

Newsletter - 4-7 July 2016 - Strasbourg plenary session

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Further information

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Plenary sessions

Debate on EU's 28-29 June "Brexit" summit conclusions

MEPs will debate the conclusions of the 28-29 June EU summit, where EU leaders digested the UK referendum vote to leave the EU and insisted that "there will be no negotiations of any kind until the UK formally notifies its intention to withdraw." Council President Donald Tusk and Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker will kick off the debate, on Tuesday.

UK Prime Minister David Cameron confirmed at the summit that the formal decision to trigger Article 50 of the EU Treaty would be taken by a new leadership in Britain. Afterwards, Mr Tusk said the leaders were "absolutely determined to remain united and work closely together as 27."

Other items on the summit agenda included digital single market and capital markets union proposals, "European Semester" country-specific economic policy recommendations, and the EU's global strategy for common foreign and security policy.

Debate: Tuesday 5 July

Procedure: European Council and Commission statements

#euco #EURef #EUreferendum #UKRef #UKReferendum

Further information

- [Summit conclusions](#)
- [EP President Martin Schulz speech at the Council](#)
- [Press release on EP resolution calling for swift Brexit and EU reforms \(28.06.2016\)](#)
- [Parliament's debate on the consequences of the "leave" vote \(28.06.2016\)](#)
- [EP Research note on Article 50](#)
- [Audiovisual material for professionals](#)

Plenary sessions

Slovakia's EU Council Presidency priorities

MEPs will debate the priorities of the incoming Slovak Presidency of the EU Council of Ministers with Prime Minister Róbert Fico on Wednesday morning. They will also review the achievements of the outgoing Dutch Presidency, with Prime Minister Mark Rutte, on Tuesday morning.

The first-ever Slovak Council Presidency will **focus** its six-month mandate on achieving results in the areas of an economically strong Europe, a modern single market, sustainable migration and asylum policies, and a globally engaged Europe.

Parliament's President Martin Schulz will hold a press conference with Slovak Prime Minister Róbert Fico on Wednesday at around 12.00.

Debates:

- Tuesday, 5 July (Review of the outgoing Dutch Presidency)
- Wednesday, 6 July (priorities of the incoming Slovak Presidency)

Procedure: Council and Commission statements with debates

Press conference:

- Wednesday, 6 July at 12.00 (priorities of the incoming Slovak Presidency, with EP President Schulz and Slovak Prime Minister Fico)

#EU2016SK @eu2016sk #EU2016NL @eu2016nl @SKPRES2016

Further information

- [Website of the Slovak Council Presidency](#)
- [Website of the Dutch Council Presidency](#)
- [Audiovisual material for professionals](#)

Plenary sessions

Parliament to vote on common European Border and Coast Guard plans

Plans to set up an EU border control system, bringing together the EU's Frontex border agency and national border management authorities, will be debated on Tuesday and voted on Wednesday. Under these plans, national authorities will still manage their borders on a day-to-day basis but, if their EU external borders are under pressure, they will be able to seek help from the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCG), which will be able to rapidly deploy border guard teams to those borders.

The EBCG Agency will not have its own guards but will be able to call on a pool of guards to be supplied by EU member states.

In cases where a member state faces increased pressures on its external border, such as disproportionate migratory pressure or cross-border crime, rapid border intervention teams could be temporarily deployed either at the request of a member state or by Council decision. The operational plan should be agreed by the member state concerned and the EBCG before deployment can take place.

If the member state concerned does not comply with a Council decision, and the situation poses a threat to the Schengen area, other EU states will be able to reimpose checks at their borders with that state,

The Agency will also have a greater role in returning migrants to their country of origin.

Debate: Tuesday, 5 July

Vote: Wednesday, 6 July

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement

Press conference Wednesday, 6 July at 15.00

@Frontex #Schengen #coastguard #refugeecrisis #MigrationEU #EUBorders

Further information

- [Press release after the trilogue \(22.06.2016\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur: Artis PABRIKS \(EPP, LV\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [EP Research : European Border and Coast Guard System](#)
- [EP Study: The proposal for a European Border and Coast Guard: evolution or revolution in external border management?](#)
- [EC press release on the border and coast guard package](#)

Plenary sessions

MEPs to push for update of EU's long-term spending plan to cope with crises

The EU needs to update its long-term spending plan to cope with unforeseen crises such as mass migration, terrorism and youth on the unemployment, MEPs will say in Tuesday's debate on a forthcoming review of the plan. A resolution, intended as an input to the review, will be voted on Wednesday.

The multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2014-2020 must be made more flexible to enable the EU to respond promptly to crises not anticipated at the time of its adoption, such as the migration and refugee crisis, terrorism and internal security issues, the crisis in agriculture or persistently high unemployment, especially among young people, says the draft resolution.

In the draft text, MEPs call for a budgetary strategy to deal with sudden crises. They note that the shortage of resources has forced the EU to set up ad hoc instruments which creates a problem of accountability and democratic control in the EU.

They propose that a permanent EU crisis reserve should be created within the EU budget to avoid ad hoc solutions and the setting up of trust funds. The text also calls for further discussion on "own resources" and says that the mid-term review of the MFF is an opportunity to prevent a recurring payments backlog by taking stock of payment implementation and providing a clear strategy to meet all payment needs.

In the draft text MEPs stress that the changes agreed as part of the MFF mid-term review should be implemented without delay and included in the budget for 2017. They also ask that, without prejudice to the outcome of future negotiations with the UK, the European Commission should "promptly" brief them on the budgetary implications of the Brexit vote.

Debate: Tuesday, 5 July

Vote: Wednesday, 6 July

Procedure: non-legislative resolution

Press conference: Wednesday, 14.30

#MFF #EUBudget

Further information

- [EP Think Tank: Mid-term review/revision of the MFF: Key issues at the outset of the debate](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [Profile of the rapporteur: Jan Olbrycht \(EPP, PL\)](#)
- [Profile of the rapporteur: Isabelle Thomas \(S&D, FR\)](#)

Plenary sessions

Recommendations for fairer and clearer corporate tax rules

A lengthy list of recommendations to make corporate taxation fairer and clearer is to be debated on Tuesday and put to a vote on Wednesday.

The draft text - prepared by the Special Committee on Tax Rulings II - calls inter alia for an EU public register of beneficial owners of companies, a tax havens blacklist, sanctions against non-cooperative tax jurisdictions, action against abuse of “patent box” (intellectual property revenue) regimes, a code of conduct for banks and tax advisors, tax good governance rules in all EU trade agreements and a withholding tax on profits leaving the EU.

The co-rapporteurs were Jeppe Kofod (S&D, DK) and Michael Theurer (ALDE, DE).

Debate: Tuesday, 5 July

Vote: Wednesday, 6 July

Procedure: Non legislative resolution

Press conference: Wednesday 09:30

#TaxTransparency #luxleaks #PanamaPapers #TAXEII

Further information

- [Press release on committee vote \(21.06.2016\)](#)
- [Profile of co-rapporteur Jeppe Kofod \(S&D, DK\)](#)
- [Profile of co-rapporteur Michael Theurer \(ALDE, DE\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [Top story: fairer corporate taxation](#)

Plenary sessions

Cybersecurity: new rules to make the EU more resilient to online threats

Firms supplying essential services, e.g. for energy, transport, banking and health, or digital ones, such as search engines and cloud services, will have to take steps to improve their ability to withstand cyber-attacks, under the first EU-wide cybersecurity rules, to be voted by Parliament on Wednesday. Each EU country will also be required to designate national authorities and establish a strategy to deal with cyber threats.

The EU network and information security (NIS) directive aims to step up cybersecurity cooperation among member states, thus putting an end to the current fragmentation of different national systems. It lists sectors in which critical service firms will have to ensure that they are robust enough to resist cyber-attacks. These firms, to be identified by each member state, will also be required to report serious security breaches to national authorities.

Note to editors

Information systems, essential networks and services, such as online banking, electricity grids or airport control, can be affected by security incidents caused by human mistakes, technical failures or terrorist attacks. These incidents result in annual losses of €260 - €340 billion, estimates the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA). The EU currently has no common approach to cybersecurity and reporting.

Debate: Tuesday, 5 July

Vote: Wednesday, 6 July

Procedure: Co-decision (ordinary legislative procedure), second reading agreement

#cybersecurity #NIS

Further information

- [Compromise text to be voted in plenary](#)
- [Committee recommendation tabled for plenary](#)
- [Press release on committee vote \(14.01.2016\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Andreas Schwab \(EPP, DE\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [EuroparlTV - Cybersecurity: protecting crucial sectors from attacks](#)
- [Interview with rapporteur Andreas Schwab: "Without fair protection at European level, we will be in trouble"](#)
- [Infographic - From malware to phishing: the top threats to your security online](#)
- [EP Research - Publications on cybersecurity](#)
- [Special Eurobarometer on cybersecurity, published in 2015](#)

Plenary sessions

Energy efficiency labelling: Parliament to vote on binding new rules

Parliament will set out its position on proposed binding new rules for energy efficiency labelling on household appliances in a resolution to be voted on Wednesday, after debating them on Monday. The draft text calls for a clear A to G scale for labelling the energy efficiency of household appliances, to replace the proliferating pluses in today's top class (A+, A++, A+++), within 5 years.

The text also calls for clear and legible labels showing the product model's energy efficiency class its absolute consumption in kWh over a given period, to help consumers make informed choices and reduce their energy costs.

Debate: Monday, 4 July

Vote: Wednesday, 6 July

Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading

#energyefficiency #EnergyUnion

Further information

- [Draft report on a framework for energy efficiency labelling](#)
- [Press release on committee vote \(13.06.2016\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur: Dario Tamburrano \(EFDD, IT\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [Audiovisual material for professionals and existing](#)

Plenary sessions

Protecting whistle blowers

Following the conviction of "Luxleaks" whistle blowers Antoine Deltour and Raphael Halet by a Luxembourg court for having revealed tax deals granted to multinationals by the Luxembourg authorities, MEPs will hold a debate with Council and Commission on Wednesday afternoon on how to better protect whistle blowers in the EU.

The revelations prompted the European Parliament to set up a special committee to look into corporate tax avoidance strategies and come up with recommendations to the EU Commission on how to ensure that multinationals pay their fair share.

Parliament has repeatedly asked for better protection of whistle blowers to prevent them being prosecuted if the information that they reveal is in the public interest. These recommendations are set out in the [TAXE1](#) and [TAXE2](#) resolutions.

Debate: Wednesday, 6 July

Procedure: Council and Commission statements

#whistleblowers #luxleaks

Further information

- [Committee on tax rulings and other measures similar in nature or effect \(TAXE II\)](#)
- [Press release on vote on trade secrets directive \(14.04.2016\)](#)

Plenary sessions

Recommendations for Commission's 2017 work programme

MEPs will debate their recommendations for the Commission's 2017 work programme on Wednesday morning. These recommendations will be set out in a non-legislative resolution to be voted the same day.

The Commission is expected to present its priorities for 2017 to Parliament in October.

Debate: Wednesday, 6 July

Vote: Wednesday, 6 July

Procedure: Commission statement and non-legislative resolution

#CWP2017 [@EU_Commission](#)

Further information

- [Procedure file](#)
- [Commission website dedicated to its annual Work Programme](#)

Plenary sessions

Debates on EU's global strategy and China

MEPs are to debate a new EU “global strategy”, setting out the EU’s core interests and principles in the world, with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on Wednesday. The old strategy, dating from 2003, was in dire need of updating to address emerging challenges in areas such as energy security, migration, climate change, terrorism and hybrid warfare, say MEPs. This debate will be followed by another, focusing on China and the EU’s engagement with it for the next five years.

Both strategies take account of Parliament’s position as set in resolutions on [EU-China relations](#), drafted by [Bas Belder](#) (ECR, NL), and on [the EU in a changing global environment](#), drafted by [Sandra Kalniete](#) (EPP, LV).

Debates: Wednesday, 6 July

Procedure: High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Statement

#EUGlobalStrategy #China

Further information

- [A Global Strategy for the EU's foreign and security policy \(June 2016\)](#)
- [Element for a new EU strategy on China \(22.06.2016\)](#)
- [EP resolution on the EU in a changing global environment \(13.04.2016\)](#)
- [EP resolution on EU - China relations \(16.12.2015\)](#)

Plenary sessions

Getting refugees to work: MEPs to call for a win-win approach

Allowing refugees and asylum seekers to work in their host countries not only helps to restore their human dignity, but also reduces strain on public budgets by turning them into taxpayers, says a draft resolution to be debated on Monday and voted on Tuesday. But inclusion schemes should nonetheless emphasise language learning and pay attention to local unemployment rates, especially among young people, it adds.

The text, drafted by **Brando Benifei** (S&D, IT), notes that procedures for granting asylum and labour market conditions differ markedly across the EU, and also that refugees have a wide variety of ages, education, skills and abilities to work.

Social inclusion schemes should therefore aim to trigger a dynamic, two-way process between refugees and host communities, in which all partners have rights and duties, while the process itself adapts to the situation on the ground, says the text.

The draft resolution highlights the importance of fighting all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and racism, but also of offering refugees early access to language training, skills assessment and civic integration courses, including courses on European fundamental rights, values and culture.

Debate: Monday, 4 July

Vote: Tuesday, 5 July

Procedure: Non-legislative resolution

Press conference: Tuesday, 5 July at 15.30

#refugees #employment

Further information

- [Draft resolution on refugees: social inclusion and integration into the labour market](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Brando Benifei \(S&D, IT\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [EP Research Service: Labour market integration of refugees: standards set by EU law](#)
- [Audiovisual material for professionals](#)

Plenary sessions

Fighting human trafficking: debate and vote on a new EU strategy

Plans to develop a new EU post-2016 anti-trafficking strategy to fight the flagrant reality of trafficking in human beings, one of the worst forms of human rights abuses, will be debated on Monday and put to a vote on Tuesday. This prevention strategy should include action by EU and member states' external services to address poverty, oppression, lack of respect of human rights, armed conflict and economic and social inequalities, says the draft resolution.

MEPs are likely to call for transnational, legal and practical responses to human trafficking, which is one of world's most profitable organised criminal activities, alongside trade in illegal drugs and arms.

Background information

According to the latest Global Slavery Index, an estimated 35.8 million people are trapped in modern slavery worldwide while according to the ILO, around 21 million people worldwide are in forced labour, being trafficked for labour and sexual exploitation or being held in slave-like conditions.

Debate: Monday, 4 July

Vote: Tuesday, 5 July

Procedure: Non-legislative resolution

#humantrafficking

Further information

- [Draft resolution on the fight against trafficking in human beings in the EU's external relations](#)
- [Press release on committee vote \(24.05.2016\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur: Barbara Lochbihler \(Greens/EFA, DE\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [Audiovisual material for professionals](#)

Plenary sessions

Transfer of personal data to China - how to protect EU citizens?

How can the EU Commission ensure that transfers of EU citizens' personal data to China are compatible with EU privacy and data protection standards? MEPs will put the question to it in a debate on Thursday. They will also ask if the Commission has looked into the consequences for EU firms of potential restrictions on the free flow of data, including the so-called "big data dam" planned by China to curb data transfers.

MEPs point out in an oral question to the Commission that China has not enacted any laws on the collection, storage, transmission or handling of personal information, nor is there any overall agreement between the EU and China on data transfers. Yet data transfers between EU and China are a reality, in particular due to an expanding cloud computing industry in China.

Debate: Thursday, 7 July

Procedure: Commission statement

hashtags #dataprotection #EUdataP

Further information

- [Personal data transfers to China - what protection for EU citizens? Oral Question to the Commission](#)
- [EP Research: Personal data transfers to China](#)

Plenary sessions

MEPs to press EU countries to use €1.3bn EU budget refund for refugee aid

Plans to refund €1.3 billion left over from the 2015 EU budget to EU member states will be put to a vote on Wednesday. Under EU rules, the money must be returned to member states via a reduction in their contributions. But in their draft resolution, MEPs nonetheless urge member states to use the refund to honour their pledges to help deal with the refugee crisis and match the EU contribution to the two dedicated trust funds set up for this purpose.

In their [draft resolution](#), MEPs note “with concern” that in spring 2016, “Member States have only contributed €82 million to the Africa Trust Fund and €69 million to the Madad Trust Fund on the Syrian crisis, while the Union's contributions stand at €1.8 billion and more than €500 million respectively.”

Background information

The [Draft Amending Budget \(DAB\) No 2/2016](#) is intended to enter in the budget 2016 the surplus resulting from the implementation of the budget year 2015. The 2014 and 2013 positive balances amounted to EUR 1.4 billion and EUR 1 billion respectively.

Vote: Wednesday, 6 July

Procedure: Budgetary

#EUBudget #EUBudget2015

Further information

- [Draft report on the Draft amending budget No 2/2016 of the European Union for the financial year 2016: Entering the surplus of the financial year 2015](#)
- [Press release on committee vote \(15.06.2016\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur José Manuel Fernandes \(EPP, PT\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [European Commission press release](#)

Plenary sessions

Vote on call to veto energy drink “alertness” claims

Sugary drinks and energy drinks containing caffeine should not display claims that they help increase alertness or concentration, as this would promote sugar consumption by adolescents, the largest group of energy drink consumers, say MEPs. A proposal to veto a technical measure tabled by the EU Commission that would allow such claims is to be voted on Thursday.

A 250ml can of energy drink can contain up to 27g of sugar and 80mg of caffeine, note MEPs, even though the World Health Organisation recommends that adults and children should get no more than 10% of their daily energy intake from free sugars, and that a further reduction to below 5% (about 25g per day) would provide additional health benefits.

Debate: Wednesday 6 July

Vote: Thursday 7 July

Procedure: legislative resolution

#caffeine @WHO

Further information

- [Motion for a resolution on the draft Commission regulation establishing a list of permitted health claims made on foods other than those referring to the reduction of disease risk and to children's development and health](#)
- [Press release on committee vote \(15.06.2016\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Christel Schaldemose \(S&D, DK\)](#)

Plenary sessions

Parliament to vote on EU-Peru visa waiver agreement

An EU-Peru visa waiver agreement enabling Peruvians to travel visa-free to the EU and EU nationals to go to Peru for stays of up to 90 days in any 180-day period will be put to a plenary vote on Tuesday. The agreement, which does not apply to the UK and Ireland, has been in operation since 14 March, pending approval by Parliament.

Vote: Tuesday, 5 July

Procedure: Consent

#Peru #visa

Further information

- [Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Peru on the short-stay visa waiver](#)
- [Draft recommendation to plenary](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Mariya Gabriel \(EPP, BG\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [EEAS web page on the EU relations with Peru](#)

Plenary sessions

Emission curbs for off-road machinery

Plans to update EU type approval rules and emission limits for internal combustion engines in non-road mobile machinery (NRMM), such as lawn mowers, bulldozers, diesel locomotives and inland waterway vessels, will be put to a vote on Tuesday. These plans have already been provisionally agreed with the Dutch Presidency of the Council. NRMM engines account for about 15% of all NOx and 5% of particulate emissions in the EU.

The new NRMM regulation will cover all kinds of combustion engines, used for example in small handheld equipment, generating sets, harvesting and agricultural machinery, construction machinery (such as cranes) railcars and locomotives, and inland waterway vessels. These engines will have to meet the same requirements, regardless of their fuels, in order to boost innovation in the sector.

Debate: Monday 4 July

Vote: Tuesday 5 July

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

#NRMM

Further information

- [Draft report relating to emission limits and type-approval for internal combustion engines for non-road mobile machinery](#)
- [Press release on committee vote \(26.04.2016\)](#)
- [Profile of rapporteur Elisabetta Gardini \(EPP, IT\)](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [EP Research: Emissions from engines in non-road mobile machinery](#)
- [European Commission: Non-Road mobile machinery emissions](#)

Plenary sessions

Human rights and democracy resolutions

Parliament will hold urgent debates on the following human rights and democracy topics on Thursday 7 July, at around 11:00, with the votes following at 12.00.

- Situation of albinos in Africa, notably in Malawi
- Bahrain
- Myanmar, notably the situation of Rohingyas

#humanrights #democracy

Plenary sessions

Other topics

Other items for debate or votes

- Japan resuming whaling, *vote Wednesday*
- Objection to EIB loan guarantees for investment projects outside the Union, as regards Belarus, *vote Wednesday*
- Minimum wages in the transport sector, Commission statement, *debate Thursday*