How to research the EU

Dataharvest, 6 October 2021

kontakt@sigridmelchior.se

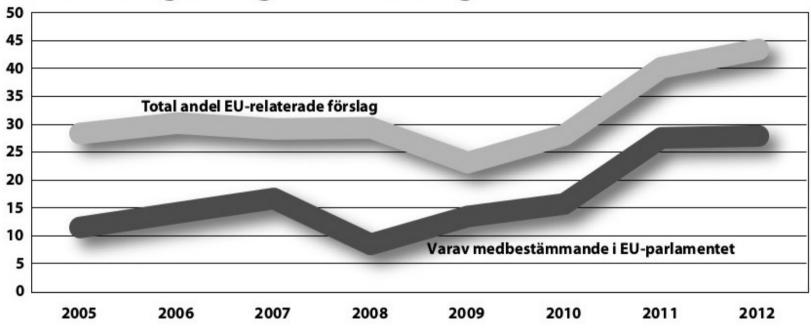
Agenda

- 10-11 What is the EU, really?
- 11-12 EU legislation and sources
- 12-13 What, when, where, who?
- 13-14 Lunch
- 14-15 Access to documents, voting data
- 15-16 Cross-border, journalist cooperations

- EU is a political level, decision-making level (municipality, region, national parliament, EU)
- EU is not a topic. EU politics go into all politics.
 To different extent.
- EU is not an actor. All national political parties and organised interests also act on the EU level.
- Sweden/France/Poland vs. EU = false.

- The EU is an experiment, between international organization and federal state
- "Ever closer union" = EU integration
 - → More areas of politics are moved to the EU level = become "EU competency"
 - → Decisions more often taken in a "supranational" rather than "intergovernmental" way
- Treaty changes. Unanimous decisions.
- Every crisis → EU integration.
- Where is this integration happening now? Migration, economic policies, health.
- Integration when countries' interests align, not often federalist dreams.

Svenska lagförslag som har sin grund i EU



Statistiken bygger på R&D:s granskning av 1 318 propositioner som finns redovisade på regeringens webbplats (regeringen.se) från åren 2005–2012. Av de 104 propositioner som redovisats till och med 18 september i år är 33 EU-relaterade och i 17 fall har EU-parlamentet varit medbeslutande.

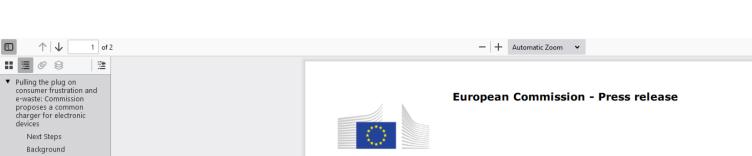
KÄLLA: RIKSDAG & DEPARTEMENT

What is decided on the EU level?

- Often you start here: is this an EU issue at all?
- Some policy areas are completely "EU competence" = decided on the EU level.
- Others not at all.
- Many: both EU level and national level. The perspective determines.
- What the EU decides or not, and how, are determined in the treaties.
- Every EU law refers to a treaty article.
- Rule of thumb: Most EU laws are about the internal market or freedom of movement.

Your topics

- Environment
- Climate
- Environmental crimes
- Structural and cohesion funds
- Migration/immigration
- Health
- Social issues
- Organic agriculture
- Deforestation
- Corruption
- Organized crime
- Business/commerce



For More Information



Րկ

Pulling the plug on consumer frustration and e-waste: Commission proposes a common charger for electronic devices

Brussels, 23 September 2021

Today, the Commission takes an important step against e-waste and consumer inconvenience, caused by the prevalence of different, incompatible chargers for electronic devices. Years of working with industry on a voluntary approach already brought down the number of mobile phone chargers from 30 to 3 within the last decade, but could not deliver a complete solution. The Commission is now putting forward legislation to establish a common charging solution for all relevant devices.

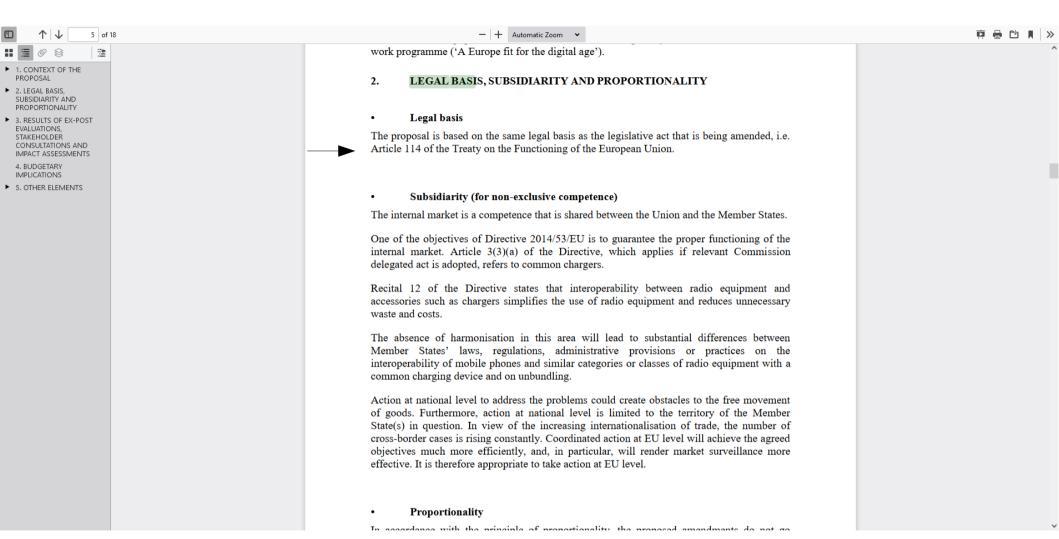
With today's proposal for a revised Radio Equipment Directive, the charging port and fast charging technology will be harmonised: USB-C will become the standard port for all smartphones, tablets, cameras, headphones, portable speakers and handheld videogame consoles. In addition, the Commission proposes to unbundle the sale of chargers from the sale of electronic devices. This will improve consumers' convenience and reduce the environmental footprint associated with the production and disposal of chargers, thereby supporting the green and digital transitions.

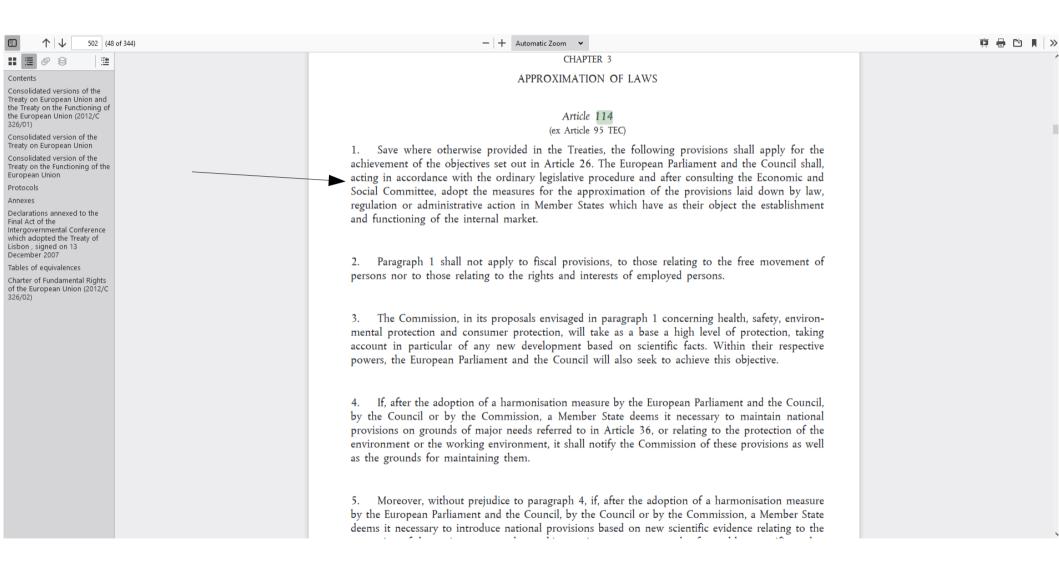
Margrethe **Vestager**, Executive Vice-President for a Europe fit for the Digital Age, said: "European consumers were frustrated long enough about incompatible chargers piling up in their drawers. We gave industry plenty of time to come up with their own solutions, now time is ripe for legislative action for a common charger. This is an important win for our consumers and environment and in line with our green and digital ambitions."

Commissioner Thierry **Breton**, responsible for the Internal Market, said: "Chargers power all our most essential electronic devices. With more and more devices, more and more chargers are sold that are not interchangeable or not necessary. We are putting an end to that. With our proposal, European consumers will be able to use a single charger for all their portable electronics – an important step to increase convenience and reduce waste."

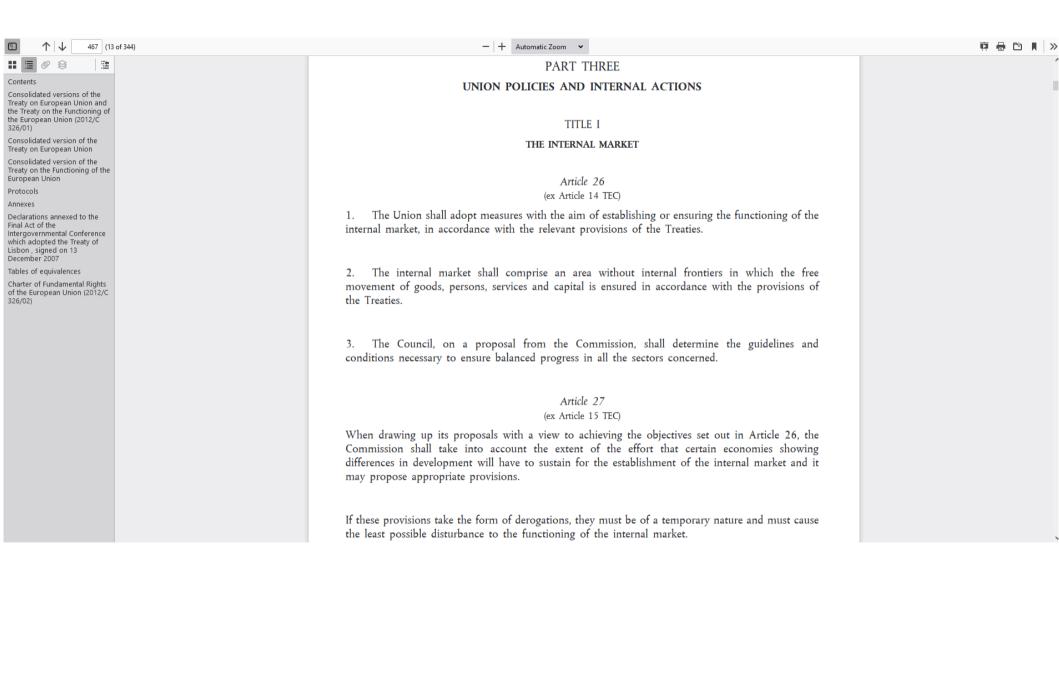
Today, the Commission is proposing:

- A harmonised charging port for electronic devices: USB-C will be the common port. This
 will allow consumers to charge their devices with the same USB-C charger, regardless of the
 device brand.
- Harmonised fast charging technology will help prevent that different producers



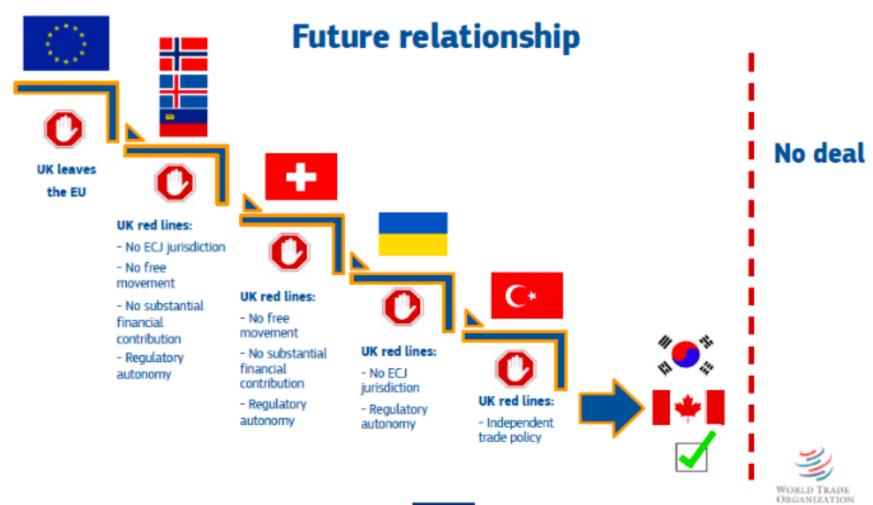


Ordinary legislative procedure = the parliament and the council need to agree, and the council adopts laws with qualified majority vote, no vetos.



- Not binary: In the EU or not
- Different cooperations within the EU, different levels, "EU à la carte"
- EEA = EU and Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein (internal market + "four freedoms")
- Bilateral deal EU-Switzerland, almost like EEA deal
- Schengen = 22 EU countries + Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland (Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland)
- Euro cooperation = 19 EU countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Czech republic, Hungary, Poland, Croatia, Sweden, Denmark)
- "Enhanced cooperation", at least 9 EU countries go ahead, open for everyone. Possible since Amsterdam treaty 1999.
- International divorces, European public prosecutor, patent protection, financial transaction tax.





To sum up:

- * The EU is a decision-making level
- * It is our governments that "are" the EU → don't let them blame the EU, check how they act
- * Constant movement. More EU integration.
- *Journalistic tool: the treaties

Exercise 1: Legal basis, legislative procedure

1. Legal proposal from the European Commission

(google: European Commission + proposal + "common charger")

- eg. "single-use plastics", "new migration pact", "train passenger rights", "country-by-country reporting on taxes"
- 2. Find the legal basis

(ctrl F "legal basis")

eg. "article 114 TFEU"

3. Check this in the treaties. What is the legislative procedure? (google the treaty, search the article, check the legislative procedure

EU LEGISLATION

Från förslag till lag

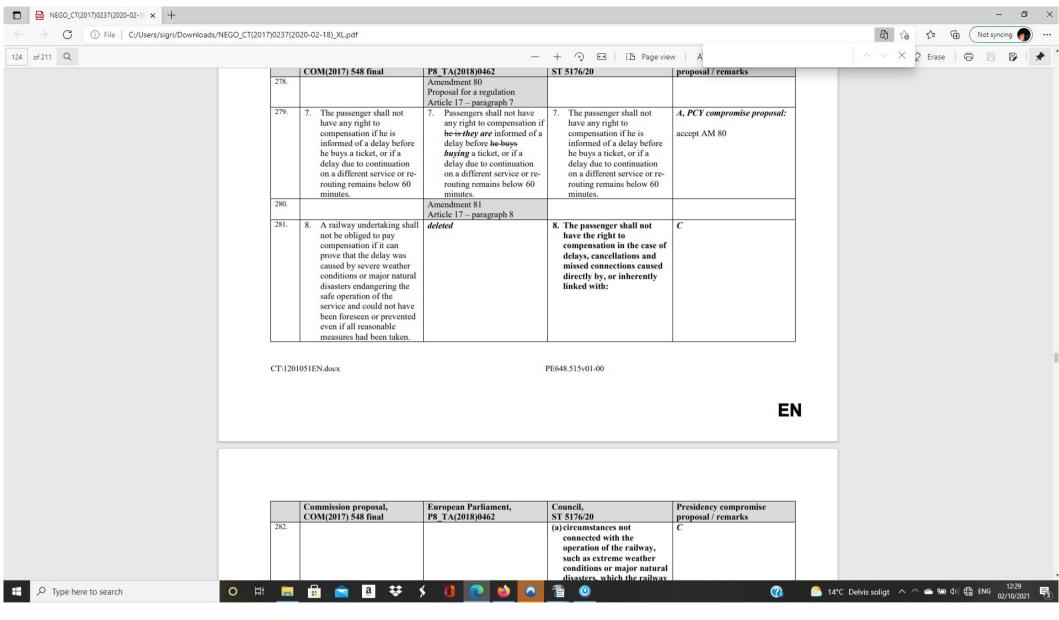
EU-kommissionen UNIONENS GEMENSAMMA RÖST

Europaparlamentet FOLKETS RÖST



Ministerrådet MEDLEMSLÄNDERNAS RÖST

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"Four-column document" from trilogues on Rail passenger rights regulation.

First column: Commission proposal

Second: Parliament

Third: Council

Forth: Proposed compromise

The European Commission – what is it?

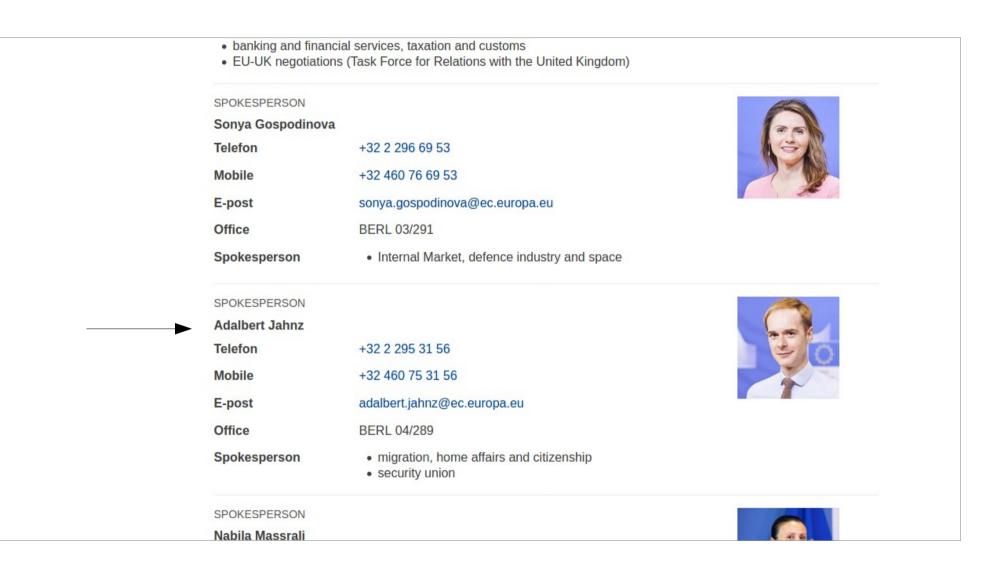
- What is the Commission? College and bureaucracy
- 27 commissioners = the college ≈ EU:s government
- Take decisions together, Wednesday
- Nominated by national governments = ideologically mixed
- Represent the whole EU. The ideology = more EU
- 32 directorate-general, "DG", like a government department
- EU:s bureaucracy: around 30 000 civil servants

What does it do?

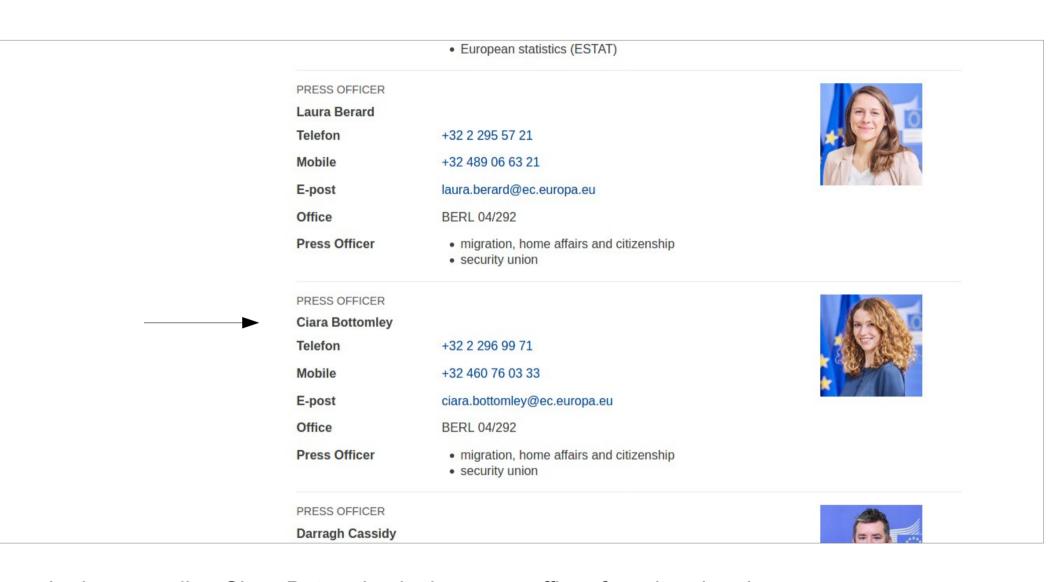
- The EU countries' common tool
- Proposes new EU laws. But doesn't make the laws! The "EU:s motor".
- Controls that EU countries follow the common laws, act like a prosecutor.
- Negotiate for the whole of the EU internationally, eg. Climate talks, trade deals, brexit etc.
- Hands out money from the EU budget.

European Commission as a source

- 27 commissioners (make interview request with their "communication advisors", not the commission spokespersons)
- Spokespersons (on the record) + press secretaries (on background) Midday briefing.
- Civil servants on the dg:s (on background)
- EU commission in your country



Google: "European Commission spokesperson service", search in the list for "migration" → Adalbert Jahnz is the official Commission spokesperson = can be quoted on all things that has to do with migration.



In the same list, Ciara Bottomley is the press officer for migration, i e she answers questions/finds info, but can't be quoted.

- Artificial intelligence
- Deputising on the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI)

MEMBER OF CABINET / COMMUNICATION ADVISOR

Brian Synnott

E-mail brian.synnott@ec.europa.eu

Phone number +32 (0) 2 29 55800

Responsibilities Portfolio

- · Communication Strategy
- · Relations with Media
- · Relations with SPP
- Social Media
- Audio-visual
- Relations with Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee
- European Border and Coast Guard Agency recruitment strategy

Non-portfolio

- European Green Deal
- · Democracy and Demography
- · Environment, oceans and fisheries

Google "Ylva Johansson + team". In the list, find the "communication advisor" = spin doctor, personal assistant. Ask him for an interview with Johansson.



PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSIONER

Anna Helsen

anna.helsen1@ec.europa.eu E-mail

+32 (0) 2 29 61230 Phone number

Responsibilities Portfolio

• Strategic Communications

Anti-corruption

Transparency matters

· Access to documents

• Communication and Relations with the Swedish press

· Relations with the Ombudsman

• Research Executive Agency (REA)

Non-portfolio

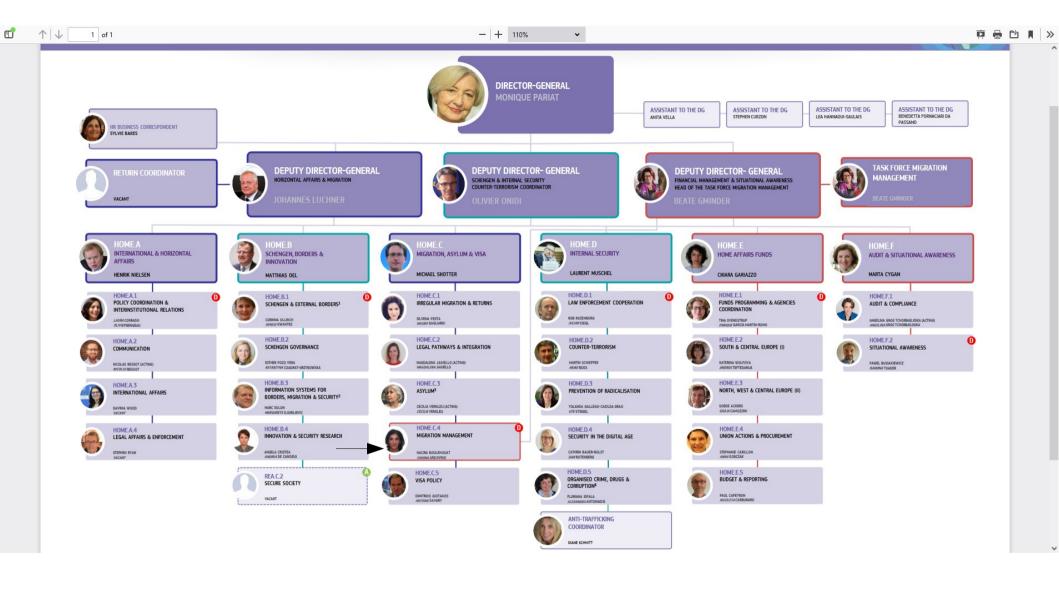
- · Values and Transparency
- . An Economy that works for People
- · Economic governance
- · Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs
- · Financial Services and Capital Markets Union
- · Cohesion and reforms
- · Research and innovation

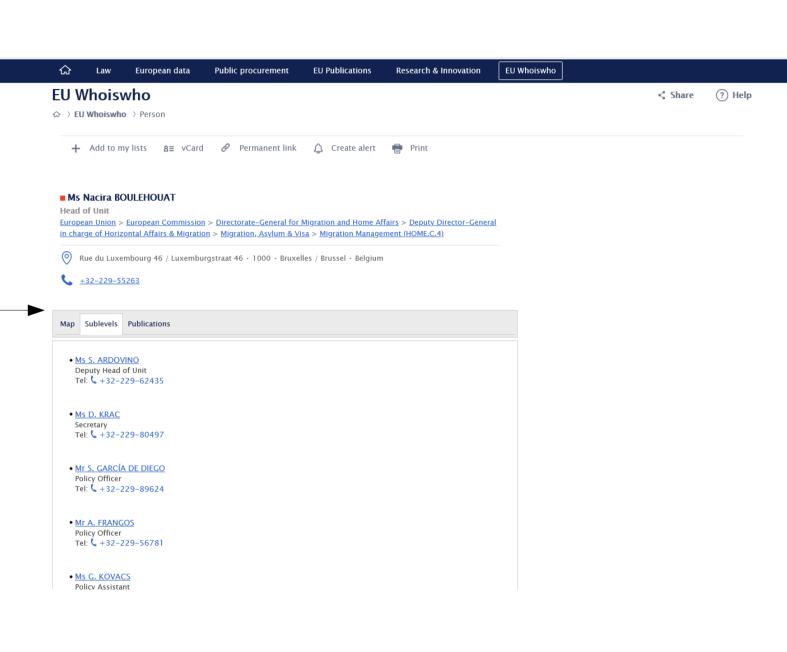




Finding the civil servant

- Google DG migration and home affairs
- Find "organigram"/"organizational chart" on site
- Find the right unit, head of unit
- Construct emails: name.lastname@ec.europa.eu
 NACIRA.BOULEHOUAT@ec.europa.eu
- Phone numbers: https://op.europa.eu/en/web/who-is-who





Från förslag till lag

EU-kommissionen UNIONENS GEMENSAMMA RÖST

Europaparlamentet FOLKETS RÖST



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European Parliament

- 705 MEPs
- Elected every 5 years, direct elections in all EU countries
- 7 political groups
- 20 committees

Adoption of an EU law (in the European Parliament)

- European Commission presents its legal proposal
- Parliament assigns a committee and a rapporteur (MEP in charge)
- The committee debates, votes on the report from the rapporteur. Other political groups have "shadow rapporteurs"
- The committee adopts the report. This is the position of the EP.
- Sometimes it goes to the plenary, sometimes directly to negotiations with the council (trilogue)
- The rapporteur represents the parliament in the trilogues.
- Once there is a compromise, its adopted in the plenary.

Sources in the European Parliament

- The Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) themselves (rapporteur, shadow rapporteur, informal experts, MEPs in the committee)
- MEPs assistants/policy experts
- European Parliaments press officers (language/committees)
- Committee policy experts (ask the committee press officer)
- Political groups' press officers
- European Parliament national representation office

MENU 🚍

Jitoj piajeis		
European Parliament		-
Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
Transport and Tourism	LIBERADZKI Bogusław	25/10/2017
	- Shadow rapporteur	
	Pepp HORTEFEUX Brice	
	renew BAUZÁ DÍAZ José Ramón europe.	
	DEPARNAY-GRUNENBERG Anna	
	HAIDER Roman	
	PORĘBA Tomasz Piotr	
	FERREIRA João	
+ Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
+ Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
Former committee for opinion on the recast technique	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs		

European Parliament

(_) Key players

Procedure file

Basic information

Technical information

Documentation gateway

Additional information

Key players

Key events

Legislative observatory = European Parliament's law database Find the rapporteurs and shadow-rapporteurs Here: google "rail passanger rights regulation" and "legislative observatory".





Bogusław LIBERADZKI ◂୬

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament $$_{\rm Member}$$

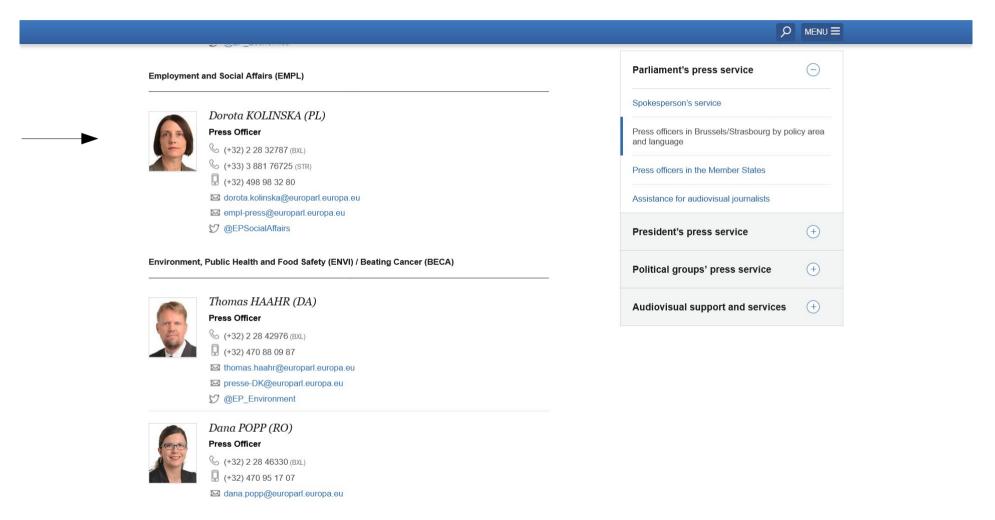


Poland - Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej (Poland)

Date of birth: 12-09-1948, Sochaczew

Home	Home
Member	Main parliamentary activities +
Committee on Transport and Tourism Delegation for relations with the United States	Other parliamentary activities +
Substitute	Curriculum vitae
Committee on Budgetary Control Delegation for relations with Israel	Declarations
Most recent activities	Assistants
Mobility package enforcement 27-09-2021 - P-004386/2021 - Commission	Meetings +
Written questions DDF (44 KB) DOC (9 KB)	History of parliamentary service (+)

European Parliament press secretaries



- Google European Parliament + press contacts
- "Neutral" press secretaries
- Above: Contact Dorota for all questions about employment and all questions in Polish https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/contacts/1/press-officers-in-brussels-strasbourg-by-policy-area-and-language

Från förslag till lag

EÜ-kommissionen UNIONENS GEMENSAMMA RÖST

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Council of Ministers – representing the national governments

- The Council = abstract institution. Whoever represents the national governments is the Council.
- Working groups: around 150. Diplomats/civil servants from EU countries' permanent representations in Brussels, or from capitals.
- Coreper: two constellations. Coreper II (prepares GAC, FAC, Ecofin and JHA) and Coreper I (all other councils). Meet every week.
- Council meetings: 10 constellations. Minister, junior minister or ambassador. This is the legislative level.
- European council / EU summits. Not officially the Council of ministers, don't make laws, set the direction for the EU, give orders to ministers or to the EU commission.

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Adoption of an EU law (in the European Parliament)

- European Commission presents it legal proposal
- The Council assigns a working group
- The working group discuss the technical details. Anything too political is "sent up" to Coperer, and further on to the ministers.
- The Council deliberations about law making are public, so are the votes.
- The president country decides which issues to put on the agenda
- When the Council has adopted a position (called "general approach"), negotiations with the European Parliament start (trilogues).
- The president country represents the Council in the trilogue negotiations.
- The final compromise need to be adopted by the Council (the ministers).

Sources in the Council of ministers

- National ministers + press people
- National civil servants ("perm rep"/government department)
- Other EU countries' "perm reps"/governments
- The Council's own press officers
- The president country

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Assistent

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Telefon +32 2 289 56 11

Besöksadress Square de Meeûs 30, 1000 Bryssel, Belgien

e-post till Sveriges ständiga representation till Europeiska unionen

Diplomates/civil servants at the Swedish permanent representation, in council working parties on environment and climate issues.

Google: "permanent representation to the EU" and "country"

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Portuguese presidency of the Council of the EU Ana Ascenção e Silva - Spokesperson Coreper II GSM +32 487 77 22 95 aas@reper-portugal.be Catarina Faria - Spokesperson Coreper I GSM +32 492 82 80 32 cpf@reper-portugal.be António Esteves Martins - Spokesperson for the Permanent Representation GSM +32 475 23 10 01

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs

aem@reper-portugal.be

One press person per topic/council, no country/language specific

varanica huartas cardaira@cansilium aurana au

- Only information "on background"
- Check the information from your country, more neutral

https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/contacts/

Example: Magdalena Andersson

- Economy/finance diplomats from Sweden
- The economy/finance diplomats from the Council's own office
- Economy/finance diplomats from other EU countries' perm reps, friends and foes
- MEPs from budget committee
- MEPs who are ex-finance ministers?
- Swedish European Affairs Committee

Problem: "On background", "no quoting", "no attribution". How to get officials to comment on stuff that should be in the public domain?

- Transparency rules in EU commission = EU average
- In countries where civil servants talk, choose them.
 Get the info from Brussels, quotes from the capital
- Remember: all perm reps/capitals "own" the council information. National MPs.
- MEPs!
- When "on background" you need more people
- For Commission, accept background. For anyone else, argue your case

Från förslag till lag

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Ministerrådet MEDLEMSLÄNDERNAS RÖST

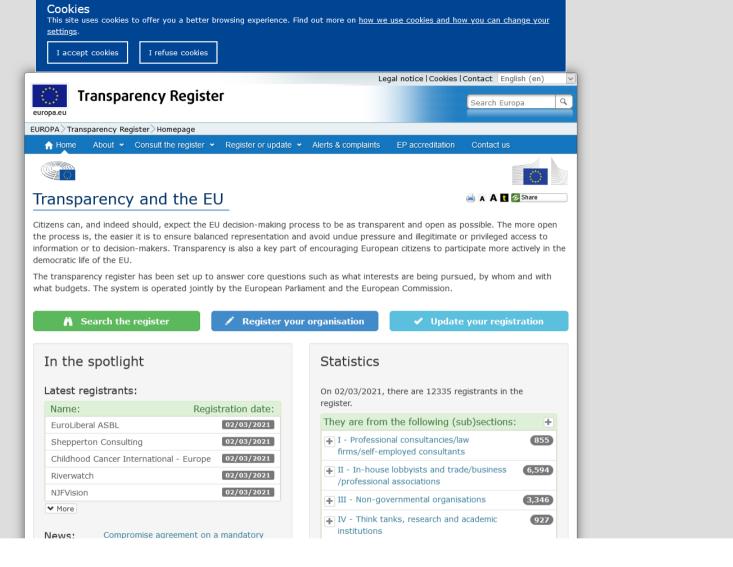
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Lobbyism

- European Commission: expert groups, "stakeholder conferences", public consultations etc. Institutionalised.
- European Parliament: contacts with leading MEPs + policy experts, send amendments to MEPs in the committee.
- Council: mainly in the capitals. "national interest"

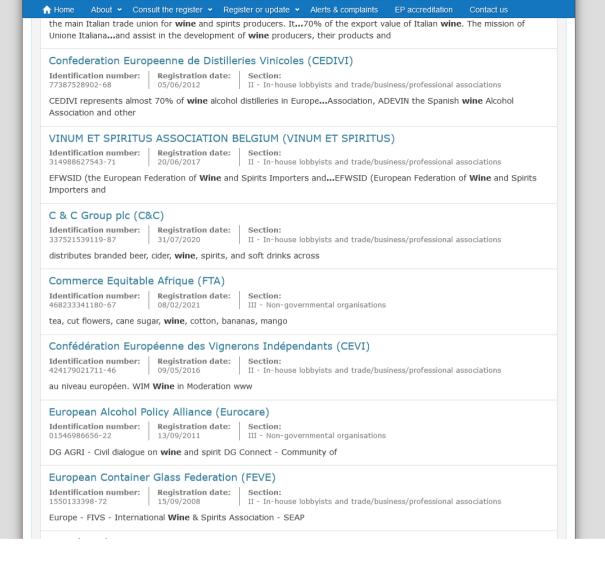
Exempel: new EU requirements for information on wine bottles

- Producers
- Consumers
- Patient groups
- Anti-alcohol groups



European Commission lobby register

https://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/homePage.do



- Search: "wine"
- 20 something organizations/companies that state that they want access to the EU institutions in order to lobby laws specifically on wine
- Use to find sources
- Use to map lobbying, but be careful with drawing conclusions from the information

https://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/searchControllerPager.do?declaration=wine&search=search

Who can "translate" EU legislation to my country?

- We tend to write about EU policies once they are final, adopted and "come home".
- We need to write about it earlier. For that we need "translators" –
 what will the consequenses be at home if/when this law is adopted?
- Who knows? National civil servants. Big national organised interests.
- Regions have their Brussels bureaus.
- Large national interest groups too. Trade unions, employer organisations, agriculture organisations. Also big companies.
- Smaller interest groups/ companies will be part of European umbrella organisations, present in Brussels
- Rule of thumb: there is a European umbrella organisation for every organised interest
- Talk to the EU lobbyists, then to the national organisation

Exercise: Find organised interests about the single-use plastic law

- Local/national company European umbrella organization
- Group of people affected national and European organization

WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHO?

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Example: EU law on single-use plastics

- 28 May 2018: European Commission adopts legal proposal.
- 24 October 2018: European Parliament adopts its position.
- 31 October 2018: The Council adopts its position.
- 19 December 2018: Deal between Parliament and Council in the trilogues. (negotiations November-December)
- 27 March 2019: The final deal is adopted in European Parliament.
- 21 May 2019: The final deal is adopted in the Council.

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Global Car Industry Business of Sport

EU proposes ban on straws and other single-use plastics

① 28 May 2018





Top Stories

Distraught families wait after Ecuador prison riot

With bodies decapitated or dismembered, it could take days for the victims to be identified.

3 1 hour ago

Sarah Everard's murderer will never be freed

3 2 hours ago

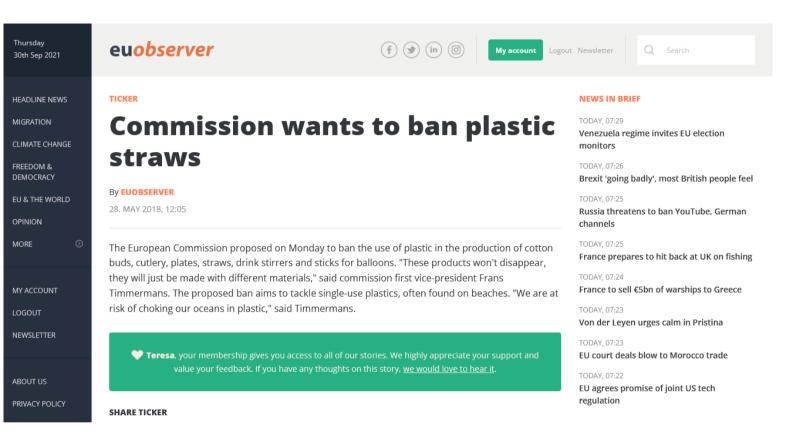
Nazi camp secretary caught after fleeing her trial

3 44 minutes ago

Features



The US case that could change how



28 May 2018 – commission proposal

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Single-use plastics ban approved by **European Parliament**

3 24 October 2018





Top Stories

Distraught families wait after Ecuador prison riot

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(1) 1 hour ago

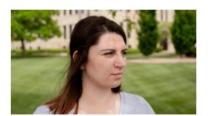
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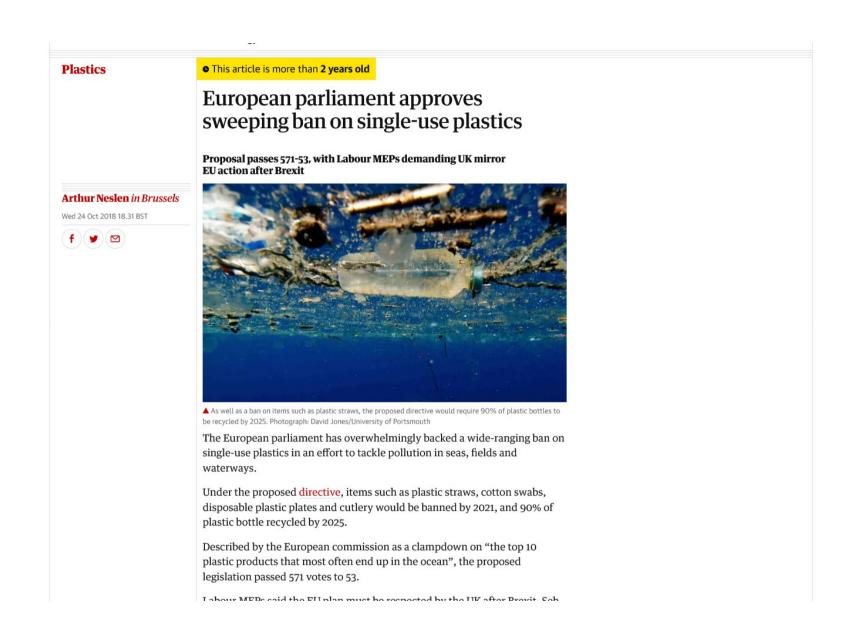
3 44 minutes ago

Features



The US case that could change how rape is charged

24 October 2018 – parliament position



24 October 2018 – parliament position



The Capitals

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Agrifood

Digital & Media

Economy & Jobs

Energy & Environment

Global Europe

Health

Politics

Transport

undestagswahl

Home / News / Energy & Environment / Plastics strategy / MEPs crank up crusade against single-use plastics

MEPs crank up crusade against single-use plastics

By Sam Morgan | EURACTIV.com with Reuters

24 Oct 2018 (updated: # 25 Oct 2018)

Advertisement



EU lawmakers voted in favour of reducing the amount of plastic in cigarette butts. [Shutterstock]

Languages: Français | Deutsch

Comments

\varTheta Pri





MEPs moved on Wednesday (24 October) to ban widely-used, throw-away plastics such as straws, bags and cotton buds, putting the burden on manufacturers to recycle more in an

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ECI - European Copper Institute

ENTSO-E - European network of transmission sys...

EURIMA - European Insulation Manufacturers' As...

European Aluminium

European Biodiesel Board (EBB)

FIEC - European Construction Industry Federation

FuelsEurope

GIE - Gas Infrastructure Europe

Glass for Europe

Hydrogen Europe

IndustriAll Europe

Metal Packaging Europe

Lagree



24 October 2018, parliament position

Ocuncil of the EU Press release 31 October 2018 13:40

EU action to restrict plastic pollution: Council agrees its position

tough new restrictions on single-use plastic products.

Today's meeting of member states' ambassadors in the

Permanent Representatives Committee agreed the Council's

position on a proposal for a new directive which is part of the

EU's efforts to protect the environment and clean up the

The EU is taking action to reduce plastic pollution by setting

oceans.

The new rules will ban the use of certain throwaway plastic products for which alternatives exist. In addition, specific measures will be introduced to reduce the use of the most frequently littered plastic products, especially those that are often found on European beaches.



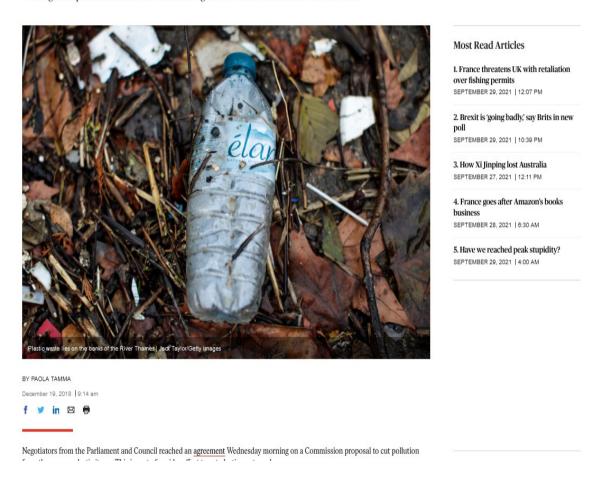
The EU is passing new rules to reduce single-use plastics that damage our seas and our health.



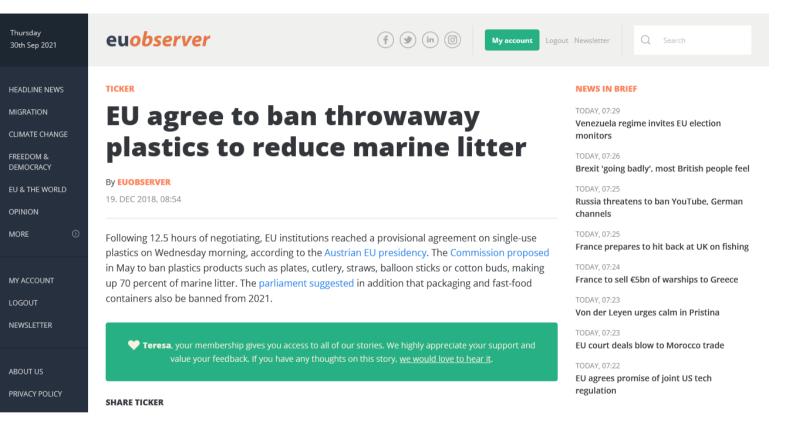
Plastic waste is polluting our rivers, our beaches and our oceans. This is why we will ban plastic products for which good alternatives exist. And we will make plastic producers pay for cleaning up. Today's decision is an important step towards protecting our environment.

EU agrees ban on plastic straws, cotton buds to tackle plastic pollution

The single-use plastics directive is aimed at cutting down on the most common forms of litter.



Privacy





The Capitals

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Economy & Jobs

Energy & Environment

Global Europe

Health Politics

Transport

undestagswah

Home / News / Energy & Environment / Plastics strategy / EU nails rapid-fire deal on single-use plastics

EU nails rapid-fire deal on single-use plastics

By Sam Morgan | EURACTIV.com

m 19 Dec 2018 (updated: m 21 Dec 2018)

Advertisement



Commission VP Frans Timmermans (C) attends an event organised by activists in November called "slaying the plastic pollution monster". [Rethink Plastic]

Languages: Français

Comments

Prin

■







Negotiators of the European Parliament, Council and Commission struck a provisional

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BSEF - The International Bromine Council

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CLERENS

COGEN EUROPE

ECI - European Copper Institute

ENTSO-E - European network of transmission sys...

EURIMA - European Insulation Manufacturers' As...

European Aluminium

European Biodiesel Board (EBB)

FIEC - European Construction Industry Federation

FuelsEurope

GIE - Gas Infrastructure Europe

Glass for Europe

Hydrogen Europe

IndustriAll Europe

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ESG ENVIRONMENT MARCH 27, 2019 / 7:25 PM / UPDATED 3 YEARS AGO

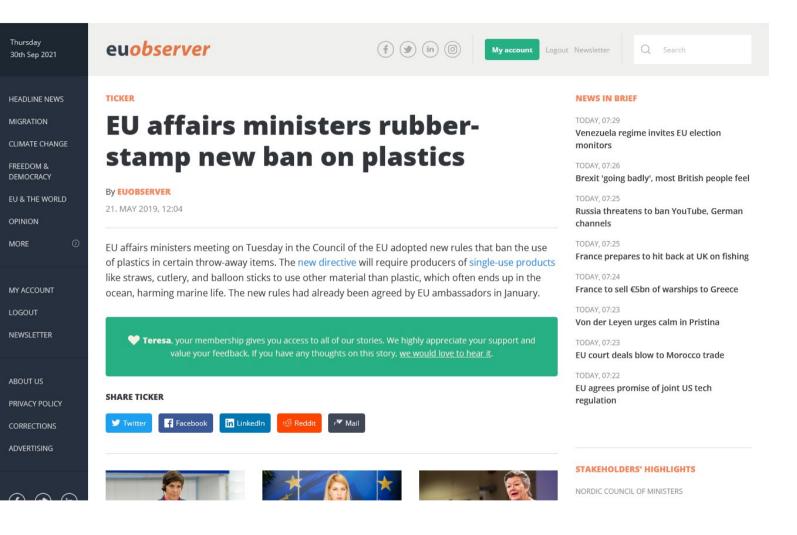
EU lawmakers back ban on single-use plastics, set standard for world

By Clare Roth 3 MIN READ

STRASBOURG (Reuters) - Single-use plastic items such as straws, forks and knives as well as cotton buds will be banned in the European Union by 2021 following a vote by EU lawmakers on Wednesday as the bloc pushes manufacturers to step up their recycling efforts.







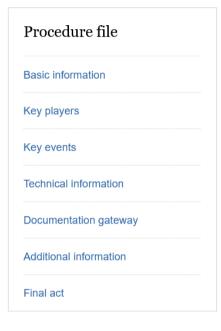
21 May 2019, council adopts final deal

Where in the legislative process are we?

- Long processes: 1,3,5 years. Some files: over 10 years. Many steps.
- Talk to the three institutions! Case of single-use plastics, start with:
 - Commission spokesperson/press officer for environment
 - Parliament environment committee press officer / rapporteur + shadows
 - Council press officer environment / national diplomats
- Before the final deal, the main text is the Commission proposal. Read it. The most controversial paragraphs.
- Legislative Observatory all who, when, what, where questions answered.
 Google "single-use plastics + legislative observatory"
- Legislative Train edited text about the file, European Parliament
 Google "single-use plastics + legislative train"
- Cross-check that you have the right legal file!



Commission proposal real name: Proposal for a directive on the reducation of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment"



2018/0172(COD)

PDF

Reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment

Basic information

Basic information PDF

2018/0172(COD)

COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)

Directive

Subject

3.70.05 Marine and coastal pollution, pollution from ships,

3.70.12 Waste management, domestic waste, packaging, light industrial waste

3.70.18 International and regional environment protection measures and agreements

Please go to Documentation gateway for any follow-up documents.

Status

Procedure completed





Procedure file Basic information Key players Key events Technical information Documentation gateway Additional information

Key players

Key players PDF

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	RIES Frédérique	07/05/2018
roou Salety	- Shadow rapporteur	
	Cepp FLORENZ Karl-Heinz	
	PAOLUCCI Massimo	
	DEMESMAEKER Mark	
	BOYLAN Lynn	
	AUKEN Margrete	
	PEDICINI Piernicola	
Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	ENF KAPPEL Barbara	20/06/2018

European Parliament





Procedure file	
Basic information	
Key players	
Key events	
Technical information	
Documentation gateway	
Additional information	
Final act	

Key events			Key events PDF
28/05/2018	Legislative proposal published	COM(2018)0340	Summary
11/06/2018	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
10/10/2018	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
11/10/2018	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A8-0317/2018	Summary
22/10/2018	Debate in Parliament		
24/10/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/10/2018	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T8-0411/2018	Summary
24/10/2018	Matter referred back to the committee responsible		
22/01/2019	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE632.990 GEDA/A/(2019)000622	
27/03/2019	Debate in Parliament		

Procedure file	
Basic information	
Key players	
Key events	
Technical information	1
Documentation gate	way
Additional informatio	n
Final act	

Technical information	Technical information PDF
Procedure reference	2018/0172(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 192-p1; Rules of Procedure EP 59-p4
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

ENVI/8/13273

Documentation gateway

Documentation gateway PDF





Committee dossier





LEGISLATIVE TRAIN SCHEDULE

NEW BOOST FOR JOBS, GROWTH AND INVESTMENT

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS AND FISHING GEAR: REDUCING MARINE LITTER FROM PLASTICS



For a brief overview of the key points of the adopted text and its significance for the citizen, please see the corresponding summary note.

About three quarters of the marine litter in the world's seas is plastic. On European beaches, the European Commission estimates that plastics make up 80–85 % of marine litter by count, and that single-use plastics account for about half of all marine litter by count. Most of the plastic in our oceans originates from land-based sources, except in the North-East Atlantic where sea-based litter is equally important.

THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY 0 💌 REFORM OF EU FINANCIAL RULES ORT RECEPTION FACILITIES FOR

OHICIAL JOUTHAL. IVICINDEL STATES HAVE UITH S JULY 2021 TO TRAISPOSE THE HEW UITECTIVE HITO HATHOLISHAW.

References:

- <u>Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment</u>
- EP legislative observatory, <u>Procedure file on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment</u>, 2018/0172(COD)
- European Commission, <u>Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment</u>, COM(2018) 340
- European Commission, Communication on Closing the loop An EU action plan for the Circular Economy, COM(2015) 614
- European Commission, Communication on a European strategy for plastics in a circular economy, COM(2018) 28
- European Parliament, Resolution of 24 October 2018 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, 2018/0172(COD)
- Council, <u>Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment Final compromise text, 5483/19</u>
- Council of the European Union, EU action to restrict plastic pollution: Council agrees its position, Press release

Further reading:

- European Parliament, EPRS, <u>Single-use plastics and fishing gear: Reducing marine litter</u>, EU Legislation in progress briefing, June 2019
- European Parliament, EPRS, Plastics in a circular economy: Opportunities and challenges, Briefing, May 2017

Author: Vivienne Halleux, Members' Research Service, legislative-train@europarl.europa.eu

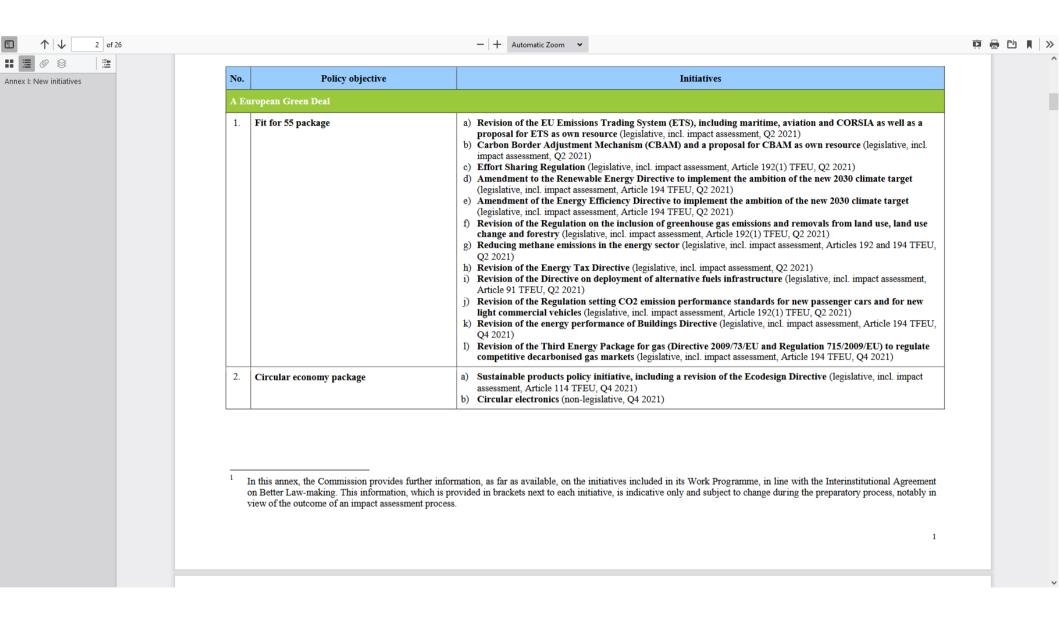
Visit the European Parliament homepages on <u>plastic waste</u> and <u>circular economy</u>

As of 20 November 2019.

PACKAGE



European Commission work program Adopted in October every year In the annex: a list of all upcoming proposals, check for your topics



Exercise: where are we now?

15-20 minutes

The EU directive on minimum wages or another EU law that you are interested in

1. When was the new EU law proposed? Where are we right now? Whats the name of the proposal and inter-institutional number?

(Legislative observatory, Legislative train)

2. Which EU commissioner, which council formation, which EP committe treat the proposal?

(Legislative observatory, Legislative train)

- 3. Find the Commission press secretary, EP press secretary and council press secretary!
- Google: European Commission + Spokesperson service

(https://ec.europa.eu/info/contact/press-services/press-contacts/press-contacts-spokespersons-service_sv)

- Google: European Parliament + press officer + committees

(https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/contacts/1/press-officers-in-brussels-strasbourg-by-policy-area-and-language)

Google: Council + press contacts (https://www.consilium.europa.eu/sv/press/contacts/)

Example: deforestation

Problem:

Who should be held accountable in the EU for not taking a tougher stance on deforestation?

How can I find out if agriculture/commodities lobbies impacted on legislation concerning eliminating (illegal) deforestation from supply chains?

First step: What EU laws are there?

Home > Nature and Biodiversity > Forests



Deforestation and forest degradation

Introduction

Forests cover roughly 30% of the world's land area. Besides their intrinsic beauty, richness and unique diversity, they are a major provider of various vital components of a healthy, functioning Earth. They host 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity and are an essential source of timber, food, medicine, fibre and shelter. More than 1.6 billion people rely on forests and their livelihoods and cultural integrity dependent on them. Forests also play a significant role in providing clean air, regulating the water cycle, capturing CO2, and preventing climate change and soil erosion.

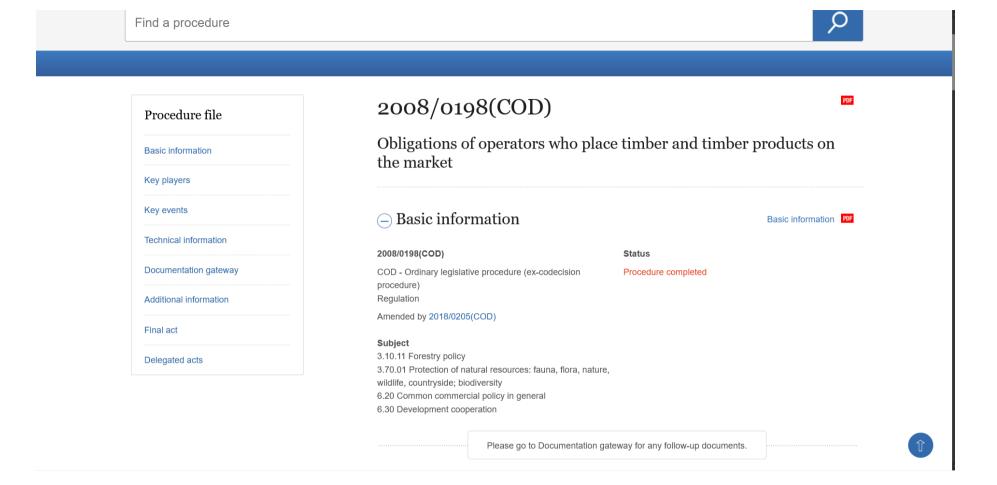
However, forests are rapidly disappearing around the world. Deforestation – the permanent destruction of forests and woodlands and conversion to non-forest uses – and forest degradation – the loss of the forests' capacity to provide their essential goods and services – are the biggest threats to forests. In the last 60 years, more than half of the tropical forests worldwide have been destroyed. While the phenomenon is not new, the current scale and pace of destruction is alarming. In 2017, more than one football pitch of forest was lost every second – the second highest recorded since 2001.

Deforestation occurs most concentrated in tropical rainforests. Tropical forests are disappearing

Start in the European Commission! Get an overview of existing EU laws (google EU commission + deforestation) Look what in the pipeline: working program

Second step: Follow the specific law

- Compare the legal texts. Where was it watered down?
- In the original commission proposal? In the parliament? Council?
- Talk to NGOs/lobbyists on the other side to identify the main issues.

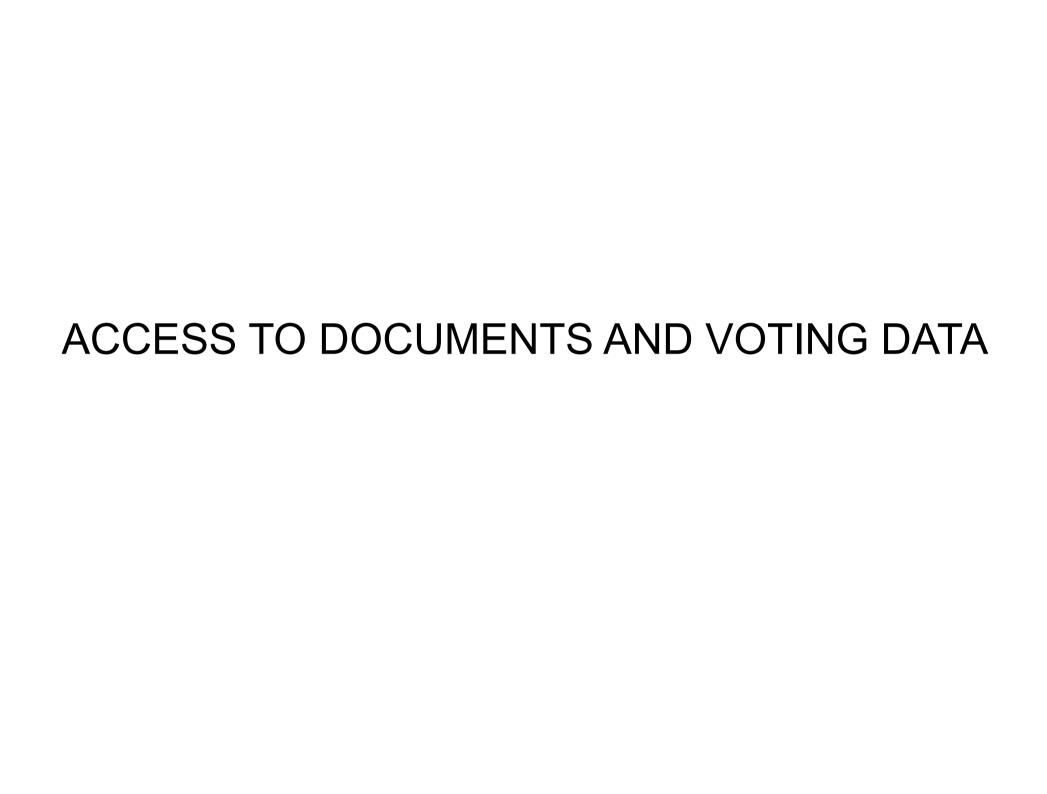


Legislative observatory + timber regulation

Third step: who has influenced it?

- Commission
 open consultation, expert groups, FOI
- Parliament
 compare amendments to position papers
- Council

 in the capitals



Votes

- Always check your government! Council website
- Check your national MEPs. EP website or Votewatch.org
- Council is a black box in negotiations, the EP is open.
- Trilogues also black box. Only access to documents once they are over.

The Council as a black box

- Investigate Europe, "the Council project" www.investigate-europe.eu/en/2020/secrets-of-thecouncil/
- Mis-match between its self-image and the legal obligations of the EU treaties.
- Our aim: try to lay the puzzle on specific EU laws, open the council.
- Method: talk to as many national sources as possible, request national documents
- National documents: instructions before every meeting
 + report after every meeting

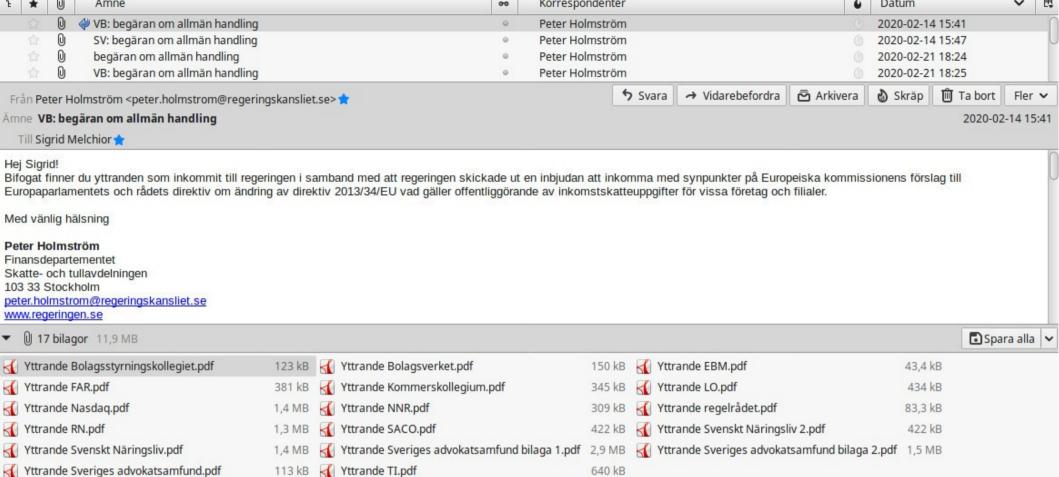
Documents from the Council

- The government's first analysis on the Commission proposal, "fact PM", consultations with national stakeholders (request from national government)
- Mandate/instruction before every working party/Coreper Capital→Brussels (request from national government, departement/perm rep)
- Report after every working party/Coreper, Brussels →Capital (request from national government)
- "Progress reports", discussion report, new proposed text (national government, council document register)
- EU affairs committee in national parliament, protocols of deliberations
- **Debates on legislation and votes** in the council are public (council website)

Efter diskussionen i Coreper den 2 maj 2019 sammanfattade att det föreföll finnas stöd för att generellt anta inledande mandat för förhandlingar med EP såsom allmänna inriktningar i rådet. I diskussionen var alla MS som yttrade sig i princip för detta, dock tveksamhet från och och även från som ville diskutera detaljerna ytterligare. Enligt fanns också stöd för den andra huvudfrågan ett mer proaktivt förhållningssätt när det gällde offentliggörande och publicering av handlingar i lagstiftningsärenden, men frågan i vilka fall och hur behövde fortsatt diskuteras på teknisk nivå (i enlighet med alternativ 3 i underlaget till Coreper). I denna fråga var och positiva till ett mer proaktivt förhållningssätt (alternativ 1) samtidigt som flera konstaterade att ett mer begränsat riktat förhållningssätt verkade vara en mer framkomlig väg. När det gällde proaktiv publicering ville majoriteten överlag se en fortsatt diskussion om en mer begränsad riktad proaktiv hållning i vissa fall (i enlighet med alternativ 3), och betonade behov av att säkra ett utrymme för interna överläggningar och en roll för Coreper att fatta beslut i enskilda fall.

Vid efterföljande möte i *Antici* + 1 (legal advisors) den 27 maj 2019 fanns fortsatt stöd för RS förslag att etablera en ny praxis innebärande generellt antagande av

Instruction from the government to Coreper II, 12 June 2019. About a discussion on increased transparency in the Council's legislative work.

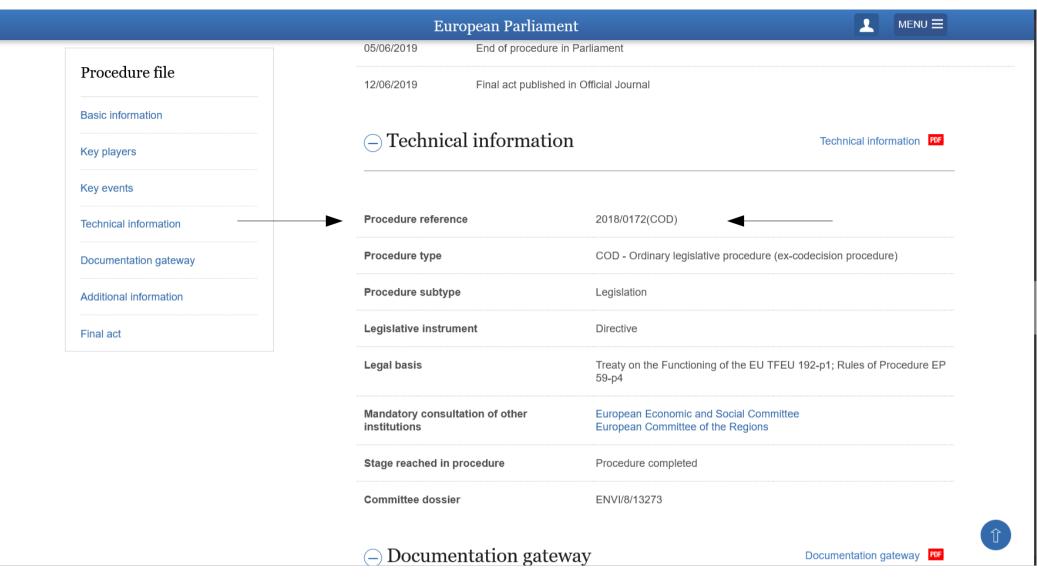


Here: all consultations with Swedish stakeholders on country-by-country reporting.

After the Commission proposal, the Swedish government writes a "fact PM", called other things in other countries. Often consults stakeholders.

Council access to documents

- https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents-publications/public-register/public-register-search/
- Search the "Interinstitutional file", eg. 2000/0183(COD)
- Find that number in the Legislative Observatory
- A list of all meetings dealing with that file. Use to map meetings, to know which dox to request from your capital.
- Progress reports, voting results
- Not all dox are here. Some will be made public upon request. So always make a formal request to the council itself. Three weeks delay.
- Request a document: https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents-publications/



Legislative observatory, Single-use plastics "procedure reference"



Home > Documents & Publications > Document register > Search in the register

General Secretariat of the Council

Search results

Please note that any references contained in the register are not legally binding. Only legal acts published in the Official Journal are binding.

[EN] 31 results

2018/0172(COD)

ST 11143 2021 INIT - LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS: CORRIGENDUM/RECTIFICATIF

21/09/2021

> <u>Directive (EU) 2019/904</u> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment

PE 11 2019 REV 1 - LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

05/06/2019

> DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON THE REDUCTION OF THE IMPACT OF CERTAIN PLASTIC PRODUCTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents-publications/public-register/public-register-search/



ΕN



European Council

Council of the European Union

Documents and publications

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The register has references to or the contents of the Council documents from 1999 onwards.

- > What you can find in the document register
- > Search for documents
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If the document you are looking for is not available in the Public register, you can request it.

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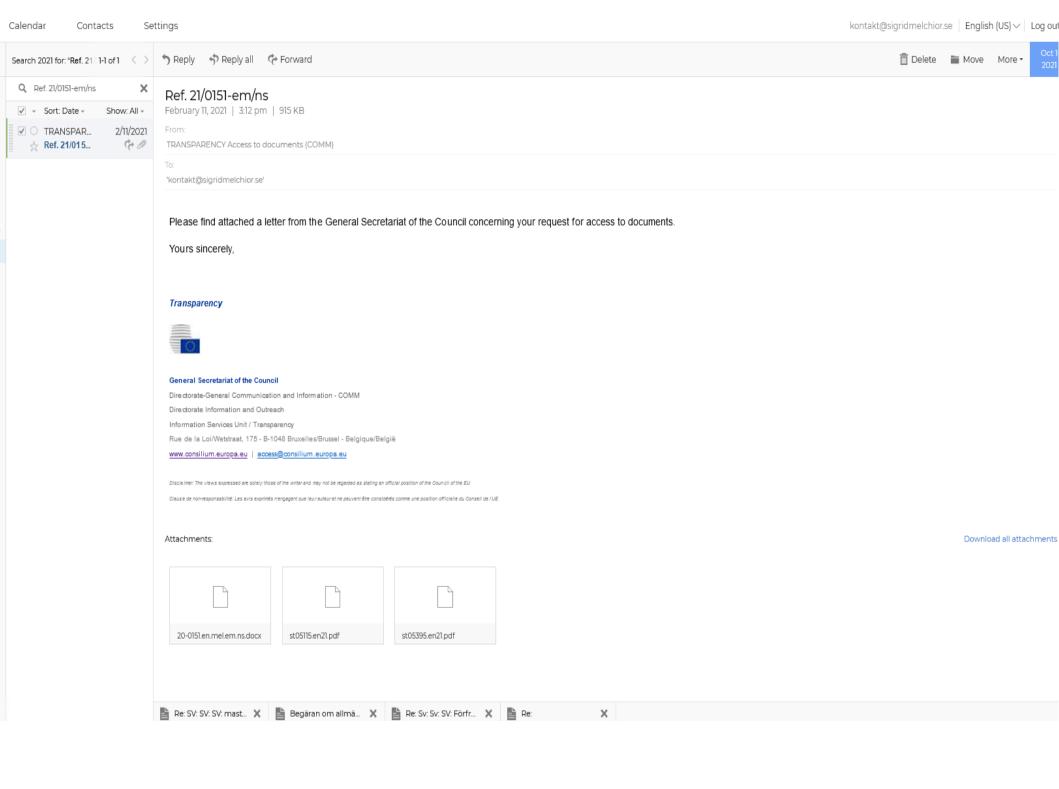
> Council archives

Agendas of meetings

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Publications

Additional resources

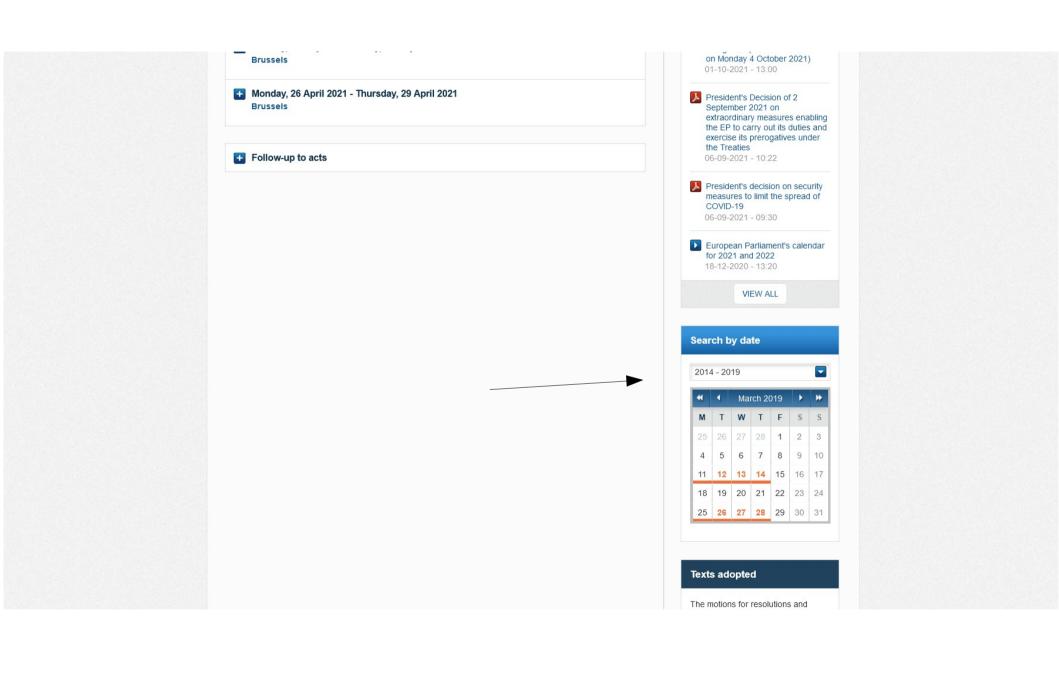


The European Parliament

- How did the MEPs vote?
- The EP position, the final deal.
- Amendments, specific points, final report.
- Vote with raise of hands, electronically, roll-call vote.
- All legislative reports = roll-call vote
- The juciest stuff = roll-call vote

Check how MEPs voted

- https://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/texts-adopted.html
- Search by date (find the date in Legislative observatory)
- In the upper right corner, it says "TA". Find the right file in the list of everything that was voted that day
- Note the name of the file "text tabled" from upper left corner, eg. "B9-0432/2021"
- Open new browser window, search again by date.
- Now choose "PV" in upper right corner.
- On the bottom of the page there, open the "roll-call votes" pdf.
- Choose the right file, eg "B9-0432/2021".



Texts adopted

Wednesday, 27 March 2019 - Strasbourg

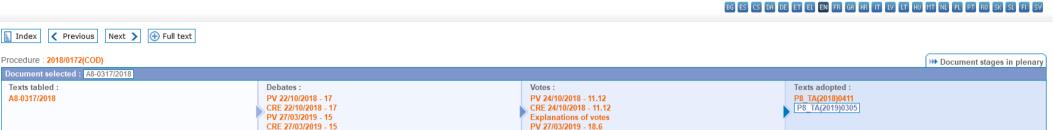
- ▶ Resources for the specific allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative ***I
- General arrangements for excise duty (recast) *
- Products eligible for exemption from or a reduction in dock dues *
- ▶ Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument ***I
- ► Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) ***I
- ▶ Framework for the recovery and resolution of central counterparties ***I
- ▶ European Crowdfunding Service Providers (ECSP) for business ***I
- ► Markets in financial instruments: crowdfunding service providers ***I
- ▶ European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund ***I
- ▶ Emission performance standards for new passenger cars and for new light commercial vehicles ***I
- ▶ Reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment ***I



- ▶ EU fertilising products ***I
- ▶ Protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work ***I
- ▶ Common rules for certain types of combined transport of goods between Member States ***I
- ▶ Disclosure of income tax information by certain undertakings and branches ***I
- ▶ Common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and financial rules for those ***!
- Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
- Instrument for financial support for external borders and visa
- ► Genetically modified soybean MON 87751 (MON-87751-7)
- ► Genetically modified maize 1507 × NK603 (DAS-Ø15Ø7-1 × MON-ØØ6Ø3-6)
- Certain uses of bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) (DEZA a.s.)
- ▶ Certain uses of bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) (Grupa Azoty Zakłady Azotowe Kędzierzyn S.A.)
- Certain uses of chromium trioxide
- Post-Arab Spring: way forward for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region







Explanations of votes

Texts adopted

121k 🗐 47k

Wednesday, 27 March 2019 - Strasbourg

P8 TA(2019)0305 A8-0317/2018

Reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment ***I



Text

European Parliament legislative resolution of 27 March 2019 on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment (COM(2018)0340 - C8-0218/2018 - 2018/0172(COD))



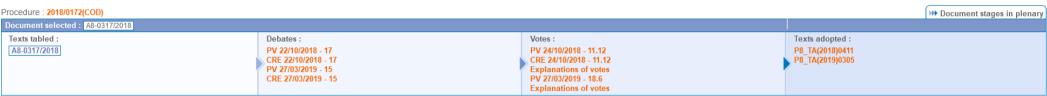
(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2018)0340).
- having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 192(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C8-0218/2018).
- having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 17 October 2018⁽¹⁾.
- having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions of 10 October 2018⁽²⁾
- having regard to the provisional agreement approved by the committee responsible under Rule 69f(4) of its Rules of Procedure and the undertaking given by the Council representative by letter of 18 January 2019 to approve Parliament's position, in accordance with Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the opinions of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the Committee on Fisheries (A8-0317/2018),









- EXPLANATORY STATEMENT
- ▶ ANNEX: LIST OF ENTITIES OR PERSONSFROM WHOM THE RAPPORTEUR HAS RECEIVED INPUT
- OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS
- OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY
- ▶ OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
- ▶ OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES
- ▶ PROCEDURE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE
- ▶ FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

▶ DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment

Amendment 1

Proposal for a directive Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) The high functionality and relatively low cost of plastic means that this material is increasingly ubiquitous in everyday life. Its growing use in short-lived applications, which are not designed for re-use or costeffective recycling means that related production and consumption patterns have become increasingly inefficient and linear. Therefore, in the context of the Circular Economy Action Plan³², the Commission concluded in the European Strategy for Plastics³³ that the steady increase in plastic waste generation and its leakage into our environment, in particular into the marine environment, must be tackled in order to achieve a truly circular lifecycle for plastics.

Amendment

(1) The high functionality and relatively low cost of plastic means that this material is increasingly ubiquitous in everyday life. Global production of plastic has increased sharply and in 2017 reached 348 million tonnes. The European share of that production represented 18,5 % (64,4 million tonnes, up by 3,4 % compared to production in the previous year). Its growing use in short-lived applications, which are not designed for re-use or costeffective recycling means that related production and consumption patterns have become increasingly inefficient and linear. Therefore, in the context of the Circular Economy Action Plan³², the Commission concluded in the European Strategy for Plastics³³ that the steady increase in plastic waste generation and its leakage into our environment, in particular into the marine environment, must be tackled in order to achieve a truly circular lifecycle for

PE624.162/1

EN





PV TA CRE

Previous Next >

Texts adopted

Wednesday, 27 March 2019 - Strasbourg

- ▶ Resources for the specific allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative ***I
- ▶ General arrangements for excise duty (recast) *
- ▶ Products eligible for exemption from or a reduction in dock dues *
- ▶ Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument ***I
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- ► Markets in financial instruments: crowdfunding service providers ***I
- ▶ European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund ***I
- ▶ Emission performance standards for new passenger cars and for new light commercial vehicles ***I
- ▶ Reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment ***I
- ▶ EU fertilising products ***I
- ▶ Protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work ***I
- ▶ Common rules for certain types of combined transport of goods between Member States ***I
- ▶ Disclosure of income tax information by certain undertakings and branches ***I
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- Certain uses of chromium trioxide
- ▶ Post-Arab Spring: way forward for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region

Texts (2659 kb)

Find the votes: PV in the upper right corner.

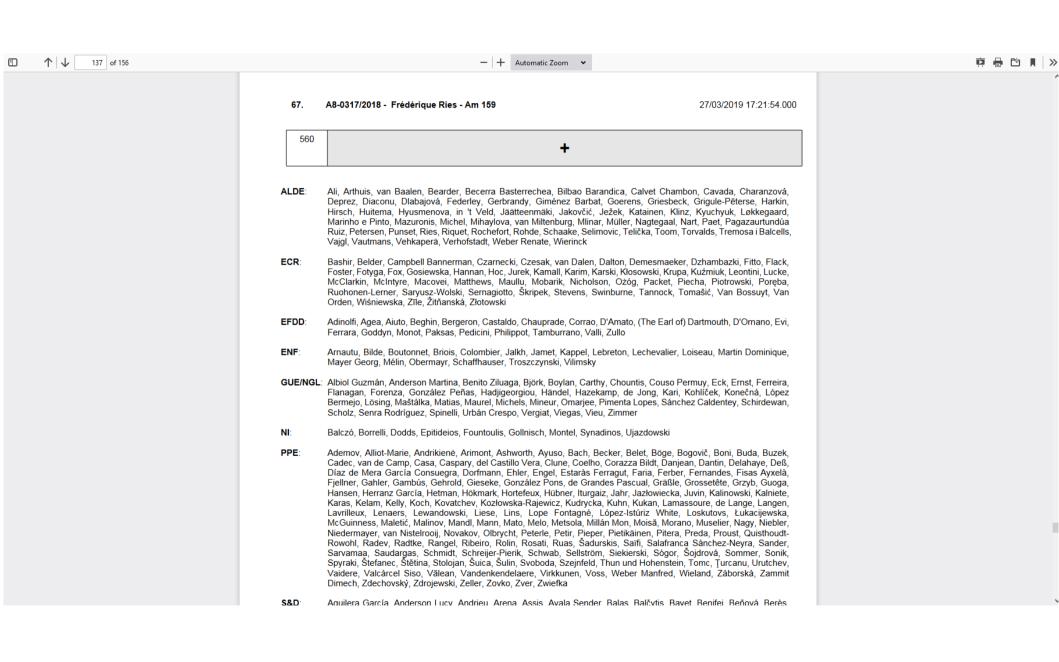
 10.0. markets in imancial instruments, crowdiunding service providers """ (vote) European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund ***I (vote) Emission performance standards for new passenger cars and for new light commercial vehicles ***I (vote) Reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment *** (vote) ▶ 18.7. EU fertilising products ***I (vote) ▶ 18.8. Protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work ***| (vote) ▶ 18.9. Common rules for certain types of combined transport of goods between Member States ***I (vote) ▶ 18.10. Disclosure of income tax information by certain undertakings and branches ****I (vote) 18.11. Common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and financial rules for those *** (vote) ▶ 18.12. Objection pursuant to Rule 105(3): Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (vote) ▶ 18.13. Objection pursuant to Rule 105(3): Instrument for financial support for external borders and visa (vote) ▶ 18.14. Objection pursuant to Rule 106: Genetically modified soybean MON 87751 (MON-87751-7) (vote) ▶ 18.15. Objection pursuant to Rule 106: Genetically modified maize 1507 x NK603 (DAS-Ø15Ø7-1 x MON-ØØ6Ø3-6) (vote) ▶ 18.16. Objection pursuant to Rule 106: Certain uses of bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) (DEZA a.s.) (vote) ▶ 18.17. Objection pursuant to Rule 106: Certain uses of bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) (Grupa Azoty Zakłady Azotowe Kędzierzyn S.A.) (vote) ▶ 18.18. Objection pursuant to Rule 106: Certain uses of chromium trioxide (vote) ▶ 18.19. Post-Arab Spring: way forward for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region (vote) ▶ 19. Explanations of vote 20. Corrections to votes and voting intentions 21. Listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (Kosovo) *** (debate) ▶ 22. Estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2020 – Section I – European Parliament (debate) 23. Quality of water intended for human consumption ***I (debate) 24. Interoperability between EU information systems in the field of police and judicial cooperation, asylum and migration ***| - Interoperability between EU information systems in the field of borders and visa ***| (debate) ▶ 25. Increasing the efficiency of restructuring, insolvency and discharge procedures ***! (debate) ▶ 26. Exercise of copyright and related rights applicable to certain online transmissions and retransmissions of television and radio programmes ***! (debate) ▶ 27. Decision establishing a European Peace Facility (debate) 28. Agenda of the next sitting 29. Closure of the sitting Attendance list Minutes (233 kb) Attendance list (62 kb) Results of votes (156 kb) Roll-call votes (2608 kb)

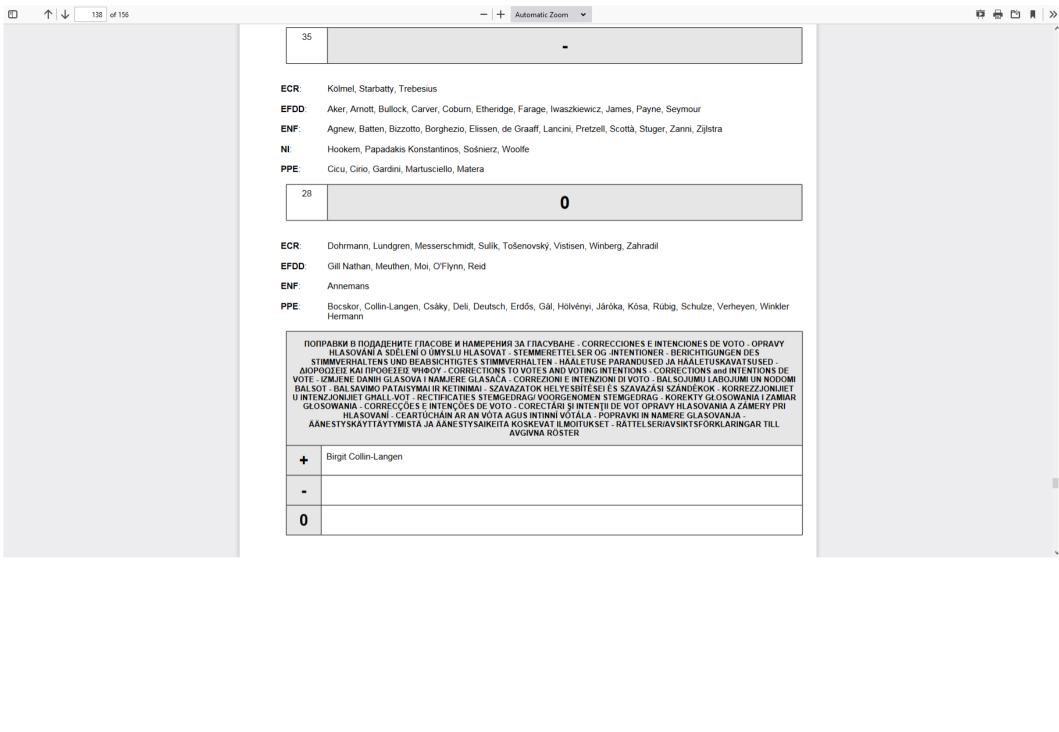
Minutes (233 kb) Attendance list (62 kb) Results of votes (156 kb) Roll-call votes (2608 kb)

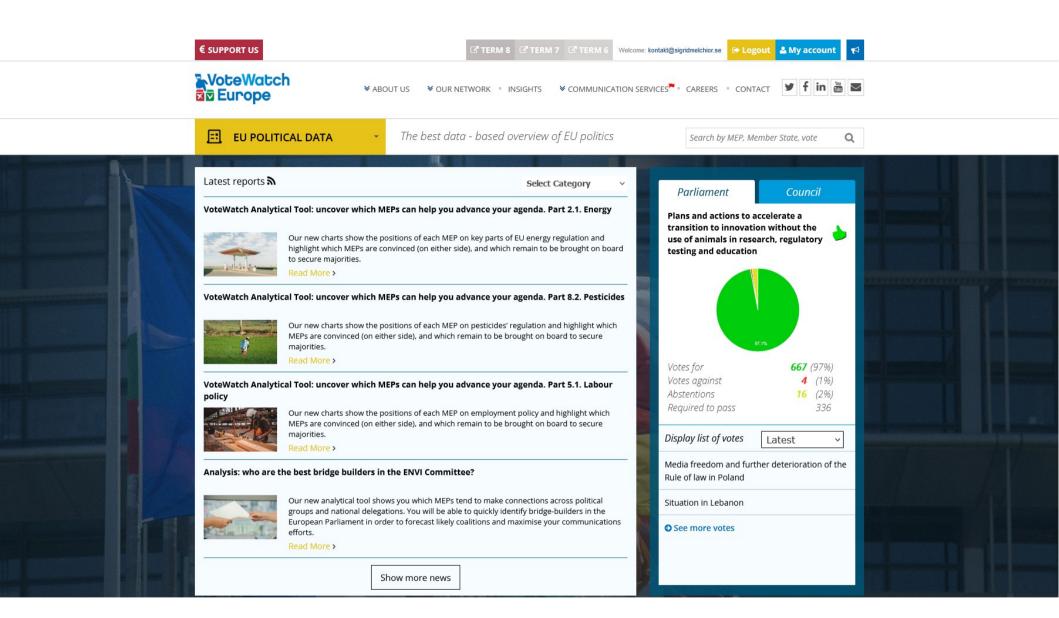
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Minutes (349 kb) Results (349 kb) Results of votes (161 kb) Results of votes (161 kb)

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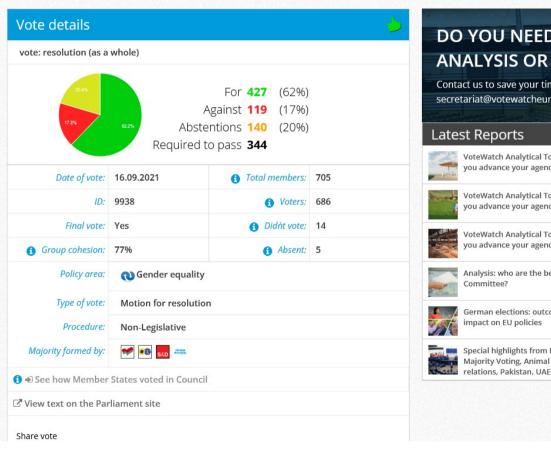




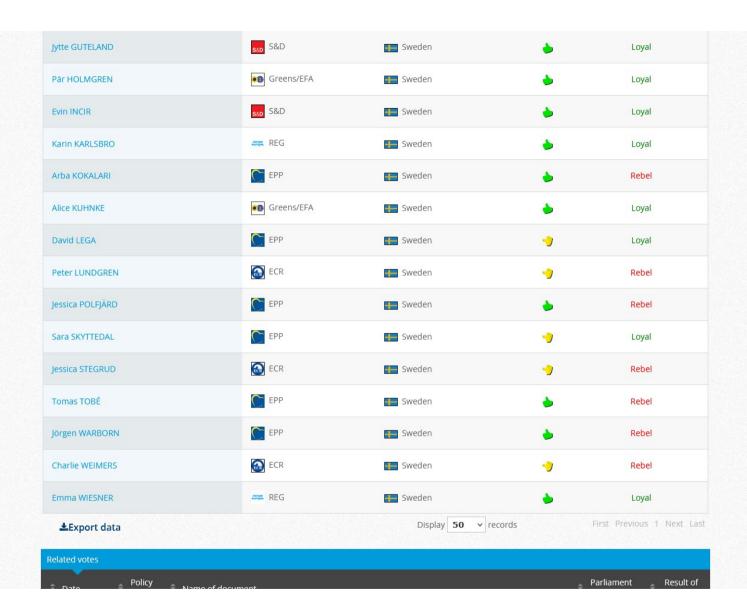


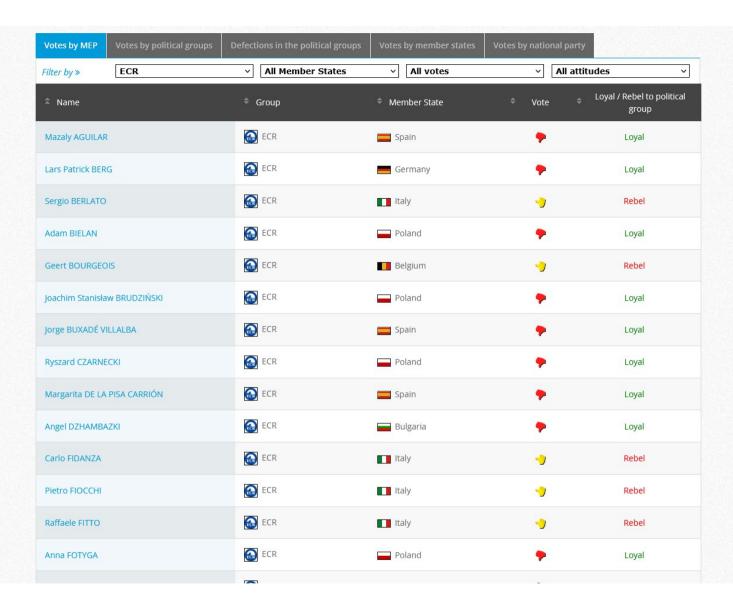
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Identifying gender-based violence as a new area of crime listed in Article 83(1) TFEU



















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"Four-column document"

Cross-border, journalist cooperations

EU = always cross-border

- EU = 27 governments
- The more cultures you understand, the more languages you speak = the better EU reporting
- Shortcut = cooperate with reporters from other countries
- No competition, direct access, win-win, time saving
- Start one now?

Data

- Eurostat (from national and regional sources in the EU countries)
 https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database
- Independent EU agencies
- EU:s data portal (collect from the two sources above)
 https://data.europa.eu/en
- European Commission impact analysis (before all legislative proposals)
- European business federations, lobbyists etc.
- Eurobarometern (opinion polls)
 https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/screen/home

What's going on?

Following daily news:

Subscribe to general newsletters: Eg. Politico, Euractiv, Financial times Brussels newsletter, Bloomberg, Euobserver weekly agenda

EU institutions press releases, daily/weekly agendas. Dont forget the EU court!

Midday Briefing, Commission daily press conference, only dayle EU pc, online

Europe by Satellite, EBS – use it as a daily agenda to not miss events

Ideas for EU stories:

National debate → look for the EU angle.

"shared competence" = EU angle

EU decision → look for national angle. How will it affect us when the law "comes home"? Find EU sources from your country who can "translate" between EU and the national

Check out other countries' debates about EU issues. The more languages/cultures you know, the better

To sum up:

- EU law is around 1/3 of the national laws. It's not an option whether or not to cover it.
- Always find out how your national policians act, never accept "the EU has decided..."
 Give the readers the tools to hold national politicians accountable.
- Request EU documents from EU institutions and your government.
- Always find the technical info: Where are we right now? Who are the main players from the three institutions? When is the most important decision taken?
- Talk to sources in all three EU institutions.
- If you don't know where to start: always start with the Commission.
- Cooperate with reporters from other countries. The more national sources the better.
- Most things can be found background info, statistics, votes. Don't give up!
- Ask the "stupid questions". Everyone thinks that the EU is complicated, sometimes EU press people use jargon it to make you feel stupid. Don't accept it!