

Press release – EP Today



EU4Health Programme

To fill gaps exposed by COVID-19 and ensure health systems can cope with threats to public health, MEPs are expected to reiterate their support for a strengthened EU health programme. During talks on the next EU long-term budget, Parliament's negotiating team succeeded in securing an additional €3.4 billion for the programme (€5.1 billion in total for 2021-2027). The vote will take place on Friday.

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Investing in the Green Deal

MEPs will debate Parliament's contribution to the Sustainable European Investment Plan that would allow a smooth transition to a carbon-neutral EU in 2050. MEPs will emphasise the need for investments to reduce economic and ecological disparities between member states and boost competitiveness, creating sustainable and high quality jobs. The vote takes place on Friday.

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COVID-19 vaccinations

In the morning, MEPs will debate with Commissioner Stella Kyriakides the criteria and conditions for the EU purchase of COVID-19 vaccinations. They are also due to receive answers on how to ensure equal access to safe, effective, and affordable vaccines everywhere, for anyone who needs them.

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In brief

New first Vice-President. Roberta Metsola (EPP) from Malta has been put forward as candidate for first Vice-President, replacing Mairead McGuinness who took up the post of European Commissioner. Since no other candidate was nominated, she will be elected by acclamation.

COVID-19 measures and European values. From 08:30, MEPs will quiz the Commission on the impact that national measures taken to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic have had on EU values. A resolution will be put to the vote on Friday.

Votes

The **first voting session** lasts from 09:30 to 10:45, results will be announced at 13:00.

MEPs will elect a new first Vice-President and vote on amendments on the EU Budget 2021.

The **second voting session** lasts from 14:30 to 15:45, with results announced at 18.15.

MEPs will cast their **final vote** on the 2021 budget and will vote **amendments** on:

- the EU4Health programme
- the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan.