

Plenary sessions

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Newsletter 16-19 July 2024 Strasbourg plenary session

Election of the President of the European Parliament

After the new Parliament is established on 16 July at 10.00 CEST, MEPs must first elect their President for the next two-and-a-half years.

3

Parliament's new Bureau: electing Vice-Presidents and Quaestors

The House is expected to elect its 14 Vice-Presidents and its five Quaestors on Tuesday 16 July and Wednesday 17 July.

5

Forming Parliament's committees and delegations

MEPs will confirm the number and size of Parliament's standing committees, sub-committees and delegations on Wednesday. Membership of the committees will be announced later on Friday.

7

Parliament to vote on Ursula von der Leyen's nomination for Commission President

If elected by MEPs on Thursday, Ursula von der Leyen is set to return to the office of European Commission President for the next five years.

9

New Parliament set to voice strong support for Ukraine

On Wednesday morning, political group leaders will make statements on the need for the EU's continuous support for Ukraine, followed by a vote on a resolution at 17.00.

10

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2024-07-16>

Newsletter - 16-19 July 2024 - Strasbourg plenary session

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1 | 10

Further information

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Election of the President of the European Parliament

After the new Parliament is established on 16 July at 10.00 CEST, MEPs must first elect their President for the next two-and-a-half years.

The President enjoys a broad range of executive and representative powers, extending to “all powers that are necessary to preside over the proceedings of Parliament and to ensure that they are properly conducted”.

How is the President elected?

Candidates may be put forward either by a political group or by a group of MEPs reaching the low threshold, i.e. 1/20th of MEPs. Ahead of the vote, candidates may address the plenary for a maximum of five minutes.

The election takes place by secret ballot and requires an absolute majority of valid votes cast, i.e. 50% plus one. Blank or spoiled votes are not taken into account. The deadline for presidential nominations is Monday, 15 July, at 19.00.

If no candidate is elected in the first round of voting, the same or other candidates can be nominated for a second round under the same conditions. A third round may take place if necessary, again with the same rules. If none of the candidates are elected in the third round of voting, the two candidates with the most votes in the third round proceed to a fourth and final round of voting, in which the candidate receiving the most votes wins.

Once elected, the new President will take the chair and may deliver an opening address.

Background

The process for electing the [EP President](#) is set out in Parliament’s [Rules of Procedure](#), in rules 14 to 16. The sitting at which a new President is elected is chaired by the outgoing President or by one of the outgoing Vice-Presidents (to be determined according to their order of precedence), or, in the absence of any of them, by the Member who has held office for the longest period. Eight tellers, chosen by lot from among MEPs, oversee the process.

Vote: Tuesday 16 July

Procedure: Election of Parliament’s President

Further information

[Press toolkit: After the European elections](#)

[Infographic: how the European Parliament President gets elected](#)

[EP Research Service - At A Glance: Electing the European Parliament's President \(17.06.2024\)](#)

[Rules of Procedure - new version to come into force in July 2024](#)

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

Parliament's new Bureau: electing Vice-Presidents and Quaestors

The House is expected to elect its 14 Vice-Presidents and its five Quaestors on Tuesday 16 July and Wednesday 17 July.

Following the election of its President, Parliament will also elect its 14 Vice-Presidents and five Quaestors, which comprise [Parliament's Bureau](#).

What do Vice-Presidents and Quaestors do?

Vice-Presidents can replace the President, including to chair plenary sittings and in representing the Parliament at specific ceremonies or acts, when necessary. Quaestors deal with administrative matters directly affecting MEPs.

Vice-Presidents and Quaestors are members of the European Parliament's Bureau (where Quaestors participate in an advisory capacity), which lays down rules for Parliament's smooth functioning. Among its other duties, the Bureau draws up Parliament's preliminary draft budget and decides on administrative, staff and organisational matters. In practice, the political groups aim to ensure that the composition of the Bureau broadly reflects the numerical strength of the groups, taking into account also the results of the President's election.

The process

Parliament's [Rules of Procedure](#) (rules 17 and 18) set out how Bureau members are elected. As for the President, nominations are put forward either by a political group or by a group of MEPs reaching the low threshold (1/20th of MEPs).

Vice-Presidents are elected in a single ballot, by an absolute majority of votes cast. If the number of successful candidates is less than 14, a second vote is held for the remaining seats, under the same conditions. If a third vote is necessary, a simple majority is sufficient. Vice-Presidents take precedence in the order in which they are elected and, in the event of a tie, by age. If voted by acclamation, a vote by secret ballot determines the order of precedence.

In each round MEPs may vote for up to as many candidates as the number of seats available in that round, but they have to vote for more than half of the positions to be filled - rounded up. In practical terms, this means that in the first round MEPs will have to vote for at least eight candidates and, if there is an odd number of seats in subsequent rounds, the number would be rounded up: for example, for nine positions the minimum would be five votes. The ballot papers that do not meet the threshold are not counted.

The election of Quaestors follows the same procedure as that for the election of Vice-

Presidents.

Vote: Tuesday, 16 July (Vice-Presidents) and Wednesday, 17 July (Questors)

Procedure: Election of Vice-presidents and Quaestors

Further information

[Press toolkit: After the European elections](#)

[EP facts and figures: Parliament's structure](#)

[Rules of Procedure - new version to come into force in July 2024](#)

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

Forming Parliament's committees and delegations

MEPs will confirm the number and size of Parliament's standing committees, sub-committees and delegations on Wednesday. Membership of the committees will be announced later on Friday.

The vote on the proposal by the Conference of Presidents (i.e. the President and political group leaders) to set up the European Parliament's committees and delegations for the new legislative period is expected to take place on Wednesday. The lists of MEPs to be appointed to each committee (which are decided internally by the political groups and non-attached members) are expected to be announced on Friday.

According to Parliament's [Rules of Procedure](#) (rule 216), the composition of its committees and subcommittees should as far as possible reflect the composition of Parliament as a whole. The proportional distribution of committee seats among political groups must not depart from the nearest appropriate whole number.

Background

Each committee's responsibilities are set out in Annex VI of the Rules of Procedure. During the previous legislative period, Parliament approved structural reforms for a [more modern and efficient Parliament](#).

Committees meet in public (unless the rules dictate otherwise) once or twice a month in Brussels. Their work revolves around drawing up, amending, and voting on legislative proposals and own-initiative reports, as well as holding debates with Council and Commission representatives, hearings with external experts, and organising fact-finding missions. They will play a crucial role in the [upcoming hearings of Commissioners-designate](#).

Parliament can set up sub-committees and special temporary committees to deal with specific issues, and may also create committees of inquiry to investigate allegations of maladministration of EU law. The [Conference of Committee Chairs](#) coordinates their work.

Vote: Wednesday, 17 July

Appointments: Friday, 19 July

Procedure: setting up Parliament's committees and delegations

Further information

[Committees webpage](#)

[Press toolkit: After the European elections](#)

[EP facts and figures: Parliament's structure](#)

[Rules of Procedure - new version to come into force in July 2024](#)

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

Parliament to vote on Ursula von der Leyen's nomination for Commission President

If elected by MEPs on Thursday, Ursula von der Leyen is set to return to the office of European Commission President for the next five years.

At 09.00 on Thursday, she will take the floor in Parliament's plenary session and outline her vision and plans as Commission President, followed by a debate with MEPs.

The vote by secret paper ballot will take place at 13.00, following the debate.

Background

[Article 14 of the Treaty of the European Union](#) provides that the EP "shall elect the President of the Commission." In practice, based on Parliament's [Rules of Procedure](#) (rule 128), the candidate proposed by the European Council has to present their political guidelines to Parliament, followed by a debate. Parliament then elects the President of the Commission by a majority of its component MEPs - i.e. 361, in a Parliament of 720 Members. If the candidate does not obtain the required majority, the President will invite the European Council to put forward another within one month, for election in accordance with the same procedure.

Ms von der Leyen has been Commission President since 2019 and was the EPP's [lead candidate](#) in the 6-9 June European elections.

Debate: Thursday 18 July

Vote: Thursday 18 July

Procedure: Election of Commission President

Further information

[Rules of Procedure - new version to come into force in July 2024](#)

[Timeline to new EU institutional leadership](#)

[The six policy priorities of the von der Leyen Commission: An end-of-term assessment](#)

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

New Parliament set to voice strong support for Ukraine

On Wednesday morning, political group leaders will make statements on the need for the EU's continuous support for Ukraine, followed by a vote on a resolution at 17.00.

With Russia intensifying its bombardment of Ukrainian civil infrastructure, including strikes on the country's largest paediatric clinic, political group leaders will discuss the latest developments in Russia's war of aggression. In a vote on a resolution at 17.00, MEPs will set out the newly elected Parliament's position and are expected to reaffirm their strong support for Ukraine.

Here is a (non-exhaustive) list of [Ukraine resolutions adopted by MEPs](#) during the previous legislative term (2019-2024).

Debate: Wednesday 17 July

Vote: Wednesday 17 July

Procedure: Parliament statement - Debate on specific matters of interest to the European Union (rule 167 of new Rules of Procedure), non-legislative resolution

Further information

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