporteur Nobert Neuser \(S&D, DE\)](#)
- [Profile of co-rapporteur Bogdan Brunon Wenta \(EPP, Poland\)](#)
- [Audiovisual materials for media](#)

## Digital Europe: Digitising European industry, the European gigabit society and 5G

**The digitisation of industry and ensuring the efficient rollout of 5G will be jointly debated on Wednesday and voted on separately on Thursday.**

The report on [digitising European industry](#) addresses the impact of digitisation on the industrial production system, which affects industry, consumers and workers in different ways, using a holistic approach to best benefit from digitisation.

The report on [internet connectivity for growth, competitiveness and cohesion: European gigabit society and 5G](#) addresses ways to ensure an efficient rollout of 5G solutions and how European society can benefit from high levels of connectivity. The report emphasises that developing skills and infrastructure can bridge the digital divide in competences and access between individuals, regions and member states.

**Procedure:** Non-legislative resolutions

**Debate:** Wednesday 31 May

**Vote:** Thursday 1 June

[2016/2271\(INI\) - Digitising European industry](#)

[2016/2305\(INI\) - Internet connectivity](#)

#5G #DSM

## Further information

- [Draft report on digitising European industry](#)
- [Draft report on internet connectivity for growth, competitiveness and cohesion: European gigabit society and 5G](#)
- [Profile of rapporteurs: Reinhard Bütikofer \(Greens/EFA, DE \)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Michał Boni \(PPE, PL \)](#)
- [Procedure file: Digitising European Industry](#)
- [Procedure file: Internet connectivity for growth, competitiveness and cohesion: European gigabit society and 5G](#)
- [Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Plenary sessions

## Vote on reducing VAT on e-books, to match printed book rates

**EU citizens could pay less for e-books, following a vote by Parliament to allow member states reducing VAT on them to match printed book rates.**

An EU Commission proposal to enable member states to charge a reduced rate of VAT on e-books -- bringing them into line with VAT levied on printed matter -- will be voted on by Parliament on Thursday.

Currently, e-books have to be taxed at an EU minimum standard rate of 15%, whereas member states are free to charge the reduced rate of at least 5% -- and in some cases, even zero-rates -- on printed publications.

*Procedure: consultation*

[2016/0374\(CNS\)](#)

**Vote: Thursday, 1 June**

#VAT #ebooks

### Further information

- [EP Live](#)
- [EbS+ \(01.06.2017\)](#)
- [Wiki: Products](#)
- [Committee press release on debate in ECON committee \(03.05.2017\):](#)
- [Audiovisual materials for media](#)

## Other topics on the agenda

**Other topics for debate and vote include the following:**

UN Ocean conference - *debate Wednesday, vote Thursday*

Protection of vulnerable adults - *debate/vote Thursday*

Resilience as a strategic priority of the EU external action - oral questions -*debate Wednesday, vote Thursday*

GSP+ for Sri Lanka - *debate Wednesday*

Uniform format for visas - *debate/vote Thursday*