

# Plenary sessions

15-10-2026 - 15:18

20261008BRI48072



European Parliament

---

## Newsletter

### 19-22 October 2026

### Strasbourg plenary session

#### **Parliament to review October European Council**

On Wednesday morning, MEPs will assess the outcome of the October European Council meeting with Presidents Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa.

5

---

#### **2026 Sakharov Prize laureate to be announced on Thursday**

President Metsola will announce the 2026 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought laureate on Thursday, following a decision by Parliament's Conference of Presidents.

6

---

#### **Escalation of Russian strikes in EU, on Black Sea shipping in particular**

On Tuesday, MEPs will debate Russian drone incursions and strikes on EU territory with EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas and vote on a resolution on Thursday.

7

---

#### **EU support for the International Criminal Court**

On Tuesday, Parliament will debate the EU's support for international justice and its response to US sanctions against the International Criminal Court.

8

---

#### **Houthi attacks: rising regional tensions and maritime security risks**

On Tuesday, MEPs and EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas will discuss the escalation of Houthi attacks and their implications for regional security, followed by a vote on Thursday.

9

---

#### **The 2028-2034 Erasmus+ programme**

On Wednesday, MEPs will debate the priorities and budgetary needs of the 2028-2034 Erasmus+ programme, followed by a vote on Thursday.

10

---

#### **Better enforcement of passenger rights in the EU**

On Tuesday, Parliament is expected to give its final green light to updated EU rules to improve the protection and information passengers receive if travel is disrupted.

11

---

#### **The future of EU-UK relations**

On Tuesday, MEPs will debate the upcoming EU-UK summit on 20 November with representatives of the Irish Council Presidency and the European Commission.

12

---

EN

**Press Service,** Directorate General for Communication  
European Parliament  
Press switchboard number (32-2) 28 33000

1 | 25

### **EU-Canada summit**

On Wednesday, MEPs and the Commission will discuss their expectations for the EU–Canada summit taking place in Montreal on 29-30 October.

13

### **Daphne Caruana Galizia murder: Parliament to discuss delayed justice in Malta**

Nine years after the journalist's assassination, MEPs and the Commission will discuss developments in the court case and the rule of law in Malta, on Wednesday.

14

### **Securing the supply of critical raw materials**

Parliament will adopt its position on plans to bolster the EU's strategic autonomy by securing a sustainable and circular supply of critical raw materials.

15

### **Emissions trading: more free allowances for industry to curb carbon leakage**

On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a targeted change to the EU emissions trading system (ETS) to increase free allocation for industries covered by heat and fuel benchmarks until 2030.

16

### **Chemicals: simplification of cosmetics, fertiliser and labelling rules**

On Thursday, MEPs are set to approve changes to EU chemicals legislation that should increase flexibility while ensuring protection for human health and the environment.

17

### **The circular economy and waste rules for packaging, batteries and textiles**

MEPs will vote on suspending obligations imposed on companies intended to ensure the proper management of their products once discarded and discuss the upcoming Circular Economy Act.

18

### **Parliament's position on the 2027 EU budget**

On Wednesday, MEPs will vote on the budgetary figures and a resolution on the 2027 budget ahead of negotiations with the Council.

19

### **COP31: priorities for the Antalya climate summit**

Ahead of COP31 in Türkiye, MEPs are set to push for a faster fossil fuel phase-out, more climate finance and stronger support for vulnerable countries.

20

### **Accelerating the roll-out of Europe's high-speed rail network**

On Tuesday, MEPs will adopt their recommendations for improving the EU's high-speed rail connectivity and territorial cohesion.

21

### **A stronger cohesion policy for EU cities and eastern border regions**

MEPs are expected to demand that future cohesion policy uphold the 'right to stay' in EU cities and strengthen support for regions facing Russian aggression.

22

### Recovery aid for Portugal, Spain, Italy and Malta after destructive storms

On Wednesday, Parliament is expected to unlock aid worth €489 million to help the four countries recover following severe storms and flooding earlier in 2026.

23

### EU funds to help laid-off workers in Finland

On Wednesday, MEPs are set to vote on the disbursement of €1.1 million for 351 workers who lost their jobs in the Finnish paper industry.

24

### Other topics on the agenda

Other topics on the agenda

25

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/plenary-news/2026-10-19>

## Newsletter - 19-22 October 2026 - Strasbourg plenary session

### Further information

[Draft agenda](#)

[Follow the plenary live](#)

[Press conferences and other events](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre](#)

[European Parliament Press Tool Kit](#)

### Contacts

Andreas KLEINER

Press Officer / Editorial Coordinator (DE)

☎ +32 228 32266 (BXL)

📱 +32 498 98 33 22

✉ [andreas.kleiner@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:andreas.kleiner@europarl.europa.eu)

Estefanía NARRILLOS

Press Officer / Editorial Coordinator (ES)

☎ +32 228 31324 (BXL)

📱 +32 498 98 39 85

✉ [estefania.narrillos@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:estefania.narrillos@europarl.europa.eu)

Eoghan WALSH

Press Officer (IE)

☎ +32 228 32591 (BXL)

📱 +32 485 39 94 43

✉ [eoghan.walsh@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:eoghan.walsh@europarl.europa.eu)

---

# Parliament to review October European Council

**On Wednesday morning, MEPs will assess the outcome of the October European Council meeting with Presidents Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa.**

During their meeting in Brussels on 15-16 October, heads of state or government will be discussing the Irish Council Presidency's proposal for the EU's 2028-2034 multiannual financial framework (MFF), how to strengthen Europe's economic competitiveness, continued support for Ukraine in the face of Russia's war of aggression, and the situation in the Middle East. EU leaders will also focus on European defence and security, ways to manage migration flows and ensure border protection, and EU enlargement.

During the plenary session on 6 October, [MEPs debated their expectations](#) for the summit with Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Thomas Byrne for the Irish Council Presidency.

***European Council and Commission statements, without resolution***

***Debate: Wednesday 21 October***

### Further information

[Provisional agenda for the European Council meeting \(15-16 October\)](#)

[Lead MEPs on EU's long-term budget react to Irish presidency's negotiating box \(10.10.2026\)](#)

[EP webpage on the EU long-term budget](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre](#)

# 2026 Sakharov Prize laureate to be announced on Thursday

**President Metsola will announce the 2026 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought laureate on Thursday, following a decision by Parliament's Conference of Presidents.**

In a vote on Monday 19 October at 19.30, MEPs on the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Development will select three finalists for the 2026 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought from [a list of nominations drawn up by the political groups in Parliament](#) earlier in October.

On Thursday morning, Parliament's Conference of Presidents (the EP President and political group leaders) will choose the 2026 laureate. President Roberta Metsola will then announce the laureate at around noon in the plenary chamber.

The award ceremony will take place on 16 December in Strasbourg.

## Background

The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought has been awarded annually by Parliament since 1988, to individuals, groups or organisations in recognition of their outstanding commitment to human rights, freedom of expression or the defence of democratic values.

## Further information

[Committee on Foreign Affairs](#)

[Committee on Development](#)

[Subcommittee on Human Rights](#)

[Sakharov Prize website](#)

[Video recording of the presentation of the nominations for the Sakharov Prize 2026 in joint committee meeting \(01.10.26\)](#)

## Escalation of Russian strikes in EU, on Black Sea shipping in particular

**On Tuesday, MEPs will debate Russian drone incursions and strikes on EU territory with EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas and vote on a resolution on Thursday.**

The debate takes place with drones recently having struck several ships off Bulgaria's and Romania's Black Sea coast. Russian jets and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have over the past months also repeatedly violated the airspace of several EU member states.

### **Lifting of EU sanctions on imports of Russian sable fur**

In a separate debate on Thursday afternoon, MEPs will quiz the Commission on its decision to remove from the 21st sanctions package against Russia the ban on Russian sable fur, used to produce high-end fur clothes and apparel, that had been introduced a few months ago.

***Procedure: statement by the High Representative, with resolution (Russian attacks) / Commission statement, without resolution (sable fur)***

***Debate: Tuesday 20 October (Russian attacks) / Thursday 22 October (sable fur)***

***Vote: Thursday 22 October (Russian attacks)***

### **Further information**

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# EU support for the International Criminal Court

## On Tuesday, Parliament will debate the EU's support for international justice and its response to US sanctions against the International Criminal Court.

On 9 October, the US government announced sanctions against the International Criminal Court (ICC), accusing it of politicisation and of unfairly targeting US nationals for war crimes prosecutions. To date, the United States has imposed sanctions on 17 individuals affiliated with the ICC. The latest measures will, among other actions, freeze any ICC assets held within US jurisdiction.

MEPs have repeatedly criticised the US campaign against the ICC. In their [most recent statement, issued on 9 October](#), lead MEPs condemned the sanctions as “an unacceptable assault on the foundations of international justice” and called on the EU to demonstrate active solidarity with the ICC and its personnel.

In [her statement of 10 October](#), the EU's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas warned that threats against the Court are unacceptable. UN Secretary-General António Guterres strongly criticised the US decision, describing the sanctions as “a serious blow to our collective pursuit of international criminal justice, of which the ICC is a key pillar”.

Established in 2002, the ICC is an international court mandated to prosecute individuals accused of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

### ***Council and Commission statements, without resolution***

***Debate: Tuesday 20 October***

### **Further information**

[European Parliament: Press conference on the EU strategic autonomy in the financial sector / US sanctions on the ICC, 29 September 2026](#)

[Video recording of the Subcommittee on Human Rights meeting: The role of the EU in supporting global accountability mechanisms, including universal jurisdiction and international courts, 6 May 2026](#)

[Free photos, audio and video material](#)

# Houthi attacks: rising regional tensions and maritime security risks

**On Tuesday, MEPs and EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas will discuss the escalation of Houthi attacks and their implications for regional security, followed by a vote on Thursday.**

The Houthis, an Iran-backed movement operating in Yemen, have intensified their attacks on Saudi Arabia in recent weeks, targeting airports, oil facilities and tankers. Two missile strikes hit Riyadh's international airport last weekend, killing more than a dozen people.

The recent surge in violence is linked to the war between Iran, the United States and Israel. Since the outbreak of the conflict, concerns have grown over the Houthis' potential to disrupt maritime traffic through the Bab al-Mandab Strait, a strategic shipping channel connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and critical route for global trade and energy exports.

***Procedure: HRVP statement, with resolution***

***Debate: Tuesday 20 October***

***Vote: Thursday 22 October***

## **Further information**

[EEAS: Saudi Arabia-Yemen: Statement by the Spokesperson on the latest Houthi attacks, 8 September 2026](#)

[Free photos, audio and video material](#)

# The 2028-2034 Erasmus+ programme

**On Wednesday, MEPs will debate the priorities and budgetary needs of the 2028-2034 Erasmus+ programme, followed by a vote on Thursday.**

In a [text approved by the Committee on Culture and Education](#), MEPs seek to ensure the next Erasmus+ programme is more accessible for more young people of different economic, social, geographical and cultural backgrounds. They say a budget of at least €47 billion is needed, compared to the €40 billion proposed by the European Commission, and propose clear earmarks for defined policy fields: education and training (74.6%), youth and volunteering (15%), and sport (4.1%). Grants should, MEPs argue, take into account living costs, housing prices, inflation and purchasing power, which differ between host countries, regions and cities. They also stress that scholarships in strategic areas should be financed by the European Competitiveness Fund or the Horizon Europe programme, without reallocating funds from core Erasmus+ areas.

Once plenary adopts its position, MEPs will be ready to open talks with the Council on the structure and budget of the Erasmus+ programme for 2028 to 2034.

**File procedure:** [2025/0222\(COD\)](#)

**Debate:** *Wednesday 21 October*

**Vote:** *Thursday 22 October*

**Procedure:** *ordinary legislative procedure, first reading*

### Further information

[File procedure](#)

[Press release upon the vote in the Committee on Culture and Education](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur Bogdan Zdrojewski \(EPP, PL\)](#)

[Press conference after the vote in Committee on Education and Culture \(29.9.2026\)](#)

[European Parliament research: Erasmus+ programme 2028-2034](#)

[Policy department briefing: Erasmus+: Evolution, Structural Challenges and Future Design - Assessment of the legislative proposal for the 2028–2034 programme period \(June 2026\)](#)

[Policy department briefing: Participation in Erasmus+ in numbers \(June 2026\)](#)

# Better enforcement of passenger rights in the EU

**On Tuesday, Parliament is expected to give its final green light to updated EU rules to improve the protection and information passengers receive if travel is disrupted.**

The new law, [agreed with the Council](#) in June 2026, clarifies the rules on reimbursement in the case of cancellations when flights are booked via an intermediary. Passengers are entitled to receive full reimbursement, including of any intermediation fee, and intermediaries will be required to inform passengers at the time of booking about the applicable reimbursement arrangements.

Standardised forms for reimbursement and compensation claims will be made available in all languages for all types of travel, to make it easier for passengers to exercise their rights.

The legislation also strengthens the rights of persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility by allowing an accompanying person to travel on a flight with them free of charge if their presence is necessary.

## Background

In 2023, the Commission [presented](#) an update of the EU rules governing the rights of passengers when travelling by air, rail, sea, inland waterway, bus or coach, as part of the [passenger mobility package](#). Parliament adopted a specific [upgrade of air passenger rights](#) earlier in 2026.

Around 13 billion passengers who travel by airplane, train, coach, bus or ferry in the EU every year are covered by EU passenger rights. This figure is expected to reach 15 billion by 2030 and almost 20 billion by 2050.

**Procedure file: 2023/0437(COD)**

**Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement**

**Vote: Tuesday 20 October**

**Press conference: Tuesday 20 October, 14.00 CEST, with the rapporteur Matteo Ricci (S&D, IT)**

## Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[At a glance: Enforcement of passenger rights in the EU](#)

[EP Research Service: Enforcement of passenger rights in the EU](#)

[EP multimedia centre – passenger rights](#)

# The future of EU-UK relations

**On Tuesday, MEPs will debate the upcoming EU-UK summit on 20 November with representatives of the Irish Council Presidency and the European Commission.**

On 20 November, European Council President António Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will host UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham for the second EU-UK summit in Brussels. The meeting will be an opportunity for the EU and the UK to strengthen their strategic partnership. Leaders are expected to take stock of the progress made since the first summit in London in 2025, including on issues such as defence and security, energy, agrifood rules, climate, people-to-people contacts, migration, and law enforcement. The summit will also be an occasion to discuss the next steps in bilateral relations.

During the debate, MEPs will outline their expectations for the summit and their views on the future of EU-UK relations.

***Procedure: Council and Commission statements, without resolution***

***Debate: Tuesday 20 October***

### Further information

[The European Parliament's delegation to the EU-UK Parliamentary Partnership Assembly](#)  
[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# EU-Canada summit

**On Wednesday, MEPs and the Commission will discuss their expectations for the EU–Canada summit taking place in Montreal on 29-30 October.**

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney will host European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President António Costa just weeks after the Commission President in her annual State of the Union speech [invited Canada to become the EU's first “associate member”](#).

Addressing the European Parliament at the plenary session in September, [Carney called for the deepening and widening of the relationship](#) between the EU and Canada, to form an “alliance for the future”.

At the summit, the leaders are expected to focus on: trade; defence and security; energy and critical minerals; and technology.

***Commission statement, without resolution***

***Debate: Wednesday 21 October***

### Further information

[Video recording of the Canadian Prime Ministers Carney's speech in the European Parliament, 17 September 2026](#)

[Press conference by Roberta Metsola, EP President and Mark Carney, Canadian prime minister, 17 September 2026](#)

[EP resolution on enhanced EU-Canada cooperation in the current geopolitical context, 11 March 2026](#)

[European Parliament research: Transatlantic relations: the United States and Canada, 1 July 2026](#)

# Daphne Caruana Galizia murder: Parliament to discuss delayed justice in Malta

**Nine years after the journalist's assassination, MEPs and the Commission will discuss developments in the court case and the rule of law in Malta, on Wednesday.**

Daphne Caruana Galizia was a Maltese journalist, blogger and anti-corruption activist who exposed corruption, money laundering, organised crime, the sale of citizenship, and the Maltese government's connections to the Panama Papers. She was killed in a car bomb attack on 16 October 2017. The outcry over the authorities' mishandling of the investigation ultimately prompted the resignation of then prime minister Joseph Muscat.

Five people have been imprisoned for their roles in the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia, but the mastermind behind the assassination has yet to be convicted. Critical of failings in the investigation, already in December 2019 MEPs called on the European Commission to take action. They have revisited the issue at every turn since – including in a 2023 resolution [condemning the limited progress in bringing those responsible to justice](#).

## **Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism – award ceremony**

The winner of the annual [Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism](#) will be announced on Wednesday at 18.00, 21 October, at Parliament in Strasbourg. [Ten investigations have been shortlisted](#), from a record 344 submissions. The €20,000 prize recognises outstanding journalism defending EU values and demonstrates Parliament's support for investigative journalism and a free press.

***Debate: Wednesday 21 October***

***Procedure: Commission statement, no resolution***

***Prize award ceremony: Wednesday 21 October***

## **Further information**

[European Commission - 2026 Rule of law report](#)

[Free photos, video and audio material \(Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism\)](#)

# Securing the supply of critical raw materials

**Parliament will adopt its position on plans to bolster the EU's strategic autonomy by securing a sustainable and circular supply of critical raw materials.**

The scheme, to be debated on Monday and voted on by MEPs on Tuesday, will channel targeted support to strategic projects covering the whole value chain, from mining and processing to refining and recycling. These measures are designed to speed up extraction, processing, recycling and substitution capacities, thereby diversifying EU supply chains.

## **Background: Critical raw materials Act**

The original EU Critical Raw Materials Act, [adopted by Parliament in December 2023](#), laid the groundwork for an EU-wide toolbox that guarantees industry access to raw-materials essential for the clean-energy, digital, defence and aerospace transitions. The Commission proposed [amendments to the CRMA](#) in December 2025, stemming from its [RESourceEU](#) Action Plan.

***Procedure Code: 2025/0385(COD)***

***Debate: Monday 19 October***

***Vote: Tuesday 20 October***

***Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading***

## **Further information**

[Procedure file](#)

[EP Research: Amendments to the Critical Raw Materials Act](#)

[Free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Emissions trading: more free allowances for industry to curb carbon leakage

**On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a targeted change to the EU emissions trading system (ETS) to increase free allocation for industries covered by heat and fuel benchmarks until 2030.**

The [Commission proposal](#) on which MEPs will vote would redeploy around 80 million unallocated ETS carbon allowances still available for free allocation to businesses in 2026–2030. The aim of the move by the Commission is to soften the lowering of heat and fuel benchmarks, which were updated by the Commission in June 2026. According to the Commission, the redeployment of these allowances would save the industries concerned around €6 billion and give them extra protection against the risk of so-called “[carbon leakage](#)” (when energy-intensive businesses relocate their activities outside the EU to countries with looser climate rules).

Parliament is dealing with the file under its urgent procedure. The Environment, Climate and Food Safety Committee will vote on the report by rapporteur [Adam Jarubas](#) (EPP, PL) on Monday 19 October. Once plenary has adopted its position, negotiations with the Council can begin.

## Background

Companies covered by the EU ETS must hand in one allowance for every tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> they emit. Companies at risk of carbon leakage receive free allowances based on benchmarks established by the European Commission, which reflect the most energy-efficient installations in each sector. Where no product benchmark exists, the allocation of free allowances is based on heat and fuel use (“fallback benchmarks”). The benchmark values for 2026–2030 were updated in June 2026, prompting concerns from several industrial sectors about sharp cuts in the amount of ETS allowances that would be available for free.

***Vote: Thursday 22 October***

***Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading; urgent procedure***

## Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[EP press release: “Chair Maran: ETS remains key pillar of EU climate and industrial policy” \(17.7.2026\)](#)

# Chemicals: simplification of cosmetics, fertiliser and labelling rules

**On Thursday, MEPs are set to approve changes to EU chemicals legislation that should increase flexibility while ensuring protection for human health and the environment.**

The [changes, already provisionally agreed with Council](#) and to be updated on Thursday morning, update provisions relating to [cosmetics products, the classification, packaging, and labelling of chemicals \(CLP\)](#), and [fertilising products](#). The deal ensures legible labelling for consumers, and faster market withdrawal of cosmetics with carcinogenic, mutagenic, and reprotoxic substances than the Commission originally proposed

## Background

The “chemicals omnibus” is part of wider efforts to simplify EU laws and ease administrative burdens, helping businesses innovate and grow, in line with the [Draghi report on EU competitiveness](#).

The EU chemicals industry consists of 29,000 companies, providing 1.2 million direct jobs and supporting 19 million people across supply chains. According to the Commission, the proposed measures to reduce compliance costs and ease the administrative burden should save the industry at least €363 million a year. In July 2025, the Commission also presented a [European chemicals industry action plan](#).

***Procedure code: 2025/0531(COD)***

***Debate and vote: Thursday 22 October 2026***

***Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement***

## Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Omnibus VI - Simplification of requirements and procedures for chemicals](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, videos and audio material](#)

# The circular economy and waste rules for packaging, batteries and textiles

## MEPs will vote on suspending obligations imposed on companies intended to ensure the proper management of their products once discarded and discuss the upcoming Circular Economy Act.

Under current EU waste legislation, producers bringing products to the EU market pay fees that help cover the cost of collecting, sorting, and recycling these products once they become waste (known as extended producer responsibility, or EPR). The rules in place also mandate them to appoint an authorised representative for EPR obligations in each member state where they sell their products. To reduce barriers within the EU single market, the [Commission proposed to suspend](#) this authorised representative obligation for legislation impacting batteries, packaging, textiles, footwear, electronics and single-use plastics.

In the [position](#) adopted by the Environment Committee, MEPs backed a more targeted suspension that would apply only to EU-based small and micro enterprises (fewer than 50 employees and an annual turnover or balance sheet under €10 million) and until 2035, or until a more comprehensive [Circular Economy Act](#) is adopted.

MEPs will debate the legislation on Monday, followed by a vote on Parliament's position on Tuesday. If adopted, Parliament will be ready for negotiations with member states on the final form of the law.

In a separate debate with Council and Commission on Wednesday, MEPs will outline their priorities for the upcoming Circular Economy Act, to contribute to Europe's strategic autonomy, boost competitiveness, and make the lives of Europeans more affordable.

***Debate: Monday 19 October (EPR suspension); Wednesday 21 October (Circular Economy Act)***

***Vote: Tuesday 20 October (EPR suspension)***

***Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading (EPR suspension); Council and Commission statements without resolution (Circular Economy Act)***

### Further information

[Profile of the rapporteur: Ingeborg ter Laak \(EPP, NL\)](#)

[Procedure file \(regulation\)](#)

[Procedure file \(directive\)](#)

[EPRS briefing: "Extended producer responsibility" \(24.9.2026\)](#)

# Parliament's position on the 2027 EU budget

**On Wednesday, MEPs will vote on the budgetary figures and a resolution on the 2027 budget ahead of negotiations with the Council.**

MEPs aim to restore the €1 billion in commitment appropriations and €501.8 million in payment appropriations cut by the Council in its position, while also proposing to add €1.17 billion in commitment appropriations for several programmes compared to the Commission's [draft 2027 EU budget](#). They propose additional funding for the Horizon Europe research programme, transport and energy networks, EU4Health and Erasmus+, support for young farmers and agriculture, climate adaptation, and strengthening funding to boost the EU's capacity to respond to natural disasters and emergencies.

Migration and border management, military mobility, and support for the EU's Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood policies, as well as humanitarian aid, also feature in Parliament's budgetary priorities for 2027. Finally, MEPs want EU debt repayments to be financed without cutting funding for key programmes.

***Procedure: budgetary procedure***

***Debate: Tuesday 20 October***

***Vote: Wednesday 21 October***

***Press conference with Nils Ušakovs (S&D, LV), general rapporteur for the EU budget 2027 (for section III - Commission), and Michalis Hadjipantela (EPP, CY), rapporteur for the other sections on Wednesday 21 October at 14:30***

### Further information

[Press release after Budgets Committee adopted the 2027 budget resolution](#)

[Press release to the adopted budgetary amendments](#)

[Details of the procedure](#)

[Press release on Parliament's priorities for the 2027 annual budget](#)

[Details on the 2027 budgetary procedure](#)

[Factsheet on the budgetary procedure](#)

[Committee on Budgets](#)

# COP31: priorities for the Antalya climate summit

**Ahead of COP31 in Türkiye, MEPs are set to push for a faster fossil fuel phase-out, more climate finance and stronger support for vulnerable countries.**

The [UN Climate Change Conference \(COP31\)](#), from 9 to 20 November, will focus on advancing the transition away from fossil fuels, launching the process for the next global stocktake, and scaling up climate finance, including through the operationalisation of the [new collective quantified goal \(NCQG\)](#) agreed at COP29.

The [resolution](#) on Parliament's priorities, put forward by the Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety, says that, with 2025 being one of the hottest years on record and that Europe remains the fastest-warming continent, there is an urgent need to accelerate the global transition away from fossil fuels. On finance, MEPs want to ease the debt burden for vulnerable countries as well as delivering on adaptation, [loss and damage](#) funding.

The debate on the UN Climate Change Conference will take place on Wednesday evening, with a resolution to be voted on by MEPs on Thursday.

### Background

The European Climate Law established the goal for the EU to become climate neutral by 2050 and to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. In February 2026, [Parliament updated the law with a 2040 reduction target of 90%](#).

[A delegation of 15 MEPs](#), headed by [Lídia Pereira](#) (EPP, PT), will attend the climate talks from 16 to 20 November.

**Procedure Code: 2026/2666(RSP)**

**Debate: Wednesday 21 October**

**Vote: Thursday 22 October**

**Procedure: oral questions to the Council and the Commission, with resolution**

### Further information

[EP study: "The COP31 Climate Change Conference" \(September 2026\)](#)

# Accelerating the roll-out of Europe's high-speed rail network

**On Tuesday, MEPs will adopt their recommendations for improving the EU's high-speed rail connectivity and territorial cohesion.**

The report, [prepared by the Transport and Tourism Committee](#) , calls for a European high-speed rail network that is interoperable, innovative, accessible and intermodal, delivering genuine value for citizens and public investment alike.

MEPs want high-speed rail to connect not only EU capitals, but also major urban nodes across all European regions and key neighbouring countries. They want the 2028-2034 [multiannual financial framework](#) to ensure adequate and dedicated funding, including through preserving and strengthening the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and supporting investments through the national plans.

MEPs also encourage countries and railway operators to make high-speed train tickets more affordable including through accessible fares and appropriate reduced-fare or subscription schemes.

## Background

In November 2025, the Commission adopted the [high-speed rail action plan](#) setting out the steps needed to create a faster, more interoperable and better-connected European network by 2040. More than [€100 billion from EU programmes](#) has been allocated to rail infrastructure projects since 2014.

**Procedure file: 2026/2003(INI)**

**Procedure: own-initiative report**

**Vote: Tuesday 20 October**

## Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Rapporteur](#) [Vicent Marzà Ibáñez](#) (Greens/EFA, ES)

# A stronger cohesion policy for EU cities and eastern border regions

**MEPs are expected to demand that future cohesion policy uphold the ‘right to stay’ in EU cities and strengthen support for regions facing Russian aggression.**

The two reports come at a decisive moment for the future architecture of the EU’s cohesion policy, as Parliament finalises its position on several files comprising the post-2027 legislative package, including the national and regional partnership plans (NRPP), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund, Interreg, and other related instruments, ahead of interinstitutional negotiations.

### **Putting cities at the centre of cohesion policy**

MEPs are expected to push the Commission to implement the ‘[right to stay](#)’ principle into the [2028–2034 multiannual financial framework](#) (MFF), with cohesion funding to support affordable housing, quality jobs, essential public services, transport, healthcare and connectivity, particularly in cities and territories facing demographic decline and depopulation. The debate will take place on Monday, followed by a vote on Tuesday.

### **A dedicated strategy for eastern border regions**

Recognising the specific challenges facing regions exposed to Russia’s military aggression, hybrid threats and geopolitical pressure, a second, related report up for plenary vote on Thursday calls for greater cohesion investments in digital infrastructure, connectivity, civil preparedness, resilience and dual-use infrastructure. It also proposes ring-fenced allocations of up to 10% of the budgets of relevant EU funding instruments, alongside at least €150 million in dedicated Interreg funding to compensate for losses following the [suspension of cooperation with Russia and Belarus](#).

***Debate: Monday 19 October (cities)***

***Votes: Tuesday 20 October (cities) / Thursday 22 October (border regions)***

***Procedure: own-initiative reports***

### **Further information**

[EPRS study on the EU agenda for cities: addressing cities' current challenges \(February 2026\)](#)

[EPRS study on EU eastern border regions - adapting cohesion policy to a changing security landscape \(September 2026\)](#)

# Recovery aid for Portugal, Spain, Italy and Malta after destructive storms

**On Wednesday, Parliament is expected to unlock aid worth €489 million to help the four countries recover following severe storms and flooding earlier in 2026.**

The funding from the [European Union Solidarity Fund \(EUSF\)](#) will finance essential emergency and recovery operations, including restoring essential infrastructure and public services, and clean-up operations, following storm Harry in January 2026 in Malta and Italy, and storms in January and February 2026 in Portugal and Spain.

The breakdown of the proposed funding is as follows:

- Portugal: €261.5 million;
- Spain: €149.1 million;
- Italy: €74.9 million;
- Malta: €3.7 million.

Since 2002, the EU Solidarity Fund has provided over €11 billion in aid in response to 150 disaster events, including 130 natural disasters and 20 health emergencies, across 25 member states (including the UK) and six accession countries.

***Procedure: budgetary procedure***

***Vote: Wednesday 21 October***

## Further information

[Details of the procedure](#)

[Rapporteur for the file, Lucia Yar \(Renew, SK\)](#)

[Commission proposal](#)

[Committee on Budgets](#)

# EU funds to help laid-off workers in Finland

**On Wednesday, MEPs are set to vote on the disbursement of €1.1 million for 351 workers who lost their jobs in the Finnish paper industry.**

The aid from the [European Globalisation Adjustment Fund](#) should assist 351 displaced workers in the paper industry in the Finnish regions of Etelä-Suomi and Helsinki-Uusimaa find new employment. It will finance personalised services, such as job-search training and career coaching, vocational training, self-employment grants and allowances, an AI-based pilot project on recruitment needs, pay subsidies, mobility allowances, and support for starting a business.

Since 2007, the EGF has helped more than 185,000 people in 20 EU countries, with €737 million in funding, according to the Commission. As of May 2026, the EGF can also fund [training courses for workers](#) who are likely to be made redundant.

***Procedure: budgetary procedure***

***Vote: Wednesday 21 October***

### Further information

[Details of the file](#)

[Rapporteur for the file, Aura Salla \(EPP, FI\)](#)

[Commission proposal](#)

[Committee on Budgets](#)

## Other topics on the agenda

### Other topics on the agenda

- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Parliament's statements, one round of political group speakers, Monday
- Public interface connected to the Internal Market Information System for the declaration of posting of workers, Johan Danielsson, Andreas Schwab, vote Tuesday
- Protection of adults: jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of measures and cooperation, Jana Toom, vote Tuesday
- Combating VAT fraud – the effectiveness of cross-border cooperation when it comes to VAT fraud and its impact on the EU budget, Ondřej Knotek, vote Tuesday
- Shaping the future of EU competition policy: application of EU competition law and the upcoming revision of the Merger Guidelines, Question Time (Commission), Tuesday
- A new co-ownership for the future of Euro-Mediterranean relations – the Pact for the Mediterranean, Nicola Zingaretti, debate Tuesday, vote Wednesday
- Boosting skills in the Union – opportunities for vocational education and training in times of transition, Brigitte van den Berg, debate Tuesday, vote Wednesday
- Discharge 2024: EU general budget – European Council and Council, Pasquale Tridico, vote Wednesday
- Pericles V exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting 2028–2034, Michael McNamara, vote Wednesday
- Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States, Li Andersson, vote Wednesday
- Cutting costs and unnecessary reporting obligations now – concrete next steps to deliver swift relief for EU's entrepreneurs, topical debate requested by a political group (EPP), Wednesday
- Presentation of the Court of Auditors' annual report 2025, in the presence of Tony Murphy, President of the Court of Auditors, debate Wednesday
- Strengthen global AI governance, Commission statement, Thursday