

## Newsletter - 22-23 June 2016 - Plenary session - Brussels

[21-06-2016 - 14:59]

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <a href="#">Presidents of Israel and Palestine to address European Parliament</a> . . . . .   | 3  |
| <p>President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin will deliver a formal address to the House on Wednesday 22 June at 15:00. President of the Palestinian National Authority Mahmoud Abbas will also give a formal speech in Parliament's plenary session, on Thursday 23 June at 11:00. The latest developments in the Middle East peace process, the situation in Syria and the migration crisis are likely to be raised by both presidents.</p>   |    |
| <a href="#">EU energy efficiency and renewables: debate on progress and targets</a> . . . . .   | 4  |
| <p>The EU's renewable energy target - 20% of total consumption by 2020 - has already been hit by many EU member states. But others lag behind and must do more, MEPs will urge in a debate and vote on the EU Commission's "renewables progress report" on Thursday. And to hit the EU's energy efficiency target - a 20% gain by 2020 - member states need to implement EU legislation in full, says a second resolution, also to be debated and voted on Thursday.</p>  |    |
| <a href="#">Clarifying property rules for 16 million international couples</a> . . . . .  | 6  |
| <p>If an international couple divorces, which country's courts should settle its property disputes? MEPs will debate Wednesday and vote Thursday on new rules for deciding which country's judge hears international divorce or death cases. These rules should end parallel proceedings - costing around €1.1bn annually - in various member states whose courts have to settle such property disputes. They would apply in 18 EU countries which were willing to join this "enhanced cooperation" initiative.</p> |    |
| <a href="#">Parliament to name "Panama Papers" inquiry committee members</a> . . . . .  | 7  |
| <p>Following its decision to set up an inquiry committee into the "Panama Papers" revelations on offshore companies and their ultimate beneficiaries, Parliament will vote Thursday on a list of 65 members.</p>  |    |
| <a href="#">Ending EU citizens' bank secrecy in Monaco</a> . . . . .  | 8  |
| <a href="#">"Baltic plan": first long-term fishing plan under new Common Fisheries Policy</a> . . . . .   | 8  |
| <a href="#">Vote on EU aid for 488 redundant construction machinery workers in Belgium</a> . . . . .  | 9  |
| <a href="#">Massacres in eastern Congo</a> . . . . .  | 10 |
| <a href="#">Other topics on the agenda</a> . . . . .  | 10 |

|  |
|--|
| <p>Andrew BOREHAM</p> <p>BXL: (+32) 2 28 42319<br/>         PORT: (+32) 498 98 34 01<br/>         EMAIL: <a href="mailto:press-EN@europarl.europa.eu">press-EN@europarl.europa.eu</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/plenary">http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/plenary</a></p> |
|--|

- Further information**
- [Draft agenda](#)
  - [Follow the plenary live](#)
  - [EuroparTV](#)
  - [Press conferences and other events](#)
  - [EP Audiovisual website](#)



# Plenary sessions

- [EP Newshub](#)
- [EPRS Plenary podcasts on key issues](#)

# Plenary sessions

## Presidents of Israel and Palestine to address European Parliament

President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin will deliver a formal address to the House on Wednesday 22 June at 15:00. President of the Palestinian National Authority Mahmoud Abbas will also give a formal speech in Parliament's plenary session, on Thursday 23 June at 11:00. The latest developments in the Middle East peace process, the situation in Syria and the migration crisis are likely to be raised by both presidents.

President Rivlin and President Schulz will give a press point after the formal address on Wednesday (at around 15:45, PHS ground floor). Presidents Abbas and Schulz will hold a press point on Thursday at noon (also PHS ground floor).

*Formal sitting: Wednesday, 22 June (Israel); Thursday, 23 June (Palestine)*

*Press point (PHS ground floor): Wednesday, 22 June, 15:45, (Presidents Rivlin and Schulz)*

*Thursday, 23 June, 12:00 (Presidents Abbas and Schulz)*

[#Israel](#) [#Palestine](#) [@PresidentRuvi](#) [#Abbas](#)

### Further information

- [Audiovisual material for media: EU - Israel](#)
- [Audiovisual material for media: EU - Palestine](#)
- [Press release: MEPs press the EU to come up with a bold peace initiative for the Middle East \(10.09.2015\)](#)

# Plenary sessions

## EU energy efficiency and renewables: debate on progress and targets

The EU's renewable energy target - 20% of total consumption by 2020 - has already been hit by many EU member states. But others lag behind and must do more, MEPs will urge in a debate and vote on the EU Commission's "renewables progress report" on Thursday. And to hit the EU's energy efficiency target - a 20% gain by 2020 - member states need to implement EU legislation in full, says a second resolution, also to be debated and voted on Thursday.

### Renewables: aim for 30% by 2030

Access to capital (3) is vital and all existing funding schemes must be used efficiently (10) to achieve the 20% by 2020 target for renewable energy use, say MEPs in their draft non-legislative resolution, prepared by Paloma López Bermejo (GUE/NGL, ES).

The renewables resolution reiterates Parliament's call for a binding target for 2030 of at least 30% share of renewable energy consumption. (21) A basic right to self-generation and self-consumption is crucially important (35) to enhance consumers' participation in and benefits from the energy market, while a better integrated market could support the further development of renewables and cost reductions for consumers, says the draft text. (8)

### Efficiency: more effort needed to hit 20% target by 2020

The EU target of improving energy efficiency by 20% by 2020 might be missed unless the current EU legislation is implemented in full (7), warns the second resolution, drafted by Markus Pieper (EPP, DE).

Even the efficiency gains made so far could be lost unless the future review of the Energy Efficiency Directive extends its key provisions (15) beyond 2030, warn MEPs. Their draft resolution assesses energy efficiency measures taken in the EU member states to date.

### Note to editors

*On renewables, the report notes that whilst the EU is on track to meet its 2020 target overall, Commission estimates suggest that Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK may have to strengthen their policies and tool to meet their 2020 objectives, and Hungary and Poland are not certain to hit them either. Member States that have already met or are about to meet their 2020 targets include Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Austria, Romania, Finland and Sweden.*

*Procedure: non-legislative resolutions*

[2016/2041\(INI\) - renewable energy](#)

[2015/2232\(INI\) -energy efficiency](#)

*Debate: Thursday, 23 June*

*Vote: Thursday, 23 June*

[#energyefficiency](#) [#energyunion](#) [#renewableenergy](#)

# Plenary sessions

## Further information

- [Draft resolution on renewable energy progress report](#)
- [Draft resolution on the implementation report on the Energy Efficiency Directive \(2012/27/EU\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteurs:](#)
  - [Paloma López Bermejo \(GUE/NGL, ES\) - renewables](#)
  - [Markus Pieper \(EPP,DE\) - energy efficiency](#)
- [Procedure file - renewables](#)
- [Procedure file - energy efficiency](#)
- [EP TV Video: Reviving efforts to hit 2020 climate goals](#)
- [EP Think Tank](#)
- [Audiovisual material for media](#)

# Plenary sessions

## Clarifying property rules for 16 million international couples

If an international couple divorces, which country's courts should settle its property disputes? MEPs will debate Wednesday and vote Thursday on new rules for deciding which country's judge hears international divorce or death cases. These rules should end parallel proceedings – costing around €1.1bn annually – in various member states whose courts have to settle such property disputes. They would apply in 18 EU countries which were willing to join this “enhanced cooperation” initiative.

The two regulations, one on matrimonial property regimes and one on property consequences of registered partnerships, would determine which court will have jurisdiction and which law will be applicable in procedures concerning the property of international couples. They would also facilitate the recognition and enforcement of a judgment given in one member state on property matters in another member state.

### **Background information**

*According to the European Commission, there are an estimated 16 million international couples in the EU.*

*The eighteen member states participating in the enhanced cooperation are Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italia, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Finland and Sweden. Other member states are free to join at any time after its adoption. Estonia, for example, has announced its intention to take part in the cooperation after its adoption.*

*On 7 June 2016 the European Parliament gave its consent to this [enhanced cooperation](#) which can now go ahead in accordance with the consultation procedure.*

*Procedure: Consultation*

*[2016/0059\(CNS\)](#) and [2016/0060\(CNS\)](#)*

*Debate: Wednesday, 22 June*

*Vote: Thursday, 23 June*

*[#propertyrights](#) [#EUCitizens](#)*

### **Further information**

- [Draft resolution on property consequences of registered partnerships](#)
- [Draft resolution on matrimonial property regimes](#)
- [Press release on committee vote \(14.06.2016\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Jean-Marie Cavada \(ALDE, FR\)](#)
- [Procedure file on property consequences of registered partnerships.](#)
- [Procedure file on matrimonial property regimes](#)
- [Council press release: “18 EU countries agree to clarify rules on property regimes for international couples” \(09.06. 2016\)](#)

# Plenary sessions

## Parliament to name “Panama Papers” inquiry committee members

Following its decision to set up an inquiry committee into the “Panama Papers” revelations on offshore companies and their ultimate beneficiaries, Parliament will vote Thursday on a list of 65 members.

The committee, whose label will be PANA, is to investigate alleged contraventions and maladministration in the application by the EU Commission or member states of EU laws on money laundering, tax avoidance and tax evasion. It will have 65 members and twelve months to present its report.

Parliament approved the committee’s [mandate](#) in a plenary vote on Wednesday 8 June, following a proposal by the Conference of Presidents (EP President and political group leaders).

The draft list of committee members will be available in "[Priority information and documents](#)".

*Procedure: Rule 198, EP Rules of Procedure*

*Vote: Thursday, 23 June*

*#PanamaPapers #taxavoidance #antimoneylaundering #taxevasion*

### Further information

- [Mandate of the Committee of Inquiry to consider recent revelations in the Panama papers in relation to tax evasion and money laundering](#)
- [The rules on setting up an inquiry committee](#)
- [EP Research: Parliament's committees of inquiry and special committees](#)
- [Audiovisual material for media](#)
- [Panama Papers Inquiry Committee explained](#)
- [Rule 200 - substitute members](#)

# Plenary sessions

## Ending EU citizens' bank secrecy in Monaco

The European Parliament is set to endorse an EU deal with Monaco, which will make it harder for EU citizens to hide cash from the tax man in bank accounts there. Under the deal, the EU and Monaco will automatically exchange information on the bank accounts of each other's residents, starting in 2017.

The agreement ensures that Monaco will apply stricter measures, equivalent to those in place within the EU since March 2014. The agreement also complies with the 2014 global standard on the automatic exchange of financial account information promoted by the OECD.

Similar agreements have already been approved with Switzerland, Liechtenstein, San Marino and Andorra.

*Procedure: Consultation*

[2016/0109\(NLE\)](#)

*Vote: Thursday, 23 June*

[#EU-Monaco](#)

### Further information

- [Draft resolution](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Andreas Schwab \(EPP, DE\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)

## “Baltic plan”: first long-term fishing plan under new Common Fisheries Policy

The EU multiannual plan for managing Baltic Sea cod, sprat and herring stocks will be debated on Wednesday and put to the vote on Thursday. This is the first new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) regional plan that takes account of interactions between species. It aims to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and to offer fishermen better economic conditions in the long run. Parliament and Council negotiators reached an informal agreement on it in March.

The multispecies management approach is much more effective than managing a single species. It takes account of inter-species interactions, such as cod eating herring and sprats and sprats eating cod roe. The new plan aims to ensure balanced and sustainable exploitation of these stocks and guarantee stable fishing opportunities and livelihoods for fishermen.

### Background

*A multiannual management plan is an instrument for managing fish stocks in a given area. Fish mortality rates are an essential factor for this management, as they provide a basis for the setting of the Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and quotas.*

*A Baltic cod stock management plan has been in place since 2008, but herring and sprats had yet to be covered. The new plan replaces the existing one. The stocks concerned are*



# Plenary sessions

*interdependent.*

*Multiannual stock management plans aim to keep stock sizes within safe biological limits. They lay down maximum catches and a range of technical measures, taking due account of the characteristics of each stock and the fisheries in which it is found (species targeted, gear used, status of target stocks) and the economic impact of the measures on the fisheries concerned.*

*Procedure: Co-decision (Ordinary Legislative Procedure), first reading agreement*

[2014/0285\(COD\)](#)

*Debate: Wednesday, 22 June*

*Vote: Thursday, 23 June*

*#fisheries #CFPreality #BalticMAP*

## Further information

- [Draft report on a multiannual plan for the stocks of cod, herring and sprat in the Baltic Sea](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Jarosław Wałęsa \(EPP, PL\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [EP Thinktank on multiannual plan for fisheries in the Baltic Sea](#)
- [EP Background note on the Common Fisheries Policy](#)

## Vote on EU aid for 488 redundant construction machinery workers in Belgium

**A proposal to grant Belgium €1,824,041 in EU aid to help find new jobs for 488 workers made redundant by construction machinery manufacturers in Wallonia will be put to a vote on Thursday. A further 300 young unemployed people should also benefit from the aid, to come from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF).**

The 488 employees were made redundant by several construction machinery manufacturers in the province of Hainaut (Wallonia, Belgium): Caterpillar Belgium, Carwall S.A. (a principal supplier of cabs for Caterpillar Belgium) and Doosan S.A..

The job losses were the result of major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, which has led to a decline in competitiveness and the delocalisation of substantial production capacity to non-EU countries.

### Background

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund contributes to packages of tailor-made services to help redundant workers find new jobs. Its annual ceiling is €150 million.

*Procedure: Budgetary*

[2016/2074\(BUD\)](#)

*Vote: Thursday, 23 June*

# Plenary sessions

#EGF #Caterpillar #Belgium #EUFunds #Hainaut

## Further information

- [Draft report](#)
- [Press release on committee vote \(15.06.2016\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Victor Negrescu \(S&D, RO\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)

## Massacres in eastern Congo

**MEPs will debate the deteriorating situation in the north east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on Wednesday afternoon and vote a non-binding resolution on Thursday. According to many reports, massacres, the recruitment and use of children by armed groups and sexual and gender-based violence are spreading.**

During the [31st ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly](#) session on 13-15 June, Members of the European Parliament and of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries unanimously approved a resolution which condemns all acts of political violence and calls on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) authorities to put an end to impunity and human rights violations.

*Procedure: Non-legislative resolution*

[2016/2770\(RSP\)](#)

*Debate: Wednesday, 22 June*

*Vote: Thursday, 23 June*

[#Congo](#) [#RDC](#)

## Further information

- [Draft resolution on Massacres in eastern Congo](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [EU-ACP resolution of 15 June on "the pre-electoral and security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo" \(available 22.06.2016 pm\)](#)
- [EP Resolution on the Democratic Republic of the Congo \(10.03.2016\)](#)
- [Audiovisual material for professionals](#)

## Other topics on the agenda

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

- US sanctions impacting EU business in Iran, oral question - *debate Wednesday*
- Multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna, report by Gabriel Mato (EPP, ES), (COD), *vote Thursday*

# Plenary sessions

## Further information

- [Report on a multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean](#)