

Newsletter - 6-9 June 2016 - Strasbourg plenary session

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Andrew BOREHAM

BXL: (+32) 2 28 42319
PORT: (+32) 498 98 34 01
EMAIL: press-EN@europarl.europa.eu

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/plenary>

Further information

- [Draft agenda](#)
- [EP Live](#)
- [EbS+](#)
- [EuroparTV](#)
- [Press conferences and other events](#)
- [EP Audiovisual website](#)
- [EP Newshub](#)
- [EPRS Plenary podcasts on key issues](#)

Plenary sessions

Debate on new EU plan to address root causes of migration

A new EU plan to address the root causes of migration will be presented by the EU Commission and debated in plenary on Tuesday. The new “partnership framework with third countries”, prepared by Commission First Vice-President Frans Timmermans and EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, foresees using EU funds to promote private investment in migrants’ countries of origin, particularly in Africa.

Also, to make migrant “returns” policy more effective, the Commission wants to accelerate the negotiation of “readmission” agreements with key countries, such as Pakistan and Afghanistan, in addition to the 17 already in force.

Review of the “blue card” for highly-skilled migrants and action plan for integration

In a later debate on Tuesday afternoon, MEPs will assess two other migration proposals to be presented by the Commission: a review of the “blue card” system governing admission conditions for highly qualified third-country nationals and a new action plan on integration.

Procedure: Commission statements

Debate: Tuesday, 7 June

[#migrationEU](#) [#EUFunds](#) [@TimmermansEU](#) [@FedericaMog](#)

Further information

- [EP resolution on “The situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration” \(12.04.2016\)](#)
- [EC communication: Towards a reform of the common European asylum system and enhancing legal avenues to Europe \(6.04.2016\)](#)
- [EP Research: Cohesion Policy support for migrants and refugees \(6.05.2016\)](#)
- [Refugees: pathways to integration \(Europarl TV, 31.05.2016\)](#)

Plenary sessions

Debate on state of democracy in Turkey, after its MPs were stripped of immunity

The state of democracy in Turkey after its Grand National Assembly stripped MPs of their immunity from prosecution in a vote on 20 May, will be debated by MEPs with an EU Council representative on Wednesday.

MEPs will ask for more information and EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini's position on the controversial rules voted by the Turkish parliament, which allegedly could apply to a large majority of Turkey's pro-Kurdish opposition, whom Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says might have links with separatist terror groups.

The new law reportedly enables prosecutors to investigate 138 MPs.

Procedure: Statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Debate: Wednesday, 8 June

#Turkey @FedericaMog

Plenary sessions

Debate on progress of EU's multi-billion euro investment plan

The progress of the European Commission's €315 billion investment plan for Europe, or "Juncker plan", will be debated on Wednesday with Commission Vice-President Jyrki Katainen. Launched a year ago, the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) aims to mobilise private and public funds to kick-start growth after the financial crisis. Tabling its first progress report on 2 June, the Commission proposed to extend the plan beyond the original three years and scale up resources for SMEs.

More than 140,000 SMEs in 26 member states are expected to benefit from the plan, says to the Commission, with France, Italy, Germany, the UK, and Spain having the greatest number of approved projects.

MEPs will debate the Commission's progress report and improvements such as the recently-launched [European Investment Project Portal](#) which brings together investors and projects in need of investment.

Procedure: Commission statement followed by debate

[2015/0009\(COD\)](#)

Debate: Wednesday, 8 June

[#EFSI](#) [#investEU](#) [#Junckerplan](#)

Further information

- [Press release on adoption of EU Investment plan \(24.06.2015\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [EP Research briefing note on European Fund for Strategic Investments \(EFSI\)](#)
- [EP Research note on EFSI: setup and EU budget contribution](#)
- [EC site on the EU Investment plan](#)

Plenary sessions

Vote on plans to establish “Panama Papers” inquiry committee

Parliament is set to vote Wednesday on a proposal by its political leadership to set up an inquiry committee to look into the “Panama Papers” revelations on the financial arrangements of offshore companies and their ultimate beneficiaries.

The 65-strong committee is to investigate alleged contraventions and maladministration in the application of EU laws on money laundering, tax avoidance and tax evasion. It has twelve months to present its final report.

The committee’s mandate was approved on 2 June by Parliament’s Conference of Presidents (President and political group leaders).

Procedure: Rule 198, Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament

Vote: Wednesday, 8 June

[#Panamapapers](#) [#TaxTransparency](#) [#taxevasion](#) [#MoneyLaundering](#)

Further information

- [Rules on setting up inquiry committees](#)
- [Full text of the mandate](#)

Plenary sessions

Parliament to debate and vote its stance on anti-tax avoidance package

Parliament is to debate its stance on the EU Commission proposal for an anti-tax avoidance directive on Tuesday and vote a resolution on Wednesday. The proposal, which aims to close loopholes used by corporate tax avoiders, was welcomed by Parliament's Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee in a resolution voted on 24 May. MEPs nonetheless advocated stricter limits on deductions for interest payments and an effective corporate tax rate on foreign income of 15%.

The anti-tax avoidance directive reflects [the OECD's action plan](#) to limit tax base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) and follows recommendations made by Parliament in November ([TAXE 1 report](#)) and December 2015 ([legal recommendations](#) drafted by Anneliese Dodds (S&D, UK) and Luděk Niedermayer (EPP, CZ).

It builds on the principle that tax should be paid where profits are made and includes legally-binding measures to block the methods most commonly used by companies to avoid paying tax. It also proposes common definitions of terms like “permanent establishment”, “tax havens”, “minimum economic substance”, “transfer prices” and others hitherto open to interpretation.

Procedure: consultation

[2016/0011\(CNS\)](#)

Debate: Tuesday, 7 June

Vote: Wednesday, 8 June

[#TaxTransparency](#) [#LuxLeaks](#) [#taxavoidance](#)

Further information

- [Press release on committee vote \(24.05.2016\): "Anti-tax avoidance: close tax gap with low-tax third countries, say MEPs"](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Hugues Bayet \(S&D, BE\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [Overview: the European Parliament's work on taxation](#)
- [EP Research: Understanding the OECD tax plan to address 'base erosion and profit shifting'](#)
- [Video: Interview with rapporteur Hugues Bayet \(S&D, BE\)](#)

Plenary sessions

Parliament to reiterate its call for action on endocrine disruptors

Parliament is set to reiterate on Wednesday its demand that the European Commission publish the overdue scientific criteria needed to identify and tackle exposure to hormone-disrupting chemicals, which should have been published by the end of 2013.

The European Court of Justice ruled in December 2015 that the EU executive had breached EU law by failing to do so and MEPs have repeatedly urged the EU to clamp down on the substances.

In a March 2013 resolution, Parliament called on the Commission to act to reduce exposure to endocrine disruptors, which have been linked to increases in cases of impaired sperm quality, early onset of puberty, certain cancers and other disorders.

A wide range of chemicals are suspected of having endocrine-disrupting properties that interfere with the functioning of hormones, but defining scientific criteria to identify them is a highly complex task. The Commission's delay in delivering the criteria has drawn strong reactions from industry and consumers. It is expected to come up with scientific criteria and to present the legal acts required before summer 2016.

Procedure: Commission statement followed by debate (with resolution)

[2016/2747\(RSP\)](#)

Debate: Wednesday, 25 May

Vote: Wednesday, 8 June

#EndocrineDisruptors

Further information

- [Procedure file](#)
- [EP research: Setting criteria on endocrine disruptors: Follow-up to the General Court judgment](#)
- [EP research: Proceedings of the Workshop on "Endocrine Disruptors and Impact on Health"](#)
- [Library briefing: Health threats from endocrine disruptors: A scientific and regulatory challenge](#)
- [EP resolution on the protection of public health from endocrine disruptors \(14.03.2013\)](#)

Plenary sessions

Free movement: vote on new rules to ease cross-border acceptance of certificates

Parliament will vote on Thursday on new EU rules to facilitate the free movement of citizens by simplifying procedures for proving the authenticity of certain public documents, such as birth or marriage certificates, in other EU member states. To avoid the need for translations, the provisions would introduce new multilingual EU forms to be attached to the documents.

The draft regulation covers all civil status documents and some other documents that citizens moving abroad often need to demonstrate, for example, residence, nationality or the absence of a criminal record. If Parliament gives its green light, the regulation will be brought into effect gradually and apply in full from 2019.

Procedure: Co-decision (Ordinary Legislative Procedure), 2nd reading agreement

[2013/0119\(COD\)](#)

Debate: Wednesday, 8 June

Vote: Thursday, 9 June

Press conference: Wednesday, 8 June at 14:30 with rapporteur Mady Delvaux (S&D, LU) and Commissioner Věra Jourová (Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality)

#crossborder #certificates #EUCitizens

Further information

- [Draft recommendation for second reading on a regulation on promoting the free movement of citizens by simplifying the requirements for presenting certain public documents in the EU](#)
- [Text of agreed draft law \(outcome of informal negotiations between Parliament and Council\)](#)
- [Press release on committee vote \(21.04.2016\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Mady Delvaux \(S&D, LU\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [Interview with rapporteur Mady Delvaux: "Easy as ABC: Filing public documents in another EU country to be simplified"](#)
- [EP background information: "Easier acceptance of public documents"](#)

Plenary sessions

Bulgaria's President Rosen Plevneliev to address the European Parliament

The President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Rosen Plevneliev, will deliver a speech in the European Parliament on Wednesday at 12.00. The future of Europe and the current challenges that the EU is facing are expected to be among the topics addressed.

Rosen Plevneliev is the fourth democratically-elected President of the Republic of Bulgaria and its first President to address the European Parliament since Bulgaria joined the European Union on 1 January 2007.

Mr Plevneliev won the "European personality of the year in South-eastern and Central Europe" award in 2015 for his contribution to stabilizing and improving relations between the European states and in particular between Balkan neighbours.

In July 2009, Mr Plevneliev, who has a background in research and engineering, was appointed Minister of Regional Development and Public Works and introduced a new approach to managing EU funds. He was elected President in October 2011.

President Plevneliev and EP President Schulz will hold a joint press point after his formal address to plenary.

Formal Sitting

Debate: Wednesday, 8 June - 12.00-12.30

Press point: Wednesday, 8 June, 12.30

#Bulgaria

Note to Editors: EU Heads of State addressing Parliament during the 8th term

The latest EU Heads of State to address Parliament were:

- *King Felipe VI of Spain, on 7 October 2015,*
- *President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella, on 25 November 2015,*
- *President of the Republic of Estonia Toomas Hendrik Ilves, on 2 February 2016,*
- *President of Portugal Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, on 13 April 2016, and*
- *King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, on 25 May 2016*

Further information

- [Website of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria:](#)

Plenary sessions

Tackling supermarket trading practices that are unfair to farmers

MEPs want the European Commission to take action against unfair trading practices in the food sector. It should put forward proposals to foster fair and transparent relations between food producers, suppliers and distributors, they say in a non-legislative resolution to be debated on Monday and voted on Tuesday. MEPs also express concerns about overproduction and food waste caused by the so-called Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs).

Income and power imbalances in the food supply chain must be tackled, MEPs say. They stress that selling below the cost of production, and the serious misuse of basic agricultural foods such as dairy, fruit and vegetables as “loss leaders” by large-scale retailers, threaten the long-term sustainability of EU production of these items.

Many farmers and small and medium businesses lack bargaining power in the food supply chain, which makes them particularly vulnerable to UTPs and this may in turn harm the entire EU economy. Consumers are also disadvantaged, as their choice of products and access to new and innovative goods are limited, MEPs note.

Note to editors

UTPs consist, for example, of delaying payments, restricting access to the market, unilateral or retroactive changes to contract terms, sudden and unjustified cancellation of contracts, unfair transfers of commercial risk and transferring transport and storage costs to suppliers.

The EU already has legislation to combat unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices (Directive 2005/29/EC), but there are no EU rules to combat unfair practices between different operators in the agri-food chain. UTPs are only partly covered by competition law.

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

[2015/2065\(INI\)](#)

Debate: Monday, 6 June

Vote: Tuesday, 7 June

#UTPs #UnfairTradingPractices #FoodSupply

Further information

- [Draft report on unfair trading practices in the food supply chain](#)
- [Press release on committee vote \(21.04.2016\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Edward Czesak \(ECR, PL\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [Briefing by the EP Policy Department on "Unfair Trading Practices in the Business-to-Business Food Supply Chain"](#)

Plenary sessions

Debate on improving EU-wide information exchange to fight terrorism and crime

What is being done to improve information exchange among member states' law enforcement authorities and EU agencies, and also to ensure that information systems are fully interoperable? These will be the key questions that MEPs put to the EU Commission and Council in a debate on Wednesday afternoon.

Investigations into the recent terror attacks in Paris and Brussels showed that improving information exchange among EU member states' law enforcement authorities and with and between EU agencies such as Europol (police cooperation), Eurojust (judicial cooperation) and Frontex (border management), is a key need in fighting terrorism and organised crime.

Procedure: Commission and Council statement

Debate: Wednesday, 8 June

#EPonTerror @europol @frontex #eurojust

Further information

- [EC communication on stronger and smarter information systems for borders and security:](#)
- [Audiovisual material for professionals](#)

Objections to herbicide-resistant GM carnation and maize authorisations

The EU Commission should withdraw its plan to authorise the importation and use of herbicide-resistant genetically modified (GM) carnations and maize, say two non-binding resolutions to be voted on Wednesday. Authorising GM carnations would encourage the worldwide use of a diabetes medicine as a herbicide, while the GM maize is resistant to glyphosate, which is classified as “probably carcinogenic” by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the text says.

MEPs also point out that since the current GM authorisation process came into force, every GM authorisation decision has been taken by the Commission without the support of a qualified majority of EU member states. In effect, this turns what should be the exception into the norm.

Background

A separate draft EU law that would enable any EU member state to restrict or prohibit the sale and use of EU-approved GMO food or feed on its territory was rejected by Parliament in October 2015. MEPs are concerned that this law might prove unworkable or that it could lead to the reintroduction of border checks between pro- and anti-GMO countries. They called on the Commission to table a new proposal.

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

Procedure Code: 2016/2683(RSP) (GM carnation)

[2016/2682\(RSP\) \(GM maize\)](#)

Plenary sessions

Vote: Wednesday, 8 June

#GMOs glyphosate @WHO

Further information

- [Press release on committee vote \(24.05.2016\)](#)
- [EP research: Imports of GM food and feed: Right of Member States to opt out](#)
- [Draft resolution on draft EC decision authorising placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from GM maize Bt11 × MIR162 × MIR604 × GA21, and GM maizes combining two or three of the events Bt11, MIR162, MIR604 and GA21](#)
- [Draft resolution on the draft Commission implementing decision as regards the placing on the market of a genetically modified carnation \(Dianthus caryophyllus L., line SHD-27531-4\)](#)

MEPs to remind Commission to brief them on talks on international agreements

Parliament has the right to be informed of the progress of negotiations on international agreements without having to ask, as established by the Treaty of Lisbon and confirmed by several Court of Justice rulings. MEPs will remind the European Commission of this obligation during a debate on Thursday.

In an oral question prepared by the Civil Liberties Committee they will ask the Commission how it plans to ensure that all relevant information is automatically forwarded to Parliament “in an exhaustive manner at all stages of the procedure”.

Question for oral answer to the Commission

2016/2574(RSP)

Debate: Thursday, 9 June

#EUagreements

Further information

- [Oral question to the Commission](#)

Steel crisis and China: MEPs to push Council to update EU anti-dumping law

MEPs will urge EU member states to agree to update the EU’s trade defence tools in a debate on Wednesday afternoon. They want draft trade defence laws, stuck in the Council for more than two years, to be unblocked so as to better position the EU to deal with its steel industry crisis and China’s demand that the EU recognize it as a market economy.

MEPs set out their suggestions for updating EU measures against unfairly priced imports in a [resolution](#) voted back in 2014. No legislative work on these measures has been done since then, because EU countries have failed to come up with a joint position.

Plenary sessions

The current EU trade defence law dates back to 1995.

MEPs called for a reform of EU anti-dumping law in a [resolution](#) voted in May.

Procedure: Council statement followed by a debate

Debate: Wednesday, 8 June

#China #antidumping #trade

Further information

- [China's proposed market economy status: defend EU industry and jobs, urge MEPS \(press release, 12-05-2015\)](#)
- [MEPs confirm call for tougher measures against unfair imports \(Press release, 16.04.2014\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Christofer Fjellner \(EPP,SE\)](#)
- [EP Research: Granting Market Economy Status to China: WTO law and selected WTO members policy](#)
- [DG Expo study: One year to go: The debate over China's market economy status heats up](#)

Vote on ways to boost European rail supply industry competitiveness

Recommendations to boost the competitiveness of Europe's rail supply industry, which makes everything from rails and rolling stock to signals, and protect it from unfair overseas competition, will be set out in draft recommendations to the EU Commission to be debated and put to a vote on Thursday.

The Commission will be quizzed on future measures to promote rail supply industry manufacturing growth, innovation and sustainability but also how the industry would be affected if China is granted market economy status that may further threaten European jobs.

The draft text sets out recommendations on the future shape of the European rail stock sector, infrastructure and investment. MEPs are expected to ask what the Commission can do to boost demand for European rail products, while protecting the market against dumping from third countries, and whether and when it would be prepared to table a comprehensive industrial policy strategy for the sector.

Note to editors

The European rail supply industry employs 160,000 people in Europe, almost half of whom work for German and French locomotive manufacturers.

[Question for oral answer to the Commission \(with resolution\)](#)

[2015/2887\(RSP\)](#)

Debate/vote: Thursday, 9 June

Vote: Thursday, 9 June

#railway #steel #Junckerplan #4thRail

Plenary sessions

Further information

- [Oral Question to the Commission](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [EC Study: Sector Overview and Competitiveness Survey of the Railway Supply Industry](#)

Vote on €500 million in EU financial aid loans to Tunisia

A plan to lend Tunisia €500 million on favourable terms to help it overcome short-term financing difficulties and consolidate its democratic mechanisms, will be debated on Wednesday and put to a vote on Thursday.

The EU financial aid will take the form of medium-term loans on favourable terms to supplement International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans. In return, Tunisia would pledge to deliver structural reforms.

Note to editors

Tunisia's economy has been in serious difficulty since the 2011 Arab Spring revolution. In 2015, it was hit by terrorist attacks that disrupted tourist flows and exacerbated its already weak fiscal and balance of payments position. The growth forecast for 2016 is 0.5%, down from 3% in 2015. Unemployment rates are 20% for women, 28.6% for young university graduates and an overall average of 15%.

The EU has granted Tunisia €300 million financial aid in 2014. In August 2015 the Tunisian Government asked the EU to contribute €500 million to a second assistance programme, supplementing loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Following a European Parliament in 2016, the EU also granted Tunisia a temporary additional quota for duty-free olive oil imports.

Procedure: Co-decision (Ordinary Legislative Procedure)

2016/0039(COD)

Debate: Wednesday, 8 June

Vote: Thursday, 9 June

#Tunisia

Further information

- [Profile of rapporteur Marielle de Sarnez \(ALDE, FR\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [Press release: MEPs back more duty-free olive oil imports to help Tunisia but want safeguards \(25.02.2016\)](#)
- [EP Think tank: Further macro-financial aid to Tunisia](#)

Plenary sessions

MEPs to discuss Belarus nuclear power plant safety concerns with Commission

The EU Commission will be asked about the safety of building work at the Ostrovets (Astravyets) nuclear power plant in Belarus, in a plenary debate on Monday at 18.00.

MEPs [are expected to ask the Commission](#) whether the Ostrovets plant complies with EU nuclear safety rules and how it plans to ensure that the plant undergoes proper safety stress tests, given that it is to be operational within two years.

The Commission has played an observer role in the construction of the Ostrovets plant. A 2009 preliminary meeting before construction began showed that internationally-agreed regulatory steps had not been satisfactorily incorporated into the national licensing process. The plant is expected to enter the first stage operation this year and full operation in 2018.

Procedure: Commission statement (without resolution)

[2016/2728\(RSP\)](#)

Debate: Monday, 6 June

#Belarus #nuclear

Further information

- [Oral Question on state of safety of nuclear installation in Belarus](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [2013 Nuclear Stress Test: EP urges full implementation of safety improvements](#)
- [EC Nuclear Safety information](#)
- [Nuclear Energy fact sheet](#)
- [EC Annual Action Programme 2016 for Nuclear Safety Cooperation](#)

CIA's use of torture: MEPs to ask for updates on investigations

Has the Council acknowledged EU member states' involvement in the CIA's secret detention and extraordinary rendition programme? And would such involvement not constitute a breach of EU law? These are among the questions that MEPs will put to the Council and Commission in a debate on Tuesday. This debate, on the follow up to Parliament's February 2015 resolution on the US Senate report on the use of torture by the CIA, will be wrapped up in a resolution to be voted on Wednesday.

The resolution and oral questions to Council and Commission follow up Parliament's [resolution of 11 February 2015](#). The debate was postponed from the May plenary session. Parliament has repeatedly called for full investigations into the involvement of EU member states in the CIA programme.

Procedure: Oral questions to Council and Commission followed by resolution

[2016/2573\(RSP\)](#)

[00038/2016 - Question for oral answer to the Council](#)

[00039/2016 - Question for oral answer to the Commission](#)

Plenary sessions

Debate: Tuesday, 7 June

Vote: Wednesday, 8 June

#CIAPrison

Further information

- [Draft resolution on the follow-up to the European Parliament resolution on 11 February 2015 on the use of torture by the CIA](#)
- [Oral question to the Council](#)
- [Oral question to the Commission](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Claude Moraes \(S&D, UK\)](#)

Africa: debate on New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition project rules

Projects under the New Alliance for Food Security (NAFSN), an EU-backed G8 initiative to boost agriculture and relieve poverty by engaging with private partners in Sub-Saharan Africa, will need to include environment protection measures and safeguards against land grabbing, say MEPs in a draft resolution to be debated on Monday and voted on Tuesday. They are also likely call on the EU to address transparency and governance issues, so as to target development goals better.

Background

Launched in 2012, the NAFSN aims to boost financial support from donor countries and help big companies invest in African farming. In return, the ten participating Sub-Saharan African states are expected to change their laws on land, seeds and foreign investments. With one person in four undernourished, Sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the highest prevalence of hunger. Poor nutrition causes nearly half of deaths for children under five. Family farmers and smallholders produce about 80% of the world's food and provide over 60% of employment in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Procedure: Non-legislative resolution

[2015/2277\(INI\)](#)

Debate: Monday, 6 June

Vote: Tuesday, 7 June

#foodsecurity

Further information

- [Draft report tabled for plenary](#)
- [Press release on committee vote \(20.04.2016\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Maria Heubuch \(Greens/EFA, DE\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [Public Hearing of the Development Committee on the New Alliance for Food and Nutrition Security \(NAFSN\) \(1 December 2015\)](#)
- ['The New Alliance for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa' a study commissioned by the Development Committee \(December 2015\)](#)

Plenary sessions

Vote on WTO deal to end customs duties on high-tech devices

A WTO deal struck by the EU deal and 24 countries including Japan, China, and the USA, to stop charging custom duties on trade in 201 high-demand information technology products such as video game consoles medical imaging machines and touch screens, will be debated on Tuesday and put to a vote on Wednesday. The EU has signed the deal, but needs Parliament's consent to ratify it.

The deal – an update of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) – has been signed by 25 members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), with the EU counting as one. Australia, Canada, China, Japan, the USA, and South Korea are on board.

It would gradually eliminate customs duties for 201 listed information technology products, such as videogame consoles, GPS navigation systems, magnetic resonance imaging machines, TV screens, telecommunications satellites and touch screens. Tariffs are to be reduced from 1 July 2016, and eliminated by 1 July 2019.

Note to editors

The EU is among world's leading producers of technology products such as gaming and medical devices. The value of the EU exports of products covered by the ITA is currently €189 billion. The EU Commission estimates the likely gain to EU exporters at €5 - 8.3 billion..

Procedure: Consent

[2016/0067\(NLE\)](#)

Debate: Tuesday, 7 June

Vote: Wednesday, 8 June

#digitaltrade @WTO

Further information

- [Draft report on the conclusion of agreement on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl \(EPP, DE\)](#)
- [Text of the Information Technology Agreement \(list of covered products\)](#)
- [The EU Commission: economic impact assessment of the ITA deal](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [Audiovisual material for media](#)

Stop whaling, MEPs to tell Japan

MEPs are to press the European Commission and EU ministers to condemn Japan's decision to resume whaling and hunt and kill 333 minke whales in the 2015-2016 season, in a resolution to be put to a vote on Wednesday. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordered Japan to halt its annual slaughter of whales in the Southern Ocean in 2014.

A debate will also be held place on Wednesday, on the basis of oral questions to Council and the Commission.

Plenary sessions

4,000 whales in 12 years

In November 2015, the Japanese Fisheries Agency notified the International Whaling Commission that it would resume whaling under a revised plan. This 12-year plan would allow the killing of 333 minke whales during the 2015-2016 season, and a total of nearly 4,000 whales over the whole 12-year period.

“Not for scientific research”

“By resuming whaling, Japan is clearly ignoring the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which ordered, in its judgment of 31 March 2014, the halting of Japan’s annual slaughter of whales in the Southern Ocean. The ICJ concluded that the hunts are not, as Japan claims, conducted for scientific research”, say the oral questions.

Procedure: Oral question to Council and Commission (no resolution)

[2016/2600\(RSP\)](#)

Debate: Wednesday, 8 June

Vote: Wednesday, 8 June

#whaling #Japan

Further information

- [Question for oral answer to the Council](#)
- [Question for oral answer to the Commission](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [EP research: Fisheries in Japan \(2013\)](#)

Vote on Venezuela

A non-binding resolution on the situation in Venezuela, wrapping up the 10 May plenary debate with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, will be debated on Tuesday and put to a vote on Wednesday. Venezuela is in a deep economic crisis, and political tension is escalating. Early in May the opposition handed the electoral authorities 1.85 million signatures asking for a recall referendum against President Nicolás Maduro.

Venezuela, which has the largest oil reserves in the world, has three-digit inflation rates and is suffering shortages of basic goods and power.

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

Debate: Tuesday, 10 May

Vote: Wednesday, 8 June

#Venezuela

Plenary sessions

Further information

- [EEAS web page on EU-Venezuela relationship](#)
- [Video recording of plenary debate - 10.05.2016](#)

Parliament to give its verdict on Lithuanian nominee to the Court of Auditors

Parliament will vote on the nomination of Rimantas Šadžius, Lithuania's candidate member of the European Court of Auditors, on Tuesday. Mr Šadžius' candidature was endorsed by the Budgetary Control Committee on 23 May. The final decision on this appointment will be taken by the EU Council of Ministers.

Members of the Luxembourg-based Court of Auditors are appointed for six years. The Council, after consulting the European Parliament, decides upon the proposals made by each member state. Before the plenary vote, Mr Šadžius was heard in the Budgetary Control Committee on 23 May, which recommended that he should be appointed to the post.

Procedure: Consultation

[2016/0805\(NLE\)](#)

Vote: Tuesday, 7 June

[@EUAuditorsECA](#)

Further information

- [Draft resolution on the nomination of Rimantas Šadžius as a Member of the Court of Auditors](#)
- [Rapporteur Bart Staes \(Greens/EFA, BE\)](#)

Human rights and democracy resolutions

Parliament will hold urgent debates on the following human rights and democracy topics on Thursday 9 June, at around 11:00, with the votes following at 12.00.

- Cambodia
- Tajikistan, situation of prisoners of conscience
- Vietnam

Procedure: non-legislative resolutions

Debates/votes: Thursday 9 June

#humanrights #Cambodia #Tajikistan #Vietnam

Plenary sessions

Other topics on the agenda

Other topics for debate and vote include the following:

- EU Space policy, *report (INI) by Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski (EPP, PL) and Oral Question, joint debate Tuesday, vote wednesday*
- EU - Philippines Framework agreement on cooperation (NLE) *Elmar Brok (EPP, DE), debate Tuesday, vote wednesday*
- Financial Instruments, *Markus Ferber (EPP, DE)(COD), joint debate Tuesday, vote Wednesday*
- Eliminating illicit trade in tobacco (WHO framework convention), *Adam Szejnfeld (EPP, PL)(INI), vote Tuesday*
- Technological solutions for sustainable agricultures; innovation in farm management; *Anthea McIntyre (ECR, UK) (INI) and Jan Huitema (ALDE, NL) (INI), debate Monday, vote Tuesday*
- Situation in Bangladesh, - *Statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, debate Tuesday*

Further information

- [Report on space capabilities for European security and defence](#)
- [Report on Framework Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between the EU and its Member States and the Republic of the Philippines](#)
- [Report on markets in financial instruments as regards certain dates](#)
- [Report on market in financial instruments, market abuse and securities settlement](#)
- [Report on eliminating illicit trade in tobacco products](#)
- [Report on n technological solutions for sustainable agriculture in the EU](#)
- [Report on enhancing innovation and economic development in future European farm management](#)