

EU in the world / Migration

Citizens' recommendations and the EU context: Panel 4 of the Conference on the Future of Europe



STUDY

EU in the world / Migration

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ABSTRACT

As part of the Conference on the Future of Europe, 800 citizens debated their ideas for the European Union in four thematic panels.

The citizens involved in Panel 4 considered the possibilities for two related themes: the EU in the world and migration.

This publication presents their recommendations, as well as a selection of related European Parliament resolutions and EU legislation, funding programmes and other activities. These background elements are not exhaustive, but have been selected to provide contextual material. For some wide-ranging recommendations, the background material focuses on the most prominent aspects of the proposal.

This paper was requested by Guy Verhofstadt, the Chair of the European Parliament's delegation to the Conference on the Future of Europe, on behalf of the delegation.

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This paper will be published on the European Parliament's online database, '[Think tank](#)'.

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Summary

Between October 2021 and February 2022, a diverse group of 200 EU citizens came together to debate topics related to the theme of 'EU in the world / Migration'. As members of one of the four thematic European citizens' panels, these participants played a vital role in the Conference on the Future of Europe, a project involving people from across the EU in online and in-person discussions about the future of the EU. After meeting twice to consider issues and possible EU responses, the 200 participants gathered again for the last session and endorsed 40 recommendations.

Their recommendations, along with other ideas gathered on the conference's multilingual digital platform and in other forums, were sent to the plenary session of the conference held in March 2022. Citizens from the panel joined the plenary – along with political representatives and other stakeholders – to move the discussion forward and contribute to a final report proposing changes to the EU's policies and ways of working.

This publication presents the 40 recommendations that emerged from the citizens' panel on 'EU in the world / Migration', along with background information on the European Parliament's positions and the EU's activities related to the recommendations. The background information presented here is not exhaustive, but attempts to highlight recent and significant EU work in the area. The aim is to help the conference's decision makers – including citizens – understand what has been done or is being done to further advance work on the topic.

The European Parliament has fervently supported citizens' participation in the political process. In addition to serving as their elected body in the EU, the European Parliament pushes for citizens' voices to be heard directly. The Conference on the Future of Europe has provided an opportunity for that to happen.

Introduction

'Improving citizens' participation and transparency at EU level is key to bringing the Union closer to citizens and increasing citizens' trust and confidence in EU institutions, as well as achieving a real multi-level democracy'.

– European Parliament resolution of 7 July 2021 on citizens' dialogues and citizens' participation in EU decision-making

From September 2021 to February 2022, 800 randomly selected citizens from all Member States met to brainstorm about different themes at the heart of the European project. Their discussions were part of the Conference on the Future of Europe, a major EU project that aims to involve citizens from all walks of life in discussions about the future of the European Union.

The European citizens' panels produced four extensive sets of recommendations. Those recommendations were debated during the conference plenary, which gathered a diverse group of 'representatives', including citizens, lawmakers, policymakers and other stakeholders.

The citizens' panels were divided into four policy areas, each with 200 participants:

- Panel 1 – A stronger economy, social justice and jobs / Education, youth, culture and sport / Digital transformation
- Panel 2 – European democracy / Values and rights, rule of law, security
- Panel 3 – Climate change, environment / Health
- Panel 4 – EU in the world / Migration.

Each panel met three times – first in Strasbourg, then in hybrid mode and, finally, in person again, in different cities in the EU. Their task was to discuss what they wanted from the European Union and to propose recommendations for the EU institutions. Ideas from the citizens' panels were supplemented by suggestions gathered from the conference's multilingual digital platform and other forums.

The citizens participating in the four panels were randomly selected from categories that would ensure they represented the whole EU population in terms of age, geographic origin, gender, socioeconomic background and level of education. One third of the citizens in each panel were younger than 25.

These panels marked the first time in EU history that citizens were consulted in such a structured manner.

Citizens and the European Parliament

The idea of citizens' panels was originally launched by the European Parliament in a [resolution from January 2020](#), although this was not the first time that the Parliament advocated the participation and engagement of citizens in the European project.

The European Parliament had already passed a [2017 resolution](#) reflecting 'on the future of the EU' with a 'platform for such reflection and engagement with European citizens and civil society'. The legislature's commitment to involving citizens has remained steady in the years since – as is clear from a [recent resolution](#) from July 2021 on citizens' dialogues and citizens' participation in EU decision-making.

The European Parliament has consistently stressed how important it is that EU institutions engage with citizens and involve them in transparent, transnational and inclusive political processes. As the only directly elected EU institution, the European Parliament provides an obvious platform for public discussion and interaction. The European Parliament also encourages civic engagement through online forums and

petitions, town hall meetings, national, local and regional initiatives, and other platforms that build bridges between citizens and politics.

The process after the panels

The citizens' recommendations were conveyed to the conference plenary, along with other ideas generated through the conference's online platform and other events, including national citizens' panels, seminars and conferences. The level of involvement has been impressive: by mid-March 2022, more than 16 000 ideas and 21 000 comments had been submitted to the digital platform, and some 6 000 events had been organised as part of the conference.

At the plenary sessions, 80 selected ambassadors represented the four European citizens' panels. These representatives also sat in the conference's working groups to ensure a fair and inclusive discussion on important EU matters.

On 21 and 22 January 2022, the ambassadors of Panels 2 and 3 presented the recommendations of their panels and debated the results with other members of the plenary. On 11 and 12 March 2022, the other two panels (1 and 4) presented their recommendations to another plenary session.

The conference plenary was designed to bring together a diverse range of participants: in addition to the ambassadors from each European citizens' panel, plenaries included members of the European Parliament and of national parliaments; elected representatives from local and regional assemblies; and representatives of the European Commission, national governments, civil society, social partners, the conference's national citizens' panels and the EU's consultative bodies (the European Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee).

This diversity is important because the plenary adopts proposals by consensus. If representatives of the European Parliament, Council, Commission and national parliaments agree on a proposal, but the citizens from the national and European panels do not, the final report will express this divergence.

The outcome of the conference, including the recommendations adopted, will be transmitted to the presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. All three institutions have committed to following up on the proposals.

Recommendations from Panel 4 on 'Europe in the world / Migration'

For Panel 4 on 'EU in the world / Migration', the citizens' recommendations range from new ways of voting within the EU to applying sanctions, from certifying sustainable products to recycling, and from providing potential migrants with more information to distributing them more fairly across the EU.

Their recommendations were clustered into five work streams:

1. Self-reliance and stability
2. The EU as an international partner
3. A strong EU in a peaceful world
4. Migration from a human point of view
5. Responsibility and solidarity across the EU.

Some of these recommendations look at the broad picture, while others touch upon specific details of EU reform. While the general theme 'EU in the world' considered issues related to foreign policy and relations, citizens often focused on action that could be taken within the EU.

Autonomy was an important theme, with a number of recommendations addressing the need to reduce the EU's dependence on strategic products (recommendations 1 and 4) and energy supplies (2 and 14).

Environmental considerations were flagged in several proposals, concerning both Europe (16, 17) and developing countries (12). The importance of ensuring that imports are sustainable (3, 13) and not made with child labour (11) was another theme.

In a number of cases, citizens pointed to the importance of creating greater unity in the EU – through a common labour framework (28), educational programmes about the EU (23) and a more cohesive sense of EU identity (26).

Citizens' desire for consistency was particularly evident in their numerous recommendations concerning migration. The recommendations of different panellists echoed one another; they asked for a 'joint and collective migration policy' (29), an EU regulation 'to be uniformly applicable in all Member States' (31), 'joint standards' (34), 'uniform standards' (37) and 'a common, transparent system' (39).

While the panel was concluded before the start of the war in Ukraine, a number of recommendations focused on issues that have only become more pressing since: the way that EU foreign policy decisions are taken and voted (21), sanctions (22), human rights (5) and the prospect of creating 'Joint Armed Forces of the European Union' (20).

Some of these recommendations could be implemented using the EU's existing legislative, executive and budgetary capacities, while others would require the instruments provided in the EU's treaties to be enhanced.

Citizens are clearly keen to help improve EU policies and activities. The recommendation 'that the EU create and strengthen links with citizens' (18) echoed the call for 'stronger citizen participation in EU politics' (19). Whatever the next steps are, citizens are ready to contribute.

This publication: describing the EU context

This paper presents background information relevant to each of the 40 recommendations produced by Panel 4 on 'EU in the world / Migration.' These recommendations were endorsed during the panel's final session, held in Maastricht from 11 to 13 February 2022.

The proposals are presented here in the same order that they were presented in the panel, and the title of each section corresponds to the title of each 'sub-stream' of the panel.

For each of the 40 recommendations, three types of information are presented:

- First, the European Parliament's position on the topic, often defined through its resolutions. In many cases, the European Parliament has proposed concrete measures in the areas of the 40 recommendations or has encouraged other institutions (including the European Commission) to take legislative initiatives in those areas.
- Second, existing EU legislation, programmes and/or initiatives. Relevant articles in the EU treaties are mentioned, as are official documents, positions and funding programmes.
- Third, publications available on the [European Parliament's Think Tank site](#), for readers interested in obtaining more information.

This paper is not intended to serve as an exhaustive list of all resolutions and activities on the subjects covered by the recommendations. Instead, the paper provides a selection – sometimes focusing on the most prominent aspect of a recommendation's wide-ranging proposal.

Three other papers present the recommendations from Panel 1 (on 'A stronger economy, social justice and jobs / Education, culture, youth and sport / Digital transformation'), Panel 2 (on 'European democracy / Values and rights, rule of law, security') and Panel 3 (on 'Climate change, environment / Health').

Infographic

The Conference on the Future of Europe

The **Conference on the Future of Europe** is a bottom-up exercise allowing European citizens to express their opinion on the Union's future policies and functioning. Tools such as the digital platform and citizens' panels enable discussion of topics that matter to them.



Multilingual Digital Platform

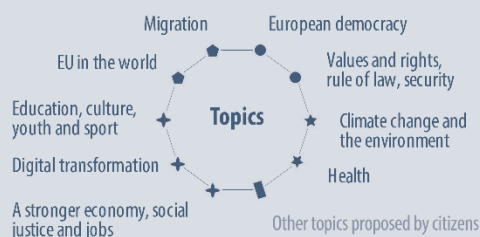
Multilingual hub for citizens to share and debate ideas

What it is

- Main hub for citizens to share ideas and send contributions
- Repository of citizens' contributions and documents
- Input from events taking place under the umbrella of the Conference
- Publication of conclusions reached by the Conference

Conference Charter

- Citizens and event organisers must respect the Conference Charter:
- Respect **EU values**: human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights
 - Encourage diversity in the debates and respect freedom of speech
 - No hate speech or content which is illegal or deliberately false or misleading
 - Favour cross-border participation and use of different languages



- Guarantee full transparency, with input from citizens analysed and published on the digital platform
- Webstream or broadcast events whenever possible
- Respect data protection rules and the visual identity of the conference

Moderation of platform supervised by the Executive Board



Conference Plenary

449 representatives

Representatives	Per Member State
European Parliament	108
National parliaments	108 (4)
European Citizens' Panels	80
Council	54 (2)
National events and/or panels	27 (1)
Committee of the Regions	18
Economic and Social Committee	18
Social partners	12
Civil society organisations	8
Local elected representatives	6
Regional elected representatives	6
European Commission	3
President of the European Youth Forum	1

Debates and discusses

The recommendations from the Citizens' Panels
The input from the multilingual platform

Work prepared

By 9 thematic working groups

Puts forward

Proposals to the Executive Board (on a consensual basis)

Consensus

To be found at least between the European Parliament, Council, Commission, and national parliaments



European Citizens' Panels

Forums where citizens discuss specific themes and provide a set of recommendations to the Conference plenary for the EU institutions to follow up

Four citizens' panels set up, between them covering the nine topics shown above

200 citizens on each panel, selected at random

- At least 1 man and 1 woman per Member State, applying degressive proportionality as in Parliament
- 1/3 should be between 16 and 25 years of age

Representatives of each panel take part in plenary

- At least 1/3 between 16 and 25 years of age
- To present their recommendations

Broad representation of citizens

- Geographic origin
- Gender
- Age
- Socioeconomic background
- Level of education



Executive Board

9 representatives

- 3 from the European Parliament
- 3 from the Council of the EU
- 3 from the European Commission

Co-Chairs

- Guy Verhofstadt (Parliament)
- Clément Beaune* (Council)
- Dubravka Šuica (Commission)

Observers from the European Parliament, Council, national parliaments, Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions, other EU institutions and European social partners

Decide on the work of the Conference

Prepare the meetings of the plenary

Report to the joint presidency on the plenary's conclusions

Consensus

of the nine representatives

Joint Presidency

European Parliament	Roberta Metsola
Council of the EU	Emmanuel Macron*
European Commission	Ursula von der Leyen

Common Secretariat

Equal number from the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission

Ensure functioning of the Conference, assist the Executive Board and the Plenary

*The Council representatives change with the rotating presidency.

This is a further update of an infographic originally published in June 2021.

Source: European Parliamentary Research Service

Citizens' recommendations

Stream 1: Self-reliance and stability

Substream 1.1: Autonomy of the EU

<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that strategic products from European fabrication (such as agricultural products, semiconductors, medical products, innovative digital and environmental technologies) should be better promoted and financially supported to keep them available and affordable to European consumers and reduce dependencies from outside Europe to the largest possible extent. This support could include structural and regional policies, support to keep industries and supply chains within the EU, tax breaks, subsidies, an active SME policy as well as education programs to keep related qualifications and jobs in Europe. However, active industrial policy should be selective and focused on innovative products or those that are relevant to secure basic needs and services.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In its resolution of 25 November 2020 on a new industrial strategy for Europe, Parliament stressed that the EU's sovereignty and strategic autonomy require an autonomous and competitive industrial base and massive investment in research and innovation. In order to reduce over-reliance and increase resilience, the EU's industrial strategy should strengthen, shorten and diversify the supply chains of European industries. Parliament highlighted the need to prioritise investment in industrial sectors of vital importance, such as security, climate-relevant technologies, food sovereignty and health. In its resolution of 16 December 2020 on a new strategy for European SMEs, Parliament stressed that SMEs are essential to the EU economy and called for a specific action plan supporting SMEs.</p> <p>In its resolutions of 17 September 2020 and of 24 November 2021, Parliament advocated for the restoration of the EU's independence in health matters by, inter alia, introducing financial measures and incentives to encourage the industry to locate its activities in Europe. It called on the Commission to promote dialogue with the Member States and relevant stakeholders to encourage 'Made in Europe' pharmaceuticals by enhancing manufacturing and supply resilience, and to explore the possibility of establishing an EU fund for negotiating and purchasing orphan drugs and other new medicines.</p> <p>In its resolutions of 20 May 2021 on shaping the digital future of Europe and of 24 November 2021 on a European strategy for critical raw materials, Parliament stressed that Europe's autonomy in strategic sectors cannot be achieved without a competitive and sustainable EU ecosystem for critical materials. Parliament called for, among other things, a stronger policy on the circular economy applied to digital devices and semiconductors, and the promotion of the uptake of new technologies by SMEs, mid-caps and start-ups through measures such as tax incentives and the introduction of an EU 'start-up visa'.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>On 10 March 2020, the Commission presented a new industrial strategy for Europe aimed at driving Europe's competitiveness and reinforcing its strategic autonomy. Relevant sectoral initiatives include an action plan on critical raw materials adopted in September 2020, a pharmaceuticals strategy adopted in November 2020, and an action plan on synergies between civil, defence and space industries adopted in February 2021. The Commission updated the EU industrial strategy in May 2021 and published a first report analysing the EU's current and future strategic dependencies</p>

	<p>and capacities in the areas of key products and technologies, as well as possible measures to address them.</p> <p>On 8 February 2022, the Commission presented the European Chips Act, which includes a set of measures to strengthen the EU’s resilience and technological leadership in the field of semiconductors. The package also includes a proposal for a regulation to set up a chips for Europe initiative, aiming to strengthen research, development and innovation, a new framework to ensure security of supply, and a coordination mechanism aimed at better control of the chips supply chain.</p> <p>The proposal on foreign subsidies distorting the single market, submitted in May 2021, also aims to ensure the EU’s strategic autonomy by addressing potential distortions caused by foreign governments giving subsidies to businesses that wish to acquire an EU company or bid in public procurement.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publication for more information</p>	<p>Ramahandry, T., et al., Key enabling technologies for Europe’s technological sovereignty, EPRS, December 2021.</p> <p>Codagnone, C., et al., Europe’s Digital Decade and Autonomy, POLDEP, Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union, October 2021.</p> <p>Anghel, S., et al., On the path to ‘strategic autonomy’ – The EU in an evolving geopolitical environment, EPRS, September 2020.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the EU reduce dependencies from oil and gas imports. This should be done by actively supporting public transport and energy efficiency projects, a Europe wide high speed rail and freight network, the expansion of clean and renewable energy provision (in particular in solar and wind) and alternative technologies (such as hydrogen or waste-to-energy). The EU should also promote the cultural change from the individual car towards public transport, e-car sharing and biking.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Parliament's resolution of 16 February 2022 on a European strategy for offshore renewable energy stressed the need to expand existing infrastructure, increase the volume of electricity, direct heating and cooling generated from offshore renewable energy, and increase investment in research and development in order to ensure responsible and sustainable development of the offshore renewable energy sector.</p> <p>Its resolution of 19 May 2021 on the European strategy for hydrogen underlined that hydrogen's characteristics make it a good candidate to replace fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for certain types of transport and stressed that stronger legislation is needed to incentivise the use of zero-emission fuels.</p> <p>Its resolution of 20 January 2021 on the revision of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) guidelines stressed the need to ensure a seamless, efficient and sustainable mobility system for passenger transport and freight logistics and underlined that the development of high-speed and high-quality passenger rail services throughout the TEN-T core networks must be a high priority over the coming years.</p> <p>Parliament's resolution of 15 January 2020 on the European Green Deal called for increased investment to enhance and support the connectivity of the EU railway networks in order to enable EU-wide equal access to public railway transport and to make passenger transport by rail more attractive.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>On 14 December 2021, the Commission adopted four proposals on the EU's transport system: the new TEN-T Regulation and its action plan, requiring major TEN-T passenger rail lines to allow trains to travel at 160 kilometres per hour or faster by 2040; the Intelligent Transport Systems Directive, promoting smart mobility; the new EU urban mobility framework focusing on public transport, walking and cycling; the extension of TEN-T to neighbouring non-EU countries.</p> <p>On 14 July 2021, the Commission adopted three transport-specific initiatives – ReFuel Aviation to ensure that increasing levels of sustainable aviation fuels will be available at EU airports; FuelEU Maritime to stimulate the uptake of sustainable maritime fuels and zero-emission marine propulsion technologies by ships calling at European ports; and the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation to ensure that the greening of our transport fleets is supported by adequate recharging and refuelling infrastructure.</p> <p>On 14 July 2021, the Commission published a recast of the Renewable Energy Directive, with a new EU target of 'at least 40 %' renewable energy by 2030. The Commission proposed the expansion of the clean and renewable energy provision. It also proposed a new social climate fund to provide dedicated funding to Member States in order to help citizens finance investments in energy efficiency, new heating and cooling systems, and cleaner mobility. The social climate fund would be financed through the EU budget, using an amount equivalent to 25 % of the expected revenues of emissions trading for building and road transport fuels.</p>

EPRS/POLDEP publication for more information	Dinu, A., Revision of the TEN-T Regulation , EPRS, July 2021. Hindriks, I., Rodrigues, M., Belicka, D., Krupenkpo, D. and Fuchs, G., The future of transport in the context of the recovery plan , EPRS, January 2022.
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<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend a law is passed at EU level in order to ensure that all EU production and supply processes and the goods which are imported, comply with qualitative, ethical, sustainable and all applicable human rights European standards; offering certification for products abiding by this law.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Parliament has called for stricter rules for corporate governance throughout the production chain to ensure that companies comply with the high European quality standards. Furthermore, in its resolution of 26 November 2020 on the EU trade policy review, Parliament called on the Commission to ensure the effective implementation of existing free trade agreements, including the environmental and labour rights provisions which are part of the trade and sustainable development chapters. The enforceability of the trade and sustainable development chapters could be significantly improved and Parliament suggests that, as a minimum, recent advances in the enforceability of EU trade policy should be considered, namely the ability to tackle any non-compliance by partners through unilateral sanctions as a last resort. Parliament also called for other complementary measures such as banning the importation of products linked to severe human rights violations such as forced labour or child labour.</p> <p>In its resolutions on 17 December 2020 and of 10 March 2021, Parliament called on the Commission to include in its proposal on corporate due diligence and corporate accountability of 23 February 2022 mandatory obligations for companies and to ensure that products placed on the EU market conform with environmental and human rights criteria. This should be complemented by other measures such as a ban on importing products related to severe human rights violations, which will be included in a separate legislative proposal expected before the end of 2022.</p> <p>In its resolution of 10 February 2021 on the new circular economy action plan, Parliament called on the Commission to propose 'binding material and environmental footprint targets for the whole product lifecycle for each product category placed on the EU market'.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>EU law (Article 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) requires all relevant EU policies, including trade policy, to promote sustainable development. EU trade policy aims to ensure that economic development goes hand in hand with social justice, respect for human rights and high labour standards.</p> <p>The EU strives to ensure that its trade policy helps to promote sustainable development through special incentives for developing countries in the EU trade agreements, and through trade and development policy. According to the Commission joint communication of 12 December 2011 entitled 'Human Rights and Democracy at the Heart of EU External Action', prior to launching or concluding free trade agreement negotiations, the human rights situation of the partner country has to be considered.</p> <p>On 26 February 2018, after a debate involving the EU institutions, the Member States and civil society organisations, the Commission issued a non-paper with 15 action points to make the implementation of trade and sustainable development chapters more effective and to improve their enforcement. The Commission is expected to propose an update to the implementation of the 15-point action plan by summer 2022.</p> <p>In Europe, mandatory origin labelling (for example, for geographical indications) already exists for several categories related to food and beverages and is also part of</p>

	<p>EU's trade agreements. Regulation (EU) 2018/848 on organic production and labelling of organic products applies to production inside the EU and to imported goods. Furthermore, at EU level, mandatory origin provisions have been developed for fruits and vegetables, honey, olive oil, eggs, wine, alcoholic spirits, fish, beef, beef products, and unprocessed meat from pigs, sheep, goats and poultry. As part of the European Green Deal's farm to fork strategy, the Commission has committed to proposing mandatory origin indications on a wider range of products by the fourth quarter of 2022.</p> <p>The Commission communication of 5 May 2009 on the role of fair trade pledges EU support for trade-related sustainability schemes. Efforts to tighten sustainability requirements in the EU food system should be accompanied by policies that help raise standards globally, in order to avoid the externalisation and export of unsustainable practices.</p> <p>The Commission proposal of 23 February 2022 for a directive on corporate sustainability due diligence responds to suggestions outlined in Parliament's resolution on the same topic.</p> <p>The new proposal for a generalised scheme of preferences (GSP) includes an updated and enlarged list of core international conventions in the fields of human and labour rights, rule of law and environmental protection, which GSP+ beneficiary countries will have to abide by. Parliament proposes extending this list even further, notably in the field of human and labour rights.</p> <p>In a separate communication of 23 February 2022 on decent work worldwide, the Commission announced preparatory work on legislation to ban products made using forced labour, including forced child labour, which will cover both domestic and imported products.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Zamfir, I., Towards a mandatory EU system of due diligence for supply chains, EPRS, October 2020.</p> <p>Zamfir, I., Human rights in EU trade agreements, EPRS, July 2019</p> <p>Zamfir, I., Human rights in EU trade policy, EPRS, May 2018.</p> <p>Bartels, L., The European Parliament's role in relation to human rights in trade and investment agreements, POLDEP, February 2014.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend the implementation of a European-wide programme to support small local producers from strategic sectors across all Member States. These producers would be professionally trained, financially supported through subsidies and encouraged to produce (where raw materials are available in the EU) more goods fulfilling requirements at the expense of imports.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In its resolution of 25 November 2020 on a new industrial strategy for Europe, and of 16 December 2020 on a new strategy for European small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), Parliament outlined that the EU objectives in the areas of sustainability and digitisation should be fully matched by financial and other resources to enable Member States to promote SME transition. It encouraged the Commission to support SMEs' effort to, inter alia, upgrade obsolete equipment, enhance knowledge transfer, identify the most effective uses of technologies such as industrial AI, and upskill the workforce. Furthermore, it called on the Commission to consider the creation of an SME voucher programme to support the above, and for a substantial part of Horizon Europe funding to be made available to SMEs.</p> <p>In its resolutions of 17 September 2020 and of 24 November 2021, Parliament stressed the geostrategic need for the EU to regain its independence with regard to healthcare. Parliament called on the Commission to promote 'Made in Europe' pharmaceuticals, to create an innovation ecosystem that facilitates exchange of experience and access for SMEs, and to seek new advisory strategies to ease access to innovation funds for smaller companies.</p> <p>In its resolutions of 20 May 2021 and of 24 November 2021 on shaping the digital future of Europe and on a European strategy for critical raw materials (CRMs), Parliament emphasised the specific role that first movers, SMEs and start-ups are playing in the reorientation towards the circular economy in many EU industries and services. Parliament called on the Commission to promote research and development on, and skills and competencies relating to, CRMs for SMEs as a growth strategy for EU high-tech technologies, such as lithium-ion batteries, fuel cells, electric traction motors, robotics, drones, 3D printing and medical devices.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>In May 2021, the Commission updated the 2020 new industrial strategy and put the SME dimension at its core – the proposed SME strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe includes actions on capacity-building and support for the transition to sustainability and digitalisation, reduction of the regulatory burden and improved financing for SMEs and start-ups. The strategy builds on the foundations of the EU's existing SME policy framework and support programmes, notably the 2008 Small Business Act, the 2016 start-up and scale-up initiative, the competitiveness of enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME) programme, and SME support actions funded under Horizon Europe programme. The single market programme also includes an SME pillar managed by the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency. The recently launched 'Ideas Powered for business SME Fund', implemented by the European Union Intellectual Property Office, will run until December 2022 to provide financial support to enable SMEs to protect their intellectual property rights.</p> <p>On 8 February 2022, the Commission presented the European Chips Act, a set of measures to strengthen the EU's resilience and technological leadership in the field of semiconductors, which includes a 'chips for Europe' initiative, a new framework to ensure the security of supply, and a dedicated chips fund to facilitate access to finance for start-ups.</p>

EPRS/POLDEP publication for more information	Ramahandry, T., et al., Key enabling technologies for Europe's technological sovereignty , EPRS, December 2021. Smith, S. J., SME focus – Long-term strategy for the European industrial future , POLDEP, Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union, April 2020.
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<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend to improve the implementation of human rights at a European level through: Raising awareness in countries that do not comply, at the required extent, with ECHR (European Convention of Human Rights) or the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms; a strict control, coordinated by the EU and the Justice Scoreboard, of the extent to which human rights are respected among Member States and a strong enforcement of compliance through different types of sanctions.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Parliament has always supported the development and strengthening of instruments for the monitoring of the respect of, and for the enforcement of, human rights in the EU and in its Member States, notably through: EU accession to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR), the drafting and approval of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (CFR), the strengthening of the Fundamental Rights Agency, the activation of Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) in the event of risks or breaches of Article 2 TEU values (e.g. in 2018 and 2020), the creation of an EU mechanism to monitor and sanction violations of Article 2 TEU values (e.g. in 2016 and 2020), and through the Conditionality Regulation. Parliament also supports raising awareness of fundamental rights through the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>The monitoring of compliance by states – including the EU Member States, which are all signatories to the ECHR – with the ECHR and with the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) is carried out by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which is separate from the EU. Still, fundamental rights as guaranteed by the ECHR constitute general principles of EU law (Article 6 TEU) and the EU institutions therefore have a duty to respect the ECHR and the ECtHR’s jurisprudence and work toward the EU’s accession to the ECHR.</p> <p>Within the EU system, the Commission is the guardian of the Treaties, including the CFR, and can launch infringement proceedings, while the Court of Justice of the European Union can sanction violations of EU law on the basis of the CFR. Fundamental rights are included in Article 2 TEU and the EU institutions can activate Article 7 TEU in the event of breaches, or risks of breaches, of fundamental rights. CFR violations can lead to the suspension of funds. Breaches of fundamental rights connected to the rule of law or which put the EU budget at risk can be sanctioned through the Conditionality Regulation. In the Bosphorus judgment, the ECtHR stated that the protection of fundamental rights in the EU is equivalent to the protection of those guaranteed by the ECHR.</p> <p>There are various instruments at EU level to monitor and check respect for fundamental rights in the EU and its Member States: the Fundamental Rights Agency produces an annual report and other documents related to fundamental rights; every year, the Commission issues a rule of law report containing references to fundamental rights, a report on the implementation of the CFR, and the Justice Scoreboard, which for the moment focuses on justice systems; Parliament adopts reports on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU (e.g. in 2020) and resolutions on specific fundamental rights or fundamental rights situations in Member States, and has established the Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group within the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs. Recently, MEPs asked for compliance with fundamental rights to be included more prominently in EU reports.</p>

	<p>The obligation to respect the ECHR is enshrined in the human rights clauses of the EU's association agreements with its eastern partners and western Balkan countries. In the event of grave breaches, the EU can take appropriate measures, including the suspension of the agreement.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Marzocchi, O., The protection of Article 2 TEU values in the EU, European Parliament fact sheet, October 2021.</p> <p>De Schutter, O., Strengthening the Fundamental Rights Agency: The Revision of the Fundamental Rights Agency Regulation, European Parliament Directorate-General for Internal Policies, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, May 2020.</p> <p>Pech, L. and Bárd, P., The Commission's Rule of Law Report and the EU Monitoring and Enforcement of Article 2 TEU Values, European Parliament Directorate-General for Internal Policies, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, February 2022.</p> <p>Pech, L., et al., 'An EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights – Annex I', European Parliamentary Research Service, April 2016.</p> <p>Bárd, P., et al., 'An EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights – Annex II', European Parliamentary Research Service, April 2016.</p>

<p>6</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend a revision and an intense communication campaign at a cross European level to be initiated in order for EURES (European Employment Services), the EU Immigration Portal and the EU Skills Profile Tool for Third Country Nationals to be better known by European citizens and more frequently accessed by EU companies in order to advertise and publicise their vacancies.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>To better match labour supply and demand and to pay more attention to cross-border regions and young people, the European Parliament supported the European Employment Services (EURES) reform in 2016. Regulation (EU) 2016/589 aims to overcome the shortcomings that have emerged since EURES was set up in 1993, such as an incomplete pool of job vacancies and CVs, limited automated matching potential and insufficient cross-border information on labour. More recently, Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) has underlined the need to further use harmonisation and mutual recognition tools to provide services and recognise professional qualifications throughout the EU. In its report (2020/2007 INI) on the impact of EU rules on the free movements of workers and services, EMPL also stressed the need to fully digitalise procedures regarding labour mobility and the provision of services based both digitally and physically within the European Labour Authority (ELA).</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>The EURES job mobility portal is the main EU tool for facilitating intra-EU labour mobility. In contrast, the EU Immigration Portal for non-EU nationals, provides practical information about coming to work or study in the EU for more than 90 days and the EU Skills Profile Tool for Third Country Nationals is intended for use by organisations assisting non-EU nationals.</p> <p>The EURES portal is the only online platform that provides access to vacancies and CVs throughout the entire EU. However, a number of other websites provide information on different aspects of labour mobility (including the Your Europe portal, the Europass portal and Moving & Working in Europe), which may lead to overlapping information across EU sites. This overlap can lead to confusion among EURES clients, which limits the quality of the service.</p> <p>To enhance the available opportunities offered by free movement, while ensuring fair labour mobility, the (ELA) – an initiative under the European Pillar of Social Rights – was established on 31 July 2019 (Regulation (EU) 2019/1149). The ELA is expected to reach full operational capacity by 2024. The ELA integrates or absorbs various previous European initiatives on labour mobility, in particular EURES. Therefore, the ELA may be the most appropriate EU authority to start an intense communication campaign to enhance the visibility of EURES and other EU mobility tools.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Kiss, M., Enhancing workers' mobility and reinvigorating EURES, European Parliamentary Research Service, February 2016.</p> <p>Kraatz, S., European Labour Authority: Workshop summary report, Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies, Directorate-General for Internal Policies, June 2018.</p> <p>Konle-Seidl, R., Free movement of workers, Fact sheets on the EU, Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies, Directorate-General for Internal Policies, October 2021.</p>

Substream 1.2: Borders

<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that a system for labour migration into the EU that is based on the real needs of the European labour markets is created. There should be a unified recognition system of professional and academic diplomas from outside and within the EU. There should be professional qualification offers as well as cultural and linguistic integration offers for qualified migrants. Asylum seekers with relevant qualifications should be given access to the labour market. There should be an integrated agency for which the European Cooperation Network of Employment Services could be the basis.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>On several occasions, Parliament has called for more legal options for migrant workers coming to the EU and for enhanced social inclusion and integration into the labour market of migrants and refugees.</p> <p>In July 2016, Parliament called for a ‘holistic approach’ on migration and for general rules on the entry and residence for third country nationals (i.e. non-EU nationals) seeking employment to fill gaps identified in the Union labour market.</p> <p>In several resolutions (e.g. 2013, 2016), Parliament called for recognition of professional qualifications of third-country nationals, including refugees and asylum seekers.</p> <p>In its resolution of May 2021, Parliament put forward recommendations on improving the intra-EU mobility of third-country nationals, improving relations with non-EU countries, enhancing legal pathways and further developing the EU’s legislative framework on these matters.</p> <p>In its resolution of November 2021, Parliament called on the Commission to submit a legislative proposal with provisions on: an EU talent pool for legal non-EU migrants; admittance schemes for various categories of third-country workers; a framework for talent partnerships between Member States and non-EU countries; a Union-wide transnational advisory service network for legal migrant workers. Parliament also made recommendations for the improvement of several relevant directives.</p> <p>Under the 2018 partial provisional agreement of Parliament and Council on the Reception Conditions recast Directive, asylum seekers would be allowed to work six months after requesting asylum and would get access to language courses from the date when they made their application for asylum.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>The current EU approach to labour immigration into the EU consists of sectoral legislation for different categories of migrant, e.g: the Blue Card Directive, the Single Permit Directive, the Seasonal Workers Directive, the Directive on intra-corporate transfer, the Researchers Directive (also covering studies, training, voluntary service etc.), and the Long-term Residents Directive.</p> <p>The 2004 Common Basic Principles for immigrant integration policy are the foundation of EU initiatives on integration. The EU action plan on integration and inclusion (2021-2027) sets out measures to step up action in education, training, employment and skills.</p> <p>Article 3(3) of the Professional Qualifications Directive provides that if a Member State has recognised a professional qualification obtained in a non-EU country, after three years’ professional experience in that Member State, this experience will be considered evidence of a professional qualification within the European Union.</p>

	<p>The Commission is currently working on developing criteria and procedures that would allow the comparison of non-EU countries' national and regional qualifications frameworks with the European Qualifications Framework. The EU Skills Profile Tool for third country nationals supports early profiling of the skills of refugees, migrants and citizens of non-EU countries who are in the EU. In June 2021, the Commission launched Talent Partnerships, which aim to match the skills of workers from countries outside the EU with the EU labour market's needs.</p> <p>EU trade agreements generally allow the mutual recognition of professional qualifications from non-EU countries when companies do business in each other's territory. Such mutual recognition agreements may cover professional qualifications (as in the case of Canada, South Korea or Mexico).</p>
EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information	<p>Van Ballegooij W, Thirion E., The cost of non-Europe in the area of legal migration, European Parliamentary Research Service, March 2019.</p> <p>Navarra C., Fernandes M., Legal migration policy and law. European added value assessment, European Parliamentary Research Service, September 2021.</p> <p>Schmid-Drüner, M., Fact Sheets on the European Union, Immigration policy, September 2021.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the European Union expands its legislation to assign more power and independence to Frontex. This enables them to intervene in all member states so that they can ensure the protection of all external borders of the EU. However, the EU should organise process audits on the organisation of Frontex, as full transparency is needed in the functioning of Frontex to avoid all kinds of abuses.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Before the 2015 migration crisis, the European Parliament had already called for the role of Frontex (officially the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the EU) to be bolstered in order to increase its capacity to respond effectively to changing migration flows. In its resolution of 2 April 2014 on the mid-term review of the Stockholm Programme, Parliament called for the establishment of European border guards to assist Member States with the protection of their external borders. In December 2015, the European Commission proposed transforming Frontex into the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG). Regulation (EU) 2016/1624 reinforced safeguards on, among others, fundamental rights and transparency. Then, in September 2018, the Commission proposed strengthening the recently created EBCG as part of its initiative to develop a long-term EU migration policy. Parliament’s amendments to the proposal were designed to enhance the efficiency of the agency, increase transparency and accountability to Parliament and further expand its role regarding return while ensuring respect for fundamental rights. As clearly stated in recital 103, Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 (the Frontex Regulation) respects the fundamental rights and values established in Articles 2 and 6 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. Throughout 2020, media, international actors and non-governmental organisations published reports that alleged that EU Member State authorities at the EU’s external borders were violating migrants’ fundamental rights, including through collective expulsions or ‘pushbacks’. Several reports mentioned the involvement of the EBCG. Parliament had already strongly condemned the practice of ‘pushbacks’ in both 2016 and 2018. More recently, it recalled that ‘automatic refusal of entry, <i>refoulement</i> and collective expulsions are prohibited under EU and international law’.</p> <p>In February 2021, Parliament launched the new Frontex Scrutiny Working Group, which was tasked with assessing all aspects of the functioning of Frontex, including its compliance with fundamental rights. In July 2021, the working group presented its report to Parliament’s Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs. It did not find conclusive evidence that the agency was directly involved in any ‘pushbacks’ of migrants or violations of their rights at external borders, but the report did point to serious shortcomings.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>Article 3(2) TEU demands that the EU ‘offer its citizens an area [...] without internal frontiers, in which the free movement of persons is ensured in conjunction with appropriate measures with respect to external border controls [...]’. Article 67(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) stipulates that the EU ‘shall ensure the absence of internal border controls for persons and shall frame a common policy on asylum, immigration and external border control, based on solidarity between Member States which is fair towards third-country nationals’. According to Article 77(1)(b) TFEU, the EU shall furthermore develop a policy with a view to</p>

	<p>'carrying out checks on persons and efficient monitoring of the crossing of external borders'.</p> <p>Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 transformed Frontex into the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, and repealed Regulations (EU) No 1052/2013 and (EU) 2016/1624.</p> <p>Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents governs the fundamental right of citizens and residents of the EU to have access to documents held by the EU.</p>
EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information	<p>Del Monte, M. and Luyten, K., European Parliament scrutiny of Frontex, European Parliamentary Research Service, November 2021.</p> <p>Díaz Crego, M., European Border and Coast Guard, European Parliamentary Research Service, April 2019.</p> <p>Rijpma, J., The proposal for a European Border and Coast Guard: evolution or revolution in external border management?, European Parliament Directorate-General for Internal Policies, March 2016.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the European Union organises, specifically for economic migrants, the possibility of screening citizens (on proven skills, background, etc.) in the country of departure; this is to determine who is eligible to come and work in the EU, depending on the economic needs / vacancies of the host country. These screening criteria must be public and consultable by everyone. This can be realised by creating an (online) European Agency for Immigration.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In several resolutions (2013, 2016), Parliament called for better recognition of qualifications of third country nationals (i.e. non-EU nationals), including refugees and asylum seekers. In its resolution of March 2021, Parliament highlighted the importance of improving mobility opportunities for non-EU countries so as to create a 'brain gain' rather than a brain drain. It also expressed its support for prioritising eligible applications for EU work permits from countries of origin and transit (for instance, through embassies or online) as part of the development of a genuine circular migration policy. In May 2021 Parliament also reiterated that the European consensus on development adopted in June 2017 highlights that well-managed migration and mobility can contribute positively to inclusive growth and sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>In its resolution of May 2021, Parliament stressed that the EU could play an important role in pre-screening candidates' qualifications, language levels and skills. It called for the development of an EU talent pool and matching platform covering all sectors and levels of employment that would serve as a one-stop shop for non-EU workers, EU employers and national administrations. The new tool would match and manage skills supply with national labour markets. In its resolution of November 2021, Parliament called for the establishment of an admission scheme with conditions of entry and residence for low- and medium-skilled third country workers. This scheme would include the creation of a framework for third country workers to be able to have their skills and qualifications properly recognised and validated for use on the Member States' labour markets.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>The current approach at EU level for labour immigration into the EU consists of adopting sectoral legislation by category of migrants. The recently revised Blue Card Directive provides that EU Blue Card holders should enjoy the same rights as a country's nationals in terms of recognition of qualifications. Article 3(3) of the Professional Qualifications Directive provides that if a Member State has recognised a professional qualification obtained in a non-EU country, after three years' professional experience in that Member State this experience will be considered evidence of a professional qualification within the European Union.</p> <p>In its 2017 recommendation for the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), the Council called for the development and application of criteria and procedures that would allow the comparison of non-EU countries' national and regional qualifications frameworks with the EQF. A project team within the EQF Advisory Group is currently working on this task. The European Training Foundation supports partner countries in the EQF process.</p> <p>The EU Skills Profile Tool for third country nationals supports early profiling of the skills of refugees, migrants and citizens of non-EU countries who are staying in the EU. It will become an integral part of the new Europass platform. In November 2020, the Commission presented a new EU action plan on integration and inclusion (2021-2027), which contains recommendations for improving the</p>

	<p>recognition of qualifications, including through enhanced cooperation between national centres for the recognition of qualifications (ENIC-NARIC networks).</p> <p>In June 2021, the Commission launched Talent Partnerships, as announced in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, which aim to match the skills of workers from countries outside the EU with the EU labour market's needs. These instruments are in line with the Global Skills Partnerships (GSP) approach, through which countries of origin and destination cooperate with the business community to develop skills that are in demand through vocational training, mobility, migration and professional exchange schemes.</p> <p>In addition, assistance to non-EU countries on migration and labour mobility are addressed via the Global Europe (geographic envelopes, and the global challenges programme) and the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) regulation under the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework (MFF).</p>
EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information	<p>Orav, A., Labour market integration of asylum-seekers and refugees, European Parliament Research Service, June 2021.</p> <p>Navarra, C., Fernandes, M., Legal migration policy and law. European added value assessment, European Parliament Research Service, September 2021.</p> <p>Garcia Andrade, P., et al., EU Cooperation with Third Countries in the Field of Migration, Policy Department C, October 2015.</p>

<p>10 EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the European Union ensures that the welcoming policy and facilities at each border are the same, respecting human rights and guaranteeing the safety and health of all migrants (for example pregnant women and children).</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>During the February 2021 plenary session, Parliament adopted a resolution on the implementation of Article 43 of the Asylum Procedures Directive, noting ‘that all persons seeking international protection have an interest in their requests being dealt with as quickly and efficiently as possible’. In its resolution of 11 March 2021 on children’s rights, Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to ensure safeguards and procedural rights for children are implemented under the Common European Asylum System, with a particular focus on swift family reunification processes in line with Council Directive 2003/86/EC, and to ensure that children have adequate reception conditions and social and medical care, that qualified legal representatives and guardians for unaccompanied minors are appointed in a timely manner and that child-friendly information is provided. Parliament’s stance on fundamental rights at the EU’s borders and the prohibition of pushbacks can also be identified in its resolution of 8 July 2021 on the Annual Report on the Functioning of the Schengen Area.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>Article 21 of the Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU) and Article 3(9) of the Return Directive (2008/115/EC) set the stage for taking into account the specific situation of vulnerable persons seeking international protection, including minors, pregnant women, persons with serious illnesses, single parents with minor children, and persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of violence. In 2016, the Commission proposed a recast of the Reception Conditions Directive to further harmonise reception conditions throughout the EU and to reduce the incentives to move to another country after claiming asylum, as a part of the agenda on migration, which had not been adopted at that point. The Commission pushed for its adoption in the context of the Pact for Migration and Asylum. Among the provisional measures proposed in December 2021 to face the emergency situation at the border with Belarus, the Commission included the need for Member States to focus on covering basic needs at reception centres. Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 EU on the Schengen Borders Code provide Member States with the obligation to respect the rights of refugees to have access to international protection and in particular non-refoulement. In its proposal for a regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399, the Commission suggests putting exceptional measures in place at the EU’s external borders by introducing provisions allowing Member States to take the measures needed to manage migration in a humane, orderly and dignified manner that is fully respectful of fundamental rights and humanitarian principles. Furthermore, in Article 7 of the proposal for a regulation introducing a screening of third country nationals at the external borders, the Commission suggests introducing an independent monitoring mechanism to ensure compliance with EU and international law during screening and that the Member States adopt relevant provisions to investigate allegations of non-respect for fundamental rights.</p> <p>In July 2021, EUR 9.88 billion were allocated to the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund for 2021-2027, with the policy objective of contributing to the efficient management of migration flows and to the implementation, strengthening and development of the common policy on asylum and the</p>

	<p>common immigration policy, including through a special article on gender equality and non-discrimination in this process. In response to the war in Ukraine, the EU reacted promptly to welcome refugees and the Commission suggested activating Council Directive 2001/55/EC to grant immediate temporary protection in the EU to people fleeing the conflict.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Davaki, K., The traumas endured by refugee women and their consequences for integration and participation in the EU host country, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament, April 2021.</p> <p>Moreno-Lax, V., et al., The EU Approach on Migration in the Mediterranean, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament, June 2021.</p> <p>Brouwer, E., et al., The European Commission's legislative proposals in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament July 2021.</p> <p>Ecorys, Cornelisse, G. and Campesi, G., The European Commission's New Pact on Migration and Asylum – Horizontal substitute impact assessment, European Parliamentary Research Service, August 2021.</p>

Stream 2: The EU as an international partner

Substream 2.1: Trade and relations in an ethical perspective

<p>11 EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the EU enforces restrictions on the import of products from countries that allow child labour. This should be done through a blacklist of companies that is periodically updated according to current conditions. We furthermore recommend to ensure gradual access to schooling for children leaving the workforce and to promote consumer awareness on child labour through information made by official EU channels, e.g. campaigns and storytelling.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Parliament has long advocated for EU measures to fight child labour in non-EU countries, including import restrictions and supply chain transparency. In 2006, Parliament suggested promoting ethical trade initiatives and measures to enhance consumer awareness and transparency to allow EU citizens to make informed choices. In 2010, Parliament suggested including a ban on child labour in trade agreements, adopting an import ban on goods produced using modern forms of slavery and forced labour, and introducing a new EU child labour certification system for natural stone products. In 2016 and 2020, Parliament also reiterated its call for legislative measures to label products as child-labour-free and for horizontal import prohibitions for products made using child labour. In its 2020 resolution on the EU Trade Policy Review, Parliament called for import bans for all products linked to severe human rights violations. It has advocated binding obligations on companies to carry out human rights due diligence. It presented a legislative proposal in March 2021 for such a mandatory due diligence framework, which would also provide for sanctions against companies that do not meet their obligations. The 2021 resolution on the EU strategy on the rights of the child insists that children’s rights be embedded in the due diligence legal framework. Parliament has constantly supported using development funds to combat child labour and ensure access to education. During negotiations on the ‘Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe’ (NDICI – Global Europe) funding instrument, Parliament advocated focusing on human development and human rights, and increasing budgets for related programmes. The 2021 resolution on the role of the EU’s development cooperation and humanitarian assistance in addressing the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic recalls that education must remain a spending priority.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>The EU Treaties underline that external relations must contribute to the protection of human rights, and in particular children’s rights (Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union), and must take into account Article 32 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which prohibits child labour. There is currently no cross-sector legal basis to ban products potentially produced with child labour from entering the EU market or to label goods as abuse-free. The so-called Conflict Minerals Regulation obliges companies to ensure they import certain minerals and metals only from responsible sources, including verifying that their production has not involved serious human rights abuses, such as the worst forms of child labour. In line with the 2009 Commission communication on the role of fair trade, the EU supports private fair trade and certification initiatives. Under the EU Directive on Non-Financial Reporting, large EU companies must report on their human rights due diligence policies. The directive is currently being revised to enlarge its scope and impact. The 2021 EU strategy on the rights of the</p>

	<p>child makes eliminating child labour a priority of the EU's external action, in line with the 'zero tolerance' approach already announced in the Commission's political guidelines. In 2021, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced a proposal to ban goods made using forced labour from the EU market, and the European External Action Service and the Commission issued a guidance document to help companies avoid forced labour, including child labour. In February 2022, the Commission proposed a new directive on sustainable corporate governance, including human rights due diligence obligations for larger companies operating in the EU. In line with SDG target 8.7 to eliminate child labour by 2025, the NDICI – Global Europe instrument supports programmes and projects addressing child labour in supply chains and promotes all dimensions of children's rights. At least 10 % of funding focused on Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, the Pacific, the Americas and the Caribbean will be devoted to education. The EU funds development education and awareness raising – including communication about sustainable consumption and fair trade – in the EU through civil society organisations. The EU institutions regularly publish statements and information about efforts to combat child labour, including on the World Day Against Child Labour on 12 June.</p>
EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information	<p>Zamfir, I., Towards a mandatory EU system of due diligence for supply chains, European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), October 2020.</p> <p>Zamfir, I., Child labour: A priority for EU human rights action, EPRS, January 2019.</p> <p>Krajewski, M., et al., Human Rights Due Diligence Legislation – Options for the EU, Briefings for the Subcommittee on Human Rights, Policy Department for External Relations, European Parliament, June 2020.</p> <p>Grosek, K., World Day Against Child Labour, EPRS, June 2021.</p>

<p>12 EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the EU establishes partnerships with developing countries, supporting their infrastructure and sharing competences in exchange for mutually favourable trade deals to aid them in the transition towards green energy sources.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Parliament believes that in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, on a global level and in particular with regard to Africa and in the light of the EU's new Africa strategy, new approaches should be adopted to reshape economic, commercial and trade relations in order to promote fair and ethical trade based on the principles of solidarity and cooperation and to ensure increased coherence with EU development policy (resolution on the EU trade policy review, report on the new EU-Africa strategy).</p> <p>Notably, through its resolution of 14 March 2019 on the implementation of the GSP Regulation (EU) 978/2012 and its resolution of 25 October 2018 on harnessing globalisation, Parliament took a favourable position towards including strong environmental provisions, including those set out in the Paris Climate Agreement, in all EU free trade agreements as well as in the unilateral preferences granted to developing countries.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>EU law (Article 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) requires all relevant EU policies, including trade policy, to promote sustainable development. EU trade policy aims to ensure that economic development goes hand in hand with high environmental standards. On 26 February 2018, the Commission published a non-paper with 15 action points to make the implementation of trade and sustainable development chapters, including those on climate action, more effective and to improve their enforcement. In its communication entitled 'Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa', the Commission identified new prospects and challenges emerging from economic, political, social, technological, demographic, climate and environmental changes and the need to partner with Africa to tackle the challenges of the 21st century together and to further protect common interests for the future.</p> <p>In the newly modernised association agreement the EU and the Mercosur countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) committed to implementing the Paris Climate Agreement and agreed to cooperate on the climate and environmental aspects of trade. The free trade agreements between the EU and Mexico, Canada and Singapore also contain commitments related to the Paris Climate Agreement. Furthermore, discussions are ongoing on possible pre-ratification commitments between the EU and the Mercosur countries on environmental protection, the fight against deforestation and climate change.</p> <p>In the currently ongoing elaboration of Parliament's position on the reform of the generalised scheme of preferences (GSP), the Commission has proposed extending the conditions of the GSP+ to international conventions in the area of climate and environmental protection and good governance. Parliament is also considering an important role for the GSP in promoting trade in sustainably produced goods. Furthermore, several new provisions to support the production and export of sustainable products by GSP beneficiary countries as well as reinforced technical assistance to these countries and better coherence between EU development assistance instruments (such as the neighbourhood, development and international cooperation instrument) are under consideration by Parliament.</p>

EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information	<p>Sapir, A., et al., <i>Four briefings on trade-related aspects of carbon border adjustment mechanisms</i>, POLDEP, April 2020.</p> <p>Maurer, A., et al., <i>Trade aspects of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement</i>, POLDEP, November 2021.</p> <p>Raess, D., <i>The future of sustainable development chapters in EU free trade agreements</i>, POLDEP, July 2018.</p>
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<p>13 EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the EU introduces a mandatory eco-score to be displayed on the front of all products that can be bought by the general consumer. The eco-score would be calculated according to emissions from production and transportation, as well as harmful content, based on a list of hazardous products. The eco-score should be managed and monitored by an EU authority.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In its resolution of 15 January 2020 on the European Green Deal, Parliament:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supported policy measures for sustainable products, including an expansion of the scope of eco-design with legislation making products more durable, repairable, reusable and recyclable, and a strong eco-design and eco-labelling work programme from 2020 onwards that would also include smartphones and other new IT equipment; stressed the importance of empowered and well-informed consumers and called for measures to ensure that consumers be provided with transparent, comparable and harmonised product information, including the labelling of products, based on solid data and consumer research, to help them make healthier and more sustainable choices. <p>In its resolution of 10 February 2021 on the new circular economy action plan, Parliament:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stressed the importance of maintaining a coherent and clear EU legislative framework for sustainable products and highlighted the need to strengthen synergies with other policies including the EU Ecolabel; supported the plan to introduce digital product passports in order to help companies, consumers and market surveillance authorities keep track of a product’s climate, environmental, social and other impacts throughout the value chain and provide reliable, transparent and easily accessible information about the durability of the product and its maintenance, reuse, repair and dismantling possibilities and end-of-life handling, as well as its composition; called on the Commission to assess the options for a label in this regard; highlighted the need to reinforce the EU Ecolabel as a benchmark for environmental sustainability, and further extend the scheme to relevant products and facilitate its use in procurement.
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>There are a number of product labelling requirements in force in the EU that concern, among other, the energy efficiency of electrical products, the nutritional value of food products and hazardous chemicals. Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 (the Ecolabel Regulation) aims to reduce the negative impact of consumption and production on the environment, health, climate and natural resources (www.ecolabel.eu).</p> <p>In March 2022, the Commission plans to present legislative proposals on substantiating environmental claims, empowering consumers during the green transition, and introducing sustainable product policy.</p> <p>In its March 2020 circular economy action plan, the Commission announced its intention to increase the effectiveness of the current eco-design framework for energy-related products through a new 2020-2024 eco-design and energy labelling working plan for individual product groups.</p>

EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information	<p>Šajin, N., Sustainable consumption: Helping consumers make eco-friendly choices, European Parliamentary Research Service, October 2020.</p> <p>Halleux, V., New circular economy action plan, European Parliamentary Research Service, February 2021.</p> <p>Amanatidis, G., Resource efficiency and the circular economy, Fact Sheets on the EU, October 2021.</p>
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Substream 2.2: International climate action

<p>14 EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the European Union adopts a strategy in order to be more autonomous in its energy production. A European body integrating the existing European energy institutions should coordinate the development of renewable energies depending on the needs, capacity and resources of Member States while respecting their sovereignty. The institutions would promote knowledge sharing between them to implement this strategy.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In its resolution of 16 February 2022 on a European strategy for offshore renewable energy, Parliament stressed the need for major investment in infrastructure, improved collaboration between Member States, further research and development, streamlined permits and maritime spatial plans, and more effective market design, including access to sufficient EU funding if needed.</p> <p>Its resolution of 19 May 2021 on a European strategy for energy system integration encouraged the Commission to propose more ambitious measures and targets in the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive. Parliament highlighted the consumer empowerment potential to generate, consume, store and sell energy in integrated renewable energy systems. Parliament reiterated the crucial role of the European Union Agency for Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) in integrating the EU's energy system and implementing EU energy legislation.</p> <p>Its resolution of 6 February 2018 on the clean energy for all Europeans package stressed the need to put in place mechanisms to coordinate EU, national and regional research and energy innovation programmes, which implies certain renewables technologies, without mentioning ACER.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>On 14 July 2021, the Commission published a recast of the Renewable Energy Directive, with a new EU target of 'at least 40 %' renewable energy by 2030. The Commission's proposal would set a comprehensive framework for the deployment of renewable energy sources across all sectors of the economy, with a particular focus on transport, buildings and industry. It would also further strengthen the sustainability of biofuels and would oblige Member States to design renewable energy source support schemes in accordance with the biomass cascading principle.</p> <p>On 17 September 2020, the Commission adopted an EU-wide assessment of national energy and climate plans, outlining how the Member States intend to address energy efficiency, greenhouse gas, emissions reductions, interconnections, research, innovation and renewables.</p> <p>On 8 July 2020, the Commission published a communication entitled 'Powering a climate-neutral economy: an EU Strategy for Energy System Integration', which aims to create an enabling environment to scale up renewable hydrogen supply and demand for a climate-neutral economy.</p> <p>Established in 2011, ACER coordinates national regulatory authorities at EU level and monitors the work of the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity, issuing opinions on their EU-wide network development plans and their alignment with EU priorities. ACER promotes the integration of renewable sources as a way to ensure a higher degree of security of supply. Regulation (EU) 2019/942 of 5 June 2019 establishing the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators defines ACER's role.</p>

EPRS/POLDEP publication for more information	Zachmann, G., et al., Decarbonisation of Energy , Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies, November 2021. Heflich, A. and Saulnier, L., EU energy system transformation – Cost of Non-Europe , EPRS, October 2021.
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<p>15 EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend higher environmental standards for the export of waste inside and outside of the EU and more stringent controls and sanctions to stop illegal exports. The EU should incentivise the Member States more to recycle their own waste and use it for energy production.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In its resolution of 10 February 2021 on the new circular economy action plan, Parliament supported the Commission’s ambition to revise the Waste Shipments Regulation in order to ensure transparency and traceability of waste trade within the EU, to halt the export of waste to non-EU countries, which causes damage to the environment and to human health, and to tackle unlawful behaviour more effectively with the aim of ensuring that all waste is treated in accordance with circular economy principles.</p> <p>In the same resolution, Parliament also called on the Commission to propose product-specific and/or sector-specific binding targets for recycled content, and urged the Commission to broaden the scope of the Ecodesign Directive to include non-energy related products and to set product-specific standards. The aim is that products placed on the EU market perform well, are durable and reusable, can be easily repaired, are not toxic, can be upgraded and recycled, contain recycled content, and are resource- and energy-efficient.</p> <p>In its resolution of 21 October 2021, Parliament underlined that landfills are a major source of methane emissions. Several recent parliamentary questions have addressed the issue of waste incineration, pointing to the high CO₂ emissions caused by waste incineration, and the use of European recovery funds for waste incineration.</p> <p>In a resolution of 20 May 2021 on the liability of companies for environmental damage, Parliament, among others, recalled that the EU should also prevent environmental damage in non-EU countries caused by companies based in EU Member States, and deplored the lack of EU legal instruments prosecuting European companies abroad for activities causing environmental damage. Parliament also recalled that the global rise in environmental crime is a growing threat to the achievement of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and called for increased support for the local authorities and governments of developing countries in harmonising domestic legislation and policies with international environmental standards.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 on shipments of waste is the main legislative act regulating cross-border movements of waste. As part of its 2020 new circular economy action plan, on 17 November 2021 the Commission put forward its proposal for reforming rules on waste shipments, aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Facilitating shipments of waste for reuse and recycling in the EU; – Ensuring that the EU does not export its waste challenges to non-EU countries; – Tackling illegal waste shipments. <p>The main instrument governing waste management in the EU is the 2008 Waste Framework Directive (WFD). It includes provisions to boost recycling and re-use, and to improve the recovery of energy in the incineration of waste. The Commission recently launched a public consultation with a view to revising the WFD. The aim is to improve waste management by reducing waste generation, including through the re-use of products or components, as well as by reducing</p>

	<p>mixed waste and increasing preparation for re-use or recycling by improving waste sorting.</p> <p>A 2017 Commission communication highlighted key steps to ensure that the use of waste for energy production is firmly guided by the EU waste hierarchy, giving top priority to preventing and recycling waste.</p>
EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information	<p>Halleux, V., New circular economy action plan, EPRS, February 2021.</p> <p>Karamfilova, E., Implementation Appraisal – Waste Shipment Regulation, EPRS, April 2021.</p>

<p>16 EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the EU encourages the ongoing environmental transition in a stronger way by setting a goal of eliminating polluting packaging. This would involve promoting less packaging or more environmentally-friendly packaging. To ensure that smaller companies can adapt, help and adjustments should be provided.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In its resolution of 10 February 2021 on the Commission’s New Circular Economy Action Plan, Parliament insisted that by 2030 all packaging should be reusable or recyclable in an economically viable way. Parliament also stressed the need to reduce excessive packaging, improve recyclability and minimise the complexity of packaging, increase recycled content, avoid hazardous substances and promote reuse. It also recognised the potential role of bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics in the circular economy, but warned that bio-based and biodegradable plastics alone will not solve the concerns about plastics, and called for awareness-raising on these kinds of plastics.</p> <p>Parliament believes that a circular economy is the way for the EU and European companies to remain innovative and competitive in a global market while reducing their environmental footprints. It therefore urged the Commission and the Member States to focus investments on scaling up circular economy initiatives and called for the EU’s economic recovery plan (Next Generation EU), the Just Transition Fund and Horizon Europe to be used to put in place and promote circular economy initiatives, practices, infrastructure and technologies. The private sector is an important partner in increasing the demand for circular solutions and products, and in generating customer interest in them, so Parliament called on Member States to support companies with business models, services or products that reduce waste and resource use, and make use of their services.</p> <p>Moreover, in its resolution of October 2019 on the multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027, Parliament strongly supported the introduction of a new yearly contribution to be paid by Member States based on the quantity of non-recycled plastic packaging waste they produce.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste (PPWD) regulates the placing on the market of packaging, and packaging waste prevention and management. Member States must take measures to prevent packaging waste being generated and to minimise the environmental impact of packaging. All packaging placed on the market has to comply with essential requirements on its composition and reusable and recoverable nature. The Directive also sets recycling targets. In 2015, it was amended by the Plastic Bags Directive (EU) 2015/720. In 2022, the Commission will review the PPWD in order to reduce (over)packaging and waste by setting targets and other waste prevention measures. It will also promote packaging reuse and recycling through design improvements and tackle excessive packaging.</p> <p>Directive (EU) 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment introduced EU wide bans from 3 July 2021 on some single-use plastic products, such as plates, cups, food and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene, and on all products made from oxo-degradable plastic. It delivers on the EU’s plastic strategy adopted in 2018. As a follow up to this strategy, by mid-2022 the Commission will also present a framework for bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics to clarify whether and where these</p>

	<p>plastics represent sustainable alternatives to conventional, fossil-based plastics and the role they can play in a carbon-neutral and circular economy.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Pinto, J., et al., <i>The environmental impacts of plastics and micro-plastics use, waste and pollution: EU and national measures</i>, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, October 2020.</p> <p>Halleux, V., <i>New circular economy action plan</i>, European Parliament Research Service, February 2021.</p> <p>European Parliament fact sheet: <i>Resource efficiency and the circular economy</i>, October 2021.</p>

<p>17 EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that countries of the European Union, together, look into the question of nuclear energy more seriously. There should be increased collaboration around the assessment of the use of nuclear power and its role in the transition that Europe needs to achieve towards green energy.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Parliament has only a limited role in secondary legislation stemming from the Euratom Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, which only allows for Parliament’s consultation, with no obligation that its opinion be followed. Each Member State maintains its right to ‘determine the conditions for exploiting its energy resources, its choice between different energy sources and the general structure of its energy supply’ (Article 194(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union). On 2 April 2014, Parliament adopted a legislative resolution that called on the Member States to communicate on the safety and risks of nuclear installations more transparently and proposed that peer reviews should take place every eight years, rather than every ten. The resolution also stated that Parliament should be informed about the results, measures and plans relating to Euratom Directive 2014/87 establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations. On 16 January 2019, Parliament adopted a legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council regulation establishing a dedicated financial programme for the decommissioning of nuclear facilities and the management of radioactive waste, and repealing Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1368/2013. Parliament has strongly advocated the adoption of Euratom programmes through the ordinary legislative procedure.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>The EU’s commitment to the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal requires significant investment. Regulation (EU) 2020/852 (the Taxonomy Regulation) sets out a classification system that aims to channel public and private investment into environmentally sustainable economic activities in order to achieve environmental objectives, such as those in the fight against climate change. Upon entering into force on 12 July 2020, the regulation defined environmentally and socially sustainable activities and provided the basis for the use of a classification system, including standards, labels and sustainability benchmarks. On 2 February 2022, the Commission proposed the Taxonomy Complementary Climate Delegated Act, which would include nuclear and gas energy activities in the list of economic activities covered by the EU taxonomy for the transition to climate neutrality by 2050. The inclusion of nuclear and gas energy activities, based on a Joint Research Centre assessment, would be subject to clear limits and phase-out periods, while respecting the ‘do no significant harm’ principle, as defined in the Taxonomy Regulation. On 13 June 2018, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Council Regulation regarding the funding programme for financial assistance for decommissioning of nuclear facilities and management of radioactive waste. Following Council Directive 2014/87/Euratom, which amended a previous nuclear safety directive (Directive 2009/71/Euratom), the EU significantly enhanced its leadership in nuclear safety worldwide. The directive is based on nuclear risk and safety assessments carried out in 2011 and 2012, the lessons learned from the Fukushima nuclear accident and the safety requirements of the Western European Nuclear Regulators Association and the International Atomic Energy Agency.</p>

EPRS/POLDEP publication for more information	<p>Faure, M. G. and Kindji, K., <i>Cross-border nuclear safety, liability and cooperation in the European Union</i>, European Parliamentary Research Service, February 2019.</p> <p>Szczepański, M., <i>European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) – Structures and tools</i>, European Parliamentary Research Service, September 2017.</p> <p>Spinaci, S., <i>EU taxonomy: Delegated acts on climate, and nuclear and gas</i>, European Parliamentary Research Service, February 2022.</p> <p>Immenkamp, B., <i>Nuclear Safety outside the EU – Proposal for a new Council regulation</i>, European Parliamentary Research Service, July 2021.</p>
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Substream 2.2: Promotion of European values

<p>18 EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>The EU should be closer to the citizens. We recommend that the EU creates and strengthens links with citizens and local institutions, such as local governments, schools, and municipalities. This should be done in order to improve transparency, reach the citizens and communicate better with them about concrete EU initiatives and general EU information.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In a resolution of July 2021, Parliament insisted on a higher level of involvement by EU citizens in EU decision-making. In particular, it called on the Commission and Member States to develop accessible, innovative and inclusive tools to enable citizens' participation and dialogues, making better use of digital technologies to allow citizens to take an active part in EU decision-making.</p> <p>In the same resolution, Parliament called on the Commission to launch an annual EU Olympiad for young people in high schools, vocational training and other educational structures on the functioning and history of the EU, in order to boost interest, participation and debate on EU affairs. It emphasised that the Erasmus+ programme should also be used to enhance European citizenship education, especially among students and young people, and reiterated the need for the Commission to better support EU learning initiatives and study programmes across Europe and beyond, building on the success of the Erasmus+ programme.</p> <p>Parliament believes that youth participation is an essential part of ensuring that citizens' dialogue initiatives have a long-lasting impact. It also points out that it is necessary for citizens to clearly understand the nature of citizens' engagement and the dialogue structure and to ensure that their expectations of the process meet reality. Parliament envisages using these participatory mechanisms in key debates.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>The European Parliament Ambassador School Programme (EPAS) raises awareness about European parliamentary democracy, the role of Parliament and European values among secondary and vocational school students with diverse educational, social and geographical backgrounds. The European Parliament has liaison offices in the EU capitals, as well as antennae offices in regionally relevant cities in the most populous Member States. These offices engage with citizens and stakeholders, and manage contacts with national, regional and local media. Citizens can visit the Parliament buildings in Strasbourg and in Brussels and the Parlamentarium (Parliament's visitor centre in Brussels, where they can discover how Parliament works, how laws are made, why European politics matter and about the impact the EU has on the daily lives of people). The House of European History in Brussel is Parliament's museum, with a permanent exhibition showing the main phenomena and processes that have shaped contemporary Europe. The platform together.europarl.europa.eu is a pan-EU community that allows people to stay connected with and informed about the events organised by the community and by Parliament.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Heinelt, H., The role of cities in the institutional framework of the European Union, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, October 2017.</p>

<p>19</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend stronger citizen participation in EU politics. We propose direct citizens' involvement events, similar to the Conference on the Future of Europe. They should be organised on a national, local and European level. The EU should provide a coherent strategy and central directions for these events.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In a resolution of 7 July 2021, Parliament strongly advocated for a higher level of involvement by EU citizens in EU decision-making. It pointed out that the existing participatory instruments have various shortcomings and should be improved, and new ones should be developed to make citizens' participation more accessible, inclusive, meaningful and effective. In the same resolution, Parliament envisaged using these participatory mechanisms in key debates.</p> <p>Ahead of the Conference on the Future of Europe, Parliament stressed the need to involve citizens, organised civil society and a range of stakeholders at all levels – EU, national and local. In previous years, Parliament stressed the need to promote civic participation in the EU project and to organise regular consultations with citizens.</p> <p>Parliament believes that this bottom-up participatory agenda should complement representative democracy in the EU. It calls on the Commission and Member States to develop accessible, innovative and inclusive tools to enable citizens' participation and dialogues, making better use of digital technologies to allow citizens to take an active part in EU decision-making.</p> <p>Parliament believes that permanent mechanisms similar to the citizens' panels organised in the framework of the conference could be included in key debates to encourage citizens' participation. A 2021 working document by Parliament's Committee for Constitutional Affairs also mentioned the value of a permanent mechanism for citizens' participation in EU decision-making.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>Democratic elections of the European Parliament constitute the main bottom-up instrument for citizens in the EU. Other means of participation are the European Citizens' Initiative, complaints to the Commission and the European Ombudsman as well as petitions to Parliament. The Debating Europe website allows citizens to discuss EU issues online. The have your say platform empowers citizens and businesses to share their views on new EU policies and existing laws. For young Europeans there is the European Youth Parliament, an educational programme that brings together young people from across Europe to debate current issues, as well as the European Youth Portal, which offers information on opportunities and initiatives for young people.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Alemanno, A., Strengthening the role and impact of petitions as an instrument of participatory democracy – Lessons learnt from a citizens' perspective 10 years after the entry in force of the Lisbon Treaty, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, October 2021.</p> <p>Kotanidis, S., Citizens' engagement and expectations of the Conference on the Future of Europe, European Parliamentary Research Service, September 2021.</p>

Stream 3: A strong EU in a peaceful world

Substream 3.1: Security and defence

<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘EU in the world / Migration’</p>	<p>We recommend that a future ‘Joint Armed Forces of the European Union’ shall predominantly be used for self-defence purposes. Aggressive military action of any kind is precluded. Within Europe, this would entail a capacity to provide support in times of crises such as in the case of natural catastrophes. Outside European borders this would provide the capacity to be deployed in territories in exceptional circumstances and exclusively under a respective legal mandate from the United Nations Security Council and thus in compliance with international law.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Parliament supports a European defence union based on Article 42(2) of the Treaty on the EU (TEU or Treaty of Lisbon), which states that ‘the common security and defence policy [CSDP] shall include the progressive framing of a common Union defence policy’. This will lead to a common defence, when the European Council, acting unanimously, so decides.’ The concept of EU joint armed forces could thus result from the evolution towards a common defence.</p> <p>While Parliament’s resolutions have not directly mentioned an EU army, in paragraph 11 of its resolution on the European Defence Union, Parliament encouraged all EU Member States to create the ‘multinational forces’ that the EU treaties propose, and to make them available to the Union for the implementation of the CSDP.</p> <p>Parliament has for years supported the concept of EU battlegroups, and criticised the EU’s inability to overcome obstacles to their deployment. In its 2021 resolution on the implementation of the CSDP, Parliament ‘supports the ambition of creating a ‘rapid entry force’ advocated by the VP/HR’ (the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell).</p> <p>Parliament backs using the full potential of current EU treaties, which proclaim that ‘the Union’s aim is to promote peace’ (Article 3(1) TEU), and that ‘in its relations with the wider world, the Union shall [...] contribute to peace, security, the sustainable development of the Earth, solidarity and mutual respect among peoples [...], as well as to the strict observance and the development of international law, including respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter’ (Article 3(5) TEU).</p> <p>Parliament has also supported reinforcing and further developing the EU’s solidarity clause (for terrorist attacks or disasters) and mutual assistance clause (if a Member State is the victim of armed aggression on its territory) under Article 222 TFEU and Article 42(7) TEU, which would be activated for crises, including natural catastrophes.</p> <p>Parliament’s 2020 resolution on the implementation of the CSDP ‘considers that the CSDP is primarily based on the Union’s capacity to deploy civilian and military missions and operations in crisis situations affecting the security of the Union and its Member States, or requiring an international intervention according to international law and UN charter and resolutions’.</p>

Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue	<p>A European army is not mentioned in the EU treaties, but they laid the groundwork for establishing common European armed forces at some point.</p> <p>Specifically, Article 42(3) of the TEU and Protocol No 10 on Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) both refer to multinational forces as a way for Member States to contribute to CSDP. Different proposals have been made for these forces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battlegroups are EU multinational battalion-sized combined arms units with about 1 500 personnel which could be deployed within 15 days. These were created in 2004 and declared fully operational in 2007. They can be activated at short notice, principally in response to UN requests. However, for political, operational and financial reasons, they have yet to be deployed. • Battlegroups might now be replaced by a rapid entry force, as proposed by VP/HR Borrell, in the framework of the operationalisation of Article 44 TEU (implementation of a task to a group of willing and capable Member States). This would be made up of a multinational land brigade of around 5 000 troops and air, maritime and special forces that could be mobilised in a security emergency. <p>The concepts of self-defence and respect for the United Nations and international law are part of the TEU's provisions on the common foreign and security policy (CFSP). Article 21(2) of the TEU states: 'The Union shall define and pursue common policies and actions, [...] in order to: (a) safeguard its values, fundamental interests, security, independence and integrity; [...] preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter'. One of the key aims of the CSDP is thus to protect the EU and its citizens.</p> <p>According to the Treaties, crisis management outside Europe is also part of the CSDP's objectives. However, the Treaty does not provide for CSDP operations inside EU territory, partly because the policy is a component of the wider CFSP. However, this may change in light of new challenges, such as climate change or health crises (e.g. the use of armed forces in EU Member States during the COVID-19 pandemic) in which security and defence forces might be able to provide help.</p> <p>CSDP missions and operations are very often in line with a UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution, or in support of a Security Council mandate. For example, this was the case for CSDP Operation IRINI. This does not always happen, however, in part because the Security Council is often split between opposing interests. In any case, the European External Action Service (EEAS) insists that 'EU decisions to deploy a mission or operation are normally taken at the request of the partner country to which assistance is provided and/or on the basis of a UNSC Resolution, and always in full respect of international law'.</p>
EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information	<p>Meyer, Ch., Vantaggiato, F., Youngs, R., Preparing the CSDP for the new security environment created by climate change, European Parliament Policy Department for External Relations, June 2021.</p> <p>German, T. and Tyushka, A., Security challenges at the EU's eastern border: which role for CSDP? European Parliament Policy Department for External Relations, January 2022.</p> <p>Defence: is the EU creating a European army?, European Parliament website, May 2021.</p>

Substream 3.2: Decision-making and EU foreign policy

<p>21 EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that all issues decided by way of unanimity are changed to be decided by way of a qualified majority. The only exceptions should be the admission of new membership to the EU and changes to the fundamental principles of the EU as stated in Article 2 of the Lisbon Treaty and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>The European Parliament has stated clearly that ‘unanimity hampers the EU’s ability to act’.</p> <p>Since at least 2013, Parliament has supported using qualified majority voting (QMV) in the Council for many issues. While Parliament has not gone so far as to argue that all decisions except membership and fundamental principles should be decided by QMV, it has identified several topics in the field of foreign affairs that should be decided with a qualified majority. These include international human rights issues, sanctions applied under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime (the ‘EU Magnitsky Act’), and decisions about civilian common security and defence policy (CSDP) missions.</p> <p>Parliament’s resolutions have also identified different ways that the EU’s Treaty on European Union (TEU) allows QMV for foreign policy decisions. While this would sometimes involve adapting the Council’s voting procedures – using what are called <i>passerelle</i> clauses in the TEU to allow procedures to ‘pass’ from unanimity to QMV – there are also topics that already permit QMV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliament’s annual resolutions on the EU’s common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and on the CSDP have often examined the potential of Article 31. As the 2022 resolution on the CSFP specified, ‘Article 31(2) TEU ... allows the Council to take certain decisions on CFSP matters by qualified majority voting (QMV), and the ‘passerelle clause’ contained in Article 31(3) TEU ... provides for the possibility to switch progressively to QMV for decisions ... that do not have military or defence implications but enhance the EU’s solidarity and mutual assistance in case of crises’. • In 2017, Parliament insisted that the provisions of Article 22 TEU should be used to ‘set up an overall strategic framework for, and take decisions on, strategic interests and objectives ... that can extend beyond the CFSP to other areas of external action’. The resolution stated that ‘decisions taken on the basis of such a strategy could be implemented by QMV’. • In another resolution from 2017, Parliament recalled that Article 20(2) TEU, which lays down the provisions for enhanced cooperation, provides more possibilities for subgroups of Member States to act. In these cases, only the Member States participating in enhanced cooperation would vote on the proposal. • Parliament suggested in 2015 that the provisions of Article 46 TEU could be used ‘to unleash the full potential of the Lisbon Treaty’ in CSDP matters, with the establishment of the Permanent Structured Cooperation. Again, only the Member States participating would vote on the establishment of the Permanent Structured Cooperation, with a qualified majority required for the proposal to pass in the Council.

	<p>Given the political challenges of adapting the treaties, Parliament has focused on these provisions. If fully exploited, they would ensure that the EU can act efficiently and flexibly in times of crisis.</p>
Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue	<p>As Parliament has stated, the EU Treaties provide mechanisms that – if activated by the Member States – would allow for a broader use of QMV.</p> <p>In addition to the treaty articles cited above, Article 48(7) TEU describes a possible switch from unanimous voting to QMV in areas that now require unanimity, except for ‘decisions with military implications or those in the area of defence’. To change the voting procedure, ‘the European Council may adopt a decision authorising the Council to act by a qualified majority in that area or in that case’.</p> <p>The recommendation from the citizens’ panels proposes using QMV for all topics except membership and fundamental principles. If military and defence issues are included in the recommendation, then the proposal goes beyond the possibilities offered by the treaty, and would require the treaty to be revised, at least for military and defence issues.</p> <p>A more extensive use of QMV – using the flexibility now offered by the treaty – has been supported by the last two Commission presidents. In 2018, Jean-Claude Juncker focused on using QMV for human rights issues, civilian CSDP missions and specific tax matters. Two years later, Ursula von der Leyen advocated using QMV for human rights issues and sanctions. The Commission’s 2018 written proposal agreed that ‘more qualified majority voting would benefit the Common Foreign and Security Policy.’</p> <p>Despite this support for QMV, changes have been slow or non-existent. The proposed 2020-2024 EU Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy, for example, would have meant that decisions about the plan’s implementation would have been adopted through QMV. The proposal was not successful. Sanctions are another area that still requires unanimity – a fact that has led the EU’s Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to express his ‘frustration’.</p> <p>More recently, in February and March 2022, extensive sanctions targeting Russia were adopted by the EU in response to the war in Ukraine. These measures were adopted unanimously.</p>
EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information	<p>Latici, T., Qualified majority voting in foreign and security policy: Pros and Cons, European Parliament Research Service, January 2021.</p> <p>Bassot, E., Unlocking the potential of the EU Treaties: An article-by-article analysis of the scope for action, European Parliamentary Research Service, May 2020.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the European Union strengthen its ability to sanction Member States, governments, entities, groups or organisations as well as individuals that do not comply with its fundamental principles, agreements and laws. It is imperative to make sure that the sanctions that already exist are quickly implemented and enforced. Sanctions against third countries should be proportional to the action that triggered it and be effective and applied in due time.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Parliament supports the consistent and internationally coordinated implementation of EU sanctions (restrictive measures), as a tool available under the common foreign and security policy to bring about positive change on the part of the targeted entity. Parliament has requested that the EU institutions ensure national responses to infringements of restrictive measures adopted by the EU are effective, proportionate and dissuasive, and that the Member States fully comply with such decisions. Examples include sanctions imposed recently in response to Russia’s aggression towards Ukraine and to the behaviour of China, Turkey, Belarus, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Syria (among many others), and to breaches of human rights under the new global human rights sanctions regime (the EU Magnitsky Act). Furthermore, in 2012, Parliament recommended that the EU apply a consistent sanction policy to non-EU countries when their leaders take measures that favour their personal interests or their country’s commercial interests within the EU. Parliament has, over the years, consistently called for an improvement in decision-making relating to the adoption of sanctions, in particular by switching from unanimity to qualified majority voting, a possibility that is provided for in the Treaties.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>EU sanctions and restrictive measures are a range of diplomatic and economic tools aimed at persuading and dissuading the targeted entity (non-EU governments or non-state actors such as terrorists, organisations, individuals, companies) from wrongdoing, in pursuit of the EU objectives of promoting international peace and security, preventing conflicts, supporting democracy, the rule of law and human rights and defending the principles of international law. They may comprise arms embargoes, trade or financial restrictions (including asset freezes and the suspension of EU aid), restrictions on admission to the EU (visa or travel bans), or other measures, as appropriate.</p> <p>Sanctions or restrictive measures have been frequently used by the EU, either autonomously or by implementing resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations. The EU has over forty different sanction regimes in place. The EU sanctions map offers an overview of how these sanctions are being implemented.</p> <p>Under the framework of the common foreign and security policy, the EU applies restrictive measures in pursuit of the specific objectives set out in the Treaty on European Union (TEU), in particular on the following legal basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 29 TEU, which allows the Council to adopt sanctions against governments of non-EU countries, non-state entities and individuals to bring about a change in their policies or activities. • Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which allows the Council to adopt the necessary measures to implement decisions adopted under Article 29 TEU in order to ensure they are applied uniformly in all Member States.

	<p>Decisions are taken by the Council based on proposals from the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR), or by the Member States themselves. The Commission, together with the VP/HR, makes joint proposals for Council regulations to implement those decisions. The Commission has a legal obligation to oversee the implementation of those decisions by the Member States. Despite being a foreign policy tool, the measures apply only within EU jurisdiction, and therefore only to EU nationals, residents or companies in the EU. Member States are obliged to follow up on any non-compliance cases falling to them and their national competent authorities.</p> <p>In 2020, the EU adopted a global legislative framework for breaches of human rights, considered a landmark achievement in its human rights policy toolbox and the concretisation of a long-standing Parliament request. The EU is also looking into ways to mitigate the extraterritorial effects of sanctions of other countries on the EU, its Member States and EU companies (EU blocking statute).</p> <p>In response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the EU adopted a wide-ranging set of sanctions.</p>
EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information	<p>Russell, M., Western sanctions and Russia: What are they? Do they work?, European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), February 2022.</p> <p>Russell, M., EU sanctions: A key foreign and security policy instrument, EPRS, December 2018.</p> <p>Russell, M., EU human rights sanctions: Towards a European Magnitsky Act, EPRS, December 2020.</p> <p>Stoll, T., et al., Extraterritorial sanctions on trade and investments and European responses, Policy Department for External Relations, European Parliament, November 2020.</p> <p>Portella, C., Impact of sanctions and isolation measures with North Korea, Burma/Myanmar, Iran and Zimbabwe as case studies, Policy Department for External Relations, European Parliament, May 2011.</p>

Substream 3.3: Neighbouring countries and enlargement

<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the European Union allocate a specific budget to develop educational programmes on the functioning of the EU and its values. Then it will be proposed to the Member States that wish that they can integrate them into their school curricula (primary, secondary schools, and universities). In addition, a specific course on the EU and its functioning could be offered to students wishing to study in another European country through the Erasmus (+) programme. Students choosing this course would be given priority in the allocation of said Erasmus programmes.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In a 2016 resolution, Parliament underlined the increasing importance of a European dimension in education across different disciplines, levels and forms of education. It said that learning on the EU is crucial to help people to better understand and reconnect with the EU and its values and is key for mutual understanding and living together. Parliament also reiterated the importance of providing appropriate teaching materials to enable teachers to cover the European dimension in school curricula, which it had already emphasised in a 2006 resolution. Furthermore, it said that all activities financed by Erasmus+ should raise young people’s awareness of the EU and encourage them to take an interest in European issues.</p> <p>In its November 2021 resolution on the European Education Area, Parliament suggested that the Commission and the Member States should create a common framework for learning about the EU, which should cover, inter alia, the EU integration process and its institutions and policy areas.</p> <p>Furthermore, Parliament runs the Ambassador School and Euroscola education programmes to help improve knowledge of EU democracy and values and to give secondary school students an opportunity to participate in a simulation exercise of the work of MEPs.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>The Erasmus+ programme should stimulate teaching of, learning about and research on European integration matters. Its Jean Monnet actions are specifically aimed at spreading knowledge about the EU across higher education institutions and as part of other education and training activities, in particular by means of teacher and educational staff training. Erasmus+ also promotes the European dimension of education through its Key Action 1 teaching exchanges and its Key Action 2 strategic partnerships, in particular through its eTwinning platform, which supports a network of teachers, students, schools, parents and local authorities, and its EU Teacher academy, which provides onsite and online courses, webinars and teaching materials.</p> <p>In its communication on the European Education Area, the Commission commits to bringing education stakeholder and Member State representatives together to stimulate peer learning and the development of a European perspective in education. It aims to widen and strengthen the Jean Monnet actions, involving schools more closely with a view to promoting the European way of life, sustainability and EU values. The Commission will also continue to support Member States in implementing their policies on promoting common values and the European dimension of teaching, which are aimed at enhancing learners’ European identity, strengthening a European-positive and inclusive sense of</p>

	<p>belonging and promoting a better understanding of the EU, as well as an understanding of the particularities of its Member States.</p> <p>The 2017 Eurydice network survey of the teaching of citizenship education in EU schools underlined that the topic was taught more transversally across school curricula and less as a curriculum subject. It recommended a combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches to both enrich curricula and build knowledge and competences among educators through EU actions.</p>
EPRS/POLDEP publication for more information	<p>Prutsch, M. J., European Identity, Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, European Parliament, April 2017.</p> <p>Veugelers, W., et al., Teaching Common Values in Europe, Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, European Parliament, April 2017.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the EU makes greater use of its political and economic weight in its relations with other countries to prevent certain Member States from undergoing bilateral economic, political and social pressures.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Parliament called on the EU to bolster democratic alliances and to further develop strategic sovereignty in economics, equitable trade, security, technology, energy and the green and digital transformation. Furthermore, it emphasised sovereignty in defence and security. All of these elements could help individual Member States withstand external pressures in a common EU manner, and avoid coercion in key technological sectors. It called for improved sharing of intelligence among Member States, and for better cooperation in the light of the rise of hybrid threats, disinformation and other forms of malign interference from abroad, and in support of a resilient critical infrastructure.</p> <p>Parliament also emphasised the role of the EU strategic compass in enabling effective progress towards a coherent defence policy, strategic culture and understanding of the EU’s strategic challenges, and requested the mobilisation of resources on the basis of solidarity when peace, security and stability are threatened in a Member State or internationally.</p> <p>Parliament is concerned about coercive actions by certain non-EU countries against the EU, its Member States and its companies and citizens, and requested a legislative proposal to create a new anti-coercion instrument, which was delivered by the Commission in December 2021. The Council and Parliament are committed to fulfilling their institutional role as co-legislators by considering the proposal in a timely manner. During the legislative process on amending the Enforcement Regulation, Parliament insisted that the Commission come up with a proposal for an instrument allowing the EU to deter and counteract non-EU countries’ attempts to force policy choices on the EU. This was reiterated in Parliament’s resolutions on a trade policy review and on trade related aspects and implications of COVID-19.</p> <p>In practical terms, Parliament opposed the Chinese countersanctions on EU entities and Members of both the European Parliament and the national parliaments.</p> <p>Furthermore, Parliament requested Turkey to stop using migrants as a weapon against EU Member States and demanded de-escalation and respect for international maritime law in the eastern Mediterranean.</p> <p>In addition, Parliament condemned Russia’s confluent threats against the EU and its Member States (in addition to aggression against Ukraine), and denounced Russia’s use of military, digital, energy and disinformation warfare to taking advantage of and weaken the open system of the EU. In this context, Parliament asked the EU to address its vulnerabilities and those of its partners in the neighbourhood.</p> <p>The Belarusian instrumentalisation of migrants on the border with EU Member States, and its illegal redirection of a civilian flight from Greece to Lithuania were also strongly condemned.</p> <p>Furthermore, Parliament recently asked for a new sanctions regime against disinformation as a result of its 18-month long inquiry into this topic (carried out by its Special Committee on Foreign Interference in all Democratic Processes in the European Union, including Disinformation).</p>

Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue	<p>The aims of the EU's common foreign and security policy and its common security and defence policy are, inter alia, to preserve peace and reinforce international security, and to promote international cooperation, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. All of these objectives implicitly aim at preventing or acting on threats and pressure from other countries or non-state actors towards individual Member States in a unified fashion.</p> <p>The current EU strategic compass process aims to screen the EU's security environment and can help assess and respond to pressures faced by individual Member States. It will provide a comprehensive analysis of key threats and challenges by both state and non-state actors to the EU, its Member States and citizens, including global and regional threats and conflicts.</p> <p>The Commission published its proposal for a regulation on protecting the EU and its Member States from economic coercion by non-EU countries (anti-coercion instrument) to Parliament on 8 December 2021 and presented it officially to Parliament in January 2022. It is designed as a response to the rising problem of economic coercion and aims to protect the interests and sovereign choices of the EU and its Member States. Once in force, it will empower the Commission to apply trade, investment or other restrictions towards any non-EU country unduly interfering in the policy choices of the EU or its Member States. The report on the revision of the Enforcement Regulation was published on 1 March 2022. The proposal on the review of the blocking statute is expected in May 2022.</p> <p>With the newly revised Enforcement Regulation the EU is increasing its focus on enforcing non-EU countries' commitments in multilateral, regional and bilateral trade agreements.</p> <p>The EU recently decided to act on the following pressures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russia's threats to the security of the European security architecture in Member States on the EU's eastern border which are more exposed, its criminal activities in Member State territories, its threats related to dependence on Russian energy imports and the destabilising effects of its aggressive propaganda. • Threats to the sovereignty of Cyprus and Greece by Turkey in the eastern Mediterranean. • The weaponisation of migratory pressures by Turkey against the EU and countries on its border. On the other hand, the EU also provided external incentives towards managing migration and addressing refugees' needs there. • China's pressures on individual Member States and EU institutions. • Coordination of the evacuation of EU citizens from Afghanistan. • Threats to Member State's territories or vital interests in the Indo-Pacific.
EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information	<p>Lazarou, E., Implementation of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP), EPRS, February 2022.</p> <p>Toygür, I., et al., Turkey's foreign policy and its consequences for the EU, Policy Department for External Policies, European Parliament, February 2022.</p> <p>Damen, M., et al., Free Trade or geo-economics, POLDEP, September 2019.</p> <p>Bassot, E., et al., Towards a more resilient Europe post-coronavirus, European Parliamentary Research Service, April 2021.</p> <p>Damen, M., et al., Four EU scenarios for governance in a post COVID-19 world, POLDEP, October 2020.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the European Union improve its media strategy. On the one hand, the EU should strengthen its visibility on social media and actively promote its content. On the other hand, the EU should continue to organise conferences such as Conference on the Future of Europe on an annual in person basis. In addition, we also recommend that the EU further encourages innovation through promoting an accessible European social media platform.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In its 2010 resolution Parliament proposed concrete ways to foster citizens' involvement in debates on EU issues, and stressed how better communication by governments, political parties, universities, public service broadcasters and the EU institutions is vital for developing a European public sphere. In its 2020 resolution it emphasised its support for and participation in the Conference on the Future of Europe. Its 2021 resolution reaffirmed this and also recommended specific methods to engage with citizens on all possible levels and through wide-ranging tools. Parliament also called for strengthening and updating existing participatory instruments and establishing permanent participatory mechanisms. A European Digital Public Sphere and European political parties' role and the challenges of social platforms were also recently discussed at Parliament hearings.</p> <p>Parliament has created the together.europarl.europa.eu, a pan-EU community that connects people and informs them about community and Parliament events. In addition, Parliament's What Europe does for me website and the Citizens' App Europe in the palm of your hand promote dialogue with EU citizens and inform them about the EU. Furthermore, Parliament's Euroscola Online programme allows secondary school students to interactively role-play EU decision-making as MEPs. Finally, Parliament uses a plethora of social media platforms to interact with citizens.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union is the legal basis for protecting the EU's values and provides a legal basis for open digital public spaces where people exercise their rights as citizens. The Commission's recommendations for Shaping Europe's Digital Future follow this approach, stating that technology needs to be rooted in European values. The Digital Media Action Plan fosters innovation through a European media data space.</p> <p>Since 2012, EU citizens can use a tool available under the Lisbon Treaty to participate in shaping EU policy: the European Citizens' Initiative. 1 million citizens from at least a quarter of the EU Member States can ask the Commission to propose legislation on issues that fall within its competence. Other EU participatory instruments include: the Have your say portal, which allows active participation in shaping EU policies, Citizens' Dialogues with the Commissioners, the EU Youth Dialogue mechanism as part of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, as well as several social media channels.</p> <p>The EU treaties do not contain any specific provisions on communication policy. The need for effective communication has a legal basis in Articles 11, 41 and 44 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which guarantees the right of all citizens to be informed about EU issues. Effective communication on the EU's action is crucial for delivering its current 2019-2024 priorities and NextGenerationEU, so the legal acts for EU funding programmes contain rules on communication and EU visibility in order to ensure coherent communication.</p>

EPRS/POLDEP publication for more information	<p>Mendez, C., Triga, V., Bachtler, J., Djouvas, C., Mendez, F., Stier, S. <i>Visibility and Communication of Cohesion Policy in Online Media</i>, European Parliament Policy Department B, October 2019.</p> <p>Salm, C., Karapiperis, T., <i>The added value of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), and its revision</i>, EPRS, April 2018.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that Member States agree on a strong vision and a common strategy in order to harmonise and consolidate the identity and the unity of the EU before allowing the accession to other countries.</p> <p>We recommend this because we believe it is essential to both strengthen the EU and consolidate the relationship between Member States before considering the integration of other countries. The more states integrate into the EU, the more complicated the decision-making process will become within the EU; hence the importance of reviewing these decision-making processes that are voted through the process of unanimity.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Parliament stressed the need to reaffirm the objective of an ‘ever-closer union among the peoples of Europe’ in order to mitigate any tendency towards disintegration. It also insisted on using the general passerelle clauses (which allow specific changes to be made to the EU Treaties) in order to switch from unanimity voting to qualified majority voting. In its resolution on differentiated integration, Parliament considered enhanced cooperation to be a pragmatic solution to advance European integration in cases of institutional deadlock.</p> <p>Parliament called for a European future for the Western Balkans countries that want to join the EU. Parliament stated that these countries need to harmonise their laws in line with the <i>acquis</i>, especially with regard to the rule of law, good governance, institutional capacities and economic performance, and that they must align with the EU’s common foreign and security policy prior to becoming a Member State. Parliament supports the continued supply of pre-accession assistance and other development and humanitarian aid to these countries.</p> <p>Parliament noted that Turkey’s EU accession negotiations ‘have effectively and regrettably come to a standstill’.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>Article 1 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) provides for the creation of ‘an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe’. Article 49 TEU states that any European country that respects the values referred to in Article 2 TEU may apply to join the EU.</p> <p>The Accession Treaties set out the conditions for joining the EU.</p> <p>The Copenhagen criteria were established by the European Council in 1993.</p> <p>Article 48(7) TEU sets out two general <i>passerelle</i> clauses which allow a switch from unanimity voting to qualified majority voting or from the special legislative procedure to the ordinary legislative procedure.</p> <p>Article 20 TEU and Articles 326-334 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union allow enhanced cooperation between Member States wishing to cooperate on issues that fall within the framework of non-exclusive competences.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Bassot, E., Unlocking the potential of the EU Treaties. An article-by article analysis of the scope for action, EPRS, May 2020.</p> <p>Fabbrini, F., Possible Avenues for Further Political Integration in Europe – A Political Compact for a More Democratic and Effective Union? Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament, May 2020.</p> <p>Kotanidis, S., Passerelle clauses in the EU Treaties: Opportunities for more flexible supranational decision-making, EPRS, December 2020.</p> <p>Stanicek, B., A new approach to EU enlargement, EPRS, March 2020.</p>

Stream 4: Migration from a human point of view

Substream 4.1: Remedy causes of migration

<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the European Union should participate actively in the economic development of countries outside the European Union and from where there is a high outflux of migrants. The EU, with the help of the relevant bodies (for example local NGOs [non-governmental organisations], local politicians, field-workers, experts, etc.), should look for ways to peacefully intervene efficiently and actively in countries with important migration outflux that have previously agreed with the exact terms of cooperation with local authorities. These interventions should have tangible results with measurable effects. At the same time, these tangible results and effects should be clearly outlined in order for EU citizens to understand the development aid policy undertaken by the Union. In this sense, EU development aid actions should become more visible.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In its resolution of resolution of 25 November 2020 on improving the effectiveness of aid, Parliament embraced the idea that European development aid and public investments should promote migration management, among other priorities, and called for better alignment between migration policy and the aims of development policy. It also called for 'inclusive sustainable partnerships with countries of origin and transit of migration' to be 'based on the specific needs of each country'. However, it rejected 'making humanitarian aid and emergency aid allocation conditional on cooperation with the EU on migration or security issues'.</p> <p>In its resolution of 5 April 2017 on the role of EU external action in addressing refugee and migrant movements, Parliament acknowledged the need to strengthen the link between migration and development policies as a way to address the root causes of illegal migration and forced displacement (including armed conflict, persecution on any grounds, gender-based violence, bad governance, poverty, lack of economic opportunities and climate change). In order to 'make migration a choice and not a necessity', Parliament stressed the need for countries of origin to adopt and implement policies that lead to the creation of jobs and economic opportunities. It also called for 'economic resilience in both host and origin countries' and underscored 'the need to improve policy coherence for development'.</p> <p>On 25 March 2021, Parliament adopted a resolution on a new EU-Africa strategy, outlining a partnership for sustainable and inclusive development. The resolution highlighted the importance of addressing 'the root causes of conflicts, hunger, climate change, inequalities, lack of basic services and inappropriate agriculture models' and supporting political solutions to conflicts on the African continent. It also underlined the fact that EU economic ties with Africa should be further enhanced to build resilience in the face of increasingly interconnected crises, whether health, food, environmental or security crises. Moreover, Parliament underlined that providing investment would generate substantial development in all African countries. Parliament was particularly concerned by climate change, as it could undermine the development prospects of low-income and fragile African countries, as well as be a risk factor for conflict.</p>
	<p>The main framework for improving the economic development of countries outside the EU is the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – NDICI-Global Europe. With a budget of EUR 79.5 billion for the 2021-</p>

<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>2027 period, NDICI-Global Europe is the EU’s main financing tool for external action. As a result, the NDICI-Global Europe instrument is also the main external financing instrument for migration-related spending – with a dedicated 10 % spending target of the total funding. That target may also include actions to address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement. In order for EU external assistance to support partner countries in managing migration effectively, the NDICI-Global Europe instrument provides for action to increase alignment between migration and development programmes and with other external policies. At the same time, cooperation with partner countries on migration-related policies are emphasised under both the instrument’s geographic and thematic areas of intervention. Through this funding programming, the EU has laid out its medium and long-term priorities and objectives for specific countries and regions for the 2021-2027 period, as part of multi-annual indicative programmes. This is an inclusive process that involves consultations with partner countries, EU Member States, civil society organisations, women’s and youth organisations, local authorities, the private sector, the UN and other donors and key stakeholders. The multi-annual indicative programmes, which may cover migration-related issues, include various indicators to measure the effectiveness of EU assistance. To further implement these programmes, every year, the EU develops annual action plans with each country that benefits from EU assistance. Within the broader framework of these strategic documents, EU delegations in non-EU countries support the implementation of EU assistance on the ground to achieve tangible results.</p> <p>Following the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, the EU has developed mobility dialogues with non-EU countries, which has led to comprehensive mobility partnerships and common agendas on migration and mobility.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Udelmann Rodrigues, C. and Bjarnesen, J., Intra-African Migration, Policy Department for External Relations, Directorate General for External Policies of the Union, October 2020.</p> <p>Latek, M., Interlinks between migration and development, European Parliamentary Research Service, January 2019.</p> <p>Pichon, E., The external dimension of the new pact on migration and asylum – A focus on prevention and readmission, European Parliamentary Research Service, April 2021.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend having a common European labour framework, thus harmonising working conditions throughout the Union (ex. minimum salary, work times, etc.). The EU should try to create basic common standards on labour to prevent migration from citizens that leave their countries of origin seeking better working conditions. As part of these standards, the EU should reinforce the role of trade unions at the transnational level. By doing so, the EU would be considering internal economic migration (EU citizens' migration) as a critical issue.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>The topic of the free movement of workers is very sensitive as it concerns one of the four fundamental freedoms of the single market. The right to free movement has facilitated intra-EU labour mobility; but, in some regions, has also led to a significant out-migration of highly educated workers. Parliament's resolution from 20 May 2021 acknowledges that the brain drain rate, triggered by current economic and social imbalances between the EU's regions, has reached critical levels in some Member States. It also states that this situation has led to further problems, such as demographic imbalances, shortfalls in care provision and medical staff, and an overall increase in inequalities between regions. While Parliament's Committee on Regional Development (REGI) recalls the need for strategies aimed at reversing labour migration using cohesion policy instruments, Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) stresses that measures to counter brain drain must go hand in hand with those to promote upward social mobility. To this end, the free movement of workers and services should comply with the principles enshrined in the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), particularly principles 5-10, which address fair working conditions such, as fair wages and a healthy work environment. To deliver on the EPSR, the European Parliament has called generally for more enforceable social rights to protect social rights to the same degree as economic freedoms in the single market. Parliament, however, has not called for the harmonisation of working conditions or wages throughout the EU, although it is concerned about the current lack of a harmonised interpretation of EU law across the Member States.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>The EU has only limited competence when it comes to social issues, as national governments mostly have precedence in this area. In line with Article 153 (1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the EU has laid out basic standards in various fields of working conditions including provisions on working time, part-time work, fixed-term work, temporary agency workers, the posting of workers and transparent and predictable working conditions. In November 2021, the European Parliament adopted a report on the proposal for a Directive on adequate minimum wages that proposed more ambitious targets than those in the Commission's proposal and emphasised the broader social objectives of minimum wages. On 9 December 2021, the Commission submitted a proposal for a directive on improving working conditions in platform work, with the aim of enhancing transparency, traceability and awareness of developments in platform work and improving enforcement of the applicable rules for all people working through platforms, including those operating across borders. In December 2021, Parliament adopted a resolution on democracy at work that called for an ambitious framework directive to streamline applicable legislation, and reinforce workers' rights, notably as regards workers' information, consultation and board level representation for European legal forms and companies that make use of the freedom of movement.</p>

EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information	<p>Kiss, M., Ensuring more transparent and predictable working conditions, European Parliamentary Research Service, August 2019.</p> <p>Kiss, M., et al., Improving the working conditions of platform workers, European Parliamentary Research Service, December 2021.</p> <p>Konle-Seidl, R., The proposed Minimum Wage Directive, Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies of the Directorate-General for Internal Policies, October 2020.</p>
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Substream 4.2: Human consideration

<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend the implementation of a joint and collective migration policy in the EU based on the principle of solidarity. We want to focus on the problem in regards to the refugees. A common procedure in all the Member States of the Union should be based on the best practice and customs that seemed to be successful in all the countries of the Union. This procedure should be pro-active and actively being executed both by the national authorities and the administration of the EU.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Since 2009, Parliament has been consistently calling for a binding mechanism for the fair distribution of asylum seekers among all EU Member States. This position is expressed in the Parliament resolutions of 25 November 2009 on the Stockholm programme; 11 September 2012 on enhanced intra-EU solidarity in the field of asylum; 9 October 2013 on migratory flows in the Mediterranean, with particular attention to the tragic events off Lampedusa; 23 October 2013 entitled 'The European neighbourhood policy: towards a strengthening of the partnership'; 17 December 2014 on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration; 29 April 2015 on the latest tragedies in the Mediterranean and EU migration and asylum policies; 10 September 2015 on migration and refugees in Europe; and 12 April 2016 on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration.</p> <p>Parliament expressed its disappointment regarding some Member States' unfulfilled commitments to solidarity and responsibility sharing. Furthermore, Parliament has taken the view that Article 80 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), together with Articles 77, 78 and 79 TFEU, provide a joint legal basis for implementing the principle of solidarity in the areas of asylum, immigration and border control. It has also identified tools to promote the concepts of internal and external solidarity, such as relocation, mutual recognition of asylum decisions, operational support measures, resettlement, humanitarian admission, search and rescue at sea, and the civil protection mechanism.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>Article 67(2) TFEU states that the European Union 'shall frame a common policy on asylum, immigration and external border control, based on solidarity between Member States, which is fair towards third country nationals'.</p> <p>Article 80 TFEU explicitly provides for 'the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility, including its financial implications, between the Member States'. This principle governs the asylum policies of the Union and their implementation.</p> <p>Article 45(2) of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights allows for the same freedom of movement and residence that EU citizens enjoy to be granted to non-EU nationals legally resident in the territory of a Member State in accordance with the relevant Treaty procedures.</p> <p>The Commission's New Pact on Migration and Asylum (the Pact), published in September 2020 (COM(2020)0609), proposes 'new forms of solidarity'. States would no longer be penalised on the grounds of their geographical positioning as there would be a system of permanent, effective solidarity to distribute asylum seekers among EU countries. The Pact proposes a flexible contribution system under which Member States would be able to choose between relocating refugees, sponsoring their return or providing operational support. The document /</p>

	<p>approach is based on three main pillars: 1) better and faster procedures; 2) firm and fair rules on intra-EU solidarity; and 3) stronger relations with non-EU countries.</p> <p>The common European asylum system (CEAS) establishes common standards for Member States in their procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (both refugee and subsidiary protection status). The Qualification Directive and the Asylum Procedures Directive set out an EU framework for national authorities assessing applications for asylum. On 13 July 2016, the Commission suggested replacing the current Asylum Procedures Directive with a regulation that would establish a common procedure for international protection in all participating Member States.</p> <p>In its communication entitled 'Towards a reform of the Common European Asylum System and enhancing legal avenues to Europe' of 6 April 2016, the Commission acknowledged the inherent weaknesses of the EU asylum system in times of migratory crisis, and set out its intention to further strengthen and harmonise the CEAS rules to ensure more equal treatment across the EU.</p> <p>The Commission put forward a legislative proposal to replace the Asylum Procedures Directive with a regulation establishing a fully harmonised common EU procedure for international protection to reduce differences in recognition rates from one Member State to the next, discourage onward travel and ensure common effective procedural guarantees for asylum seekers.</p> <p>Parliament took a stand on asylum procedures in its resolution of 12 April 2016, underlining that common rules for asylum procedures are already included in the CEAS but have not been fully implemented by the Member States. With regard to solidarity, Parliament noted that 'harmonisation of reception conditions and asylum procedures can avoid stress on countries offering better conditions and are key to responsibility sharing'.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Orav, A., 1st Emergency Relocation Scheme, EPRS, November 2019.</p> <p>Díaz Crego, M., Towards a new policy on migration, EPRS, February 2022.</p> <p>Ecorys, Cornelisse, G. and Campesi, G., The European Commission's New Pact on Migration and Asylum – Horizontal substitute impact assessment, European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), August 2021.</p> <p>Orav, A., Common procedure for asylum, EPRS, March 2021.</p> <p>Radjenovic, A., The need for solidarity in EU asylum policy, EPRS, September 2020.</p> <p>Radjenovic, A., Reforming asylum and migration management, EPRS, October 2020.</p> <p>Schmid-Drüner, M., Immigration policy fact sheet, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, September 2021.</p> <p>Schmid-Drüner, M., Asylum Policy fact sheet, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, September 2021.</p> <p>Guild, E., et al., New approaches, alternative avenues and means of access to asylum procedures for persons seeking international protection, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, October 2014.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the EU increases its efforts to inform and educate citizens of the Member States about the topics related to migration. This aim should be achieved by educating children, as early as possible, from the beginning of primary school on the subjects such as migration and integration. If we combine this early education with the activities of NGOs [non-governmental organisations] and youth organisations as well as wide-reaching media campaigns, we could fully reach our goal. Additionally, a wide range of communication channels should be used, from leaflets to television and social media.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In numerous resolutions, Parliament has recalled that the European Union is built on common values and that it cherishes diversity, pluralism and non-discrimination. In a 2013 resolution on the integration of migrants, Parliament regretted the erroneous approach whereby migrants are primarily portrayed as a security risk and stressed the need to shift the focus towards positive opportunities in relation to migrants.</p> <p>Education is key to building societies that are more inclusive. In a resolution on Learning EU at school adopted in April 2016, Parliament called for the adoption of an intercultural approach to education policies based on mutual knowledge of different cultures and shared common values.</p> <p>In a December 2016 resolution on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union in 2015, Parliament called on the Member States to refrain from inciting fear and hatred among their citizens towards migrants and asylum seekers for political gain and to develop positive campaigns aimed at helping citizens to approach integration in a better way.</p> <p>In its resolution of June 2016 on the follow-up on the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET 2020), Parliament encouraged the Member States to guarantee ongoing professional support for teachers, equipping them with the necessary pedagogical skills on the topics of migration and acculturation and enabling them to utilise diversity as a rich source for learning in classrooms.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>The European Union is founded on common values, such as respect for human dignity, equality and human rights (Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union). Article 10 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) states that when defining and implementing its policies and activities, the EU must aim to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. Article 19 TFEU authorises the EU to take appropriate action to combat discrimination. Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union lays down the non-discrimination principle.</p> <p>Equality bodies contribute to building a culture that values equality and engage with various stakeholders to ensure awareness of and compliance with equal treatment legislation. The EU anti-racism action plan 2020-2025 sets out a series of measures to address racism more effectively and build a life free from discrimination for all. The European website on integration contains information and good practices on migrant integration for policymakers and practitioners. The EU action plan on integration and inclusion (2021-2027) outlines measures and funding opportunities for initiatives that promote inclusion. One of the specific objectives of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund is to support actions</p>

	<p>aimed at enhancing awareness among stakeholders and the general public of policies relating to asylum, integration and legal migration.</p> <p>The Audiovisual Media Services Directive sets out requirements to protect users of audiovisual media services and video sharing platforms from incitement to violence or hatred. In December 2021, the Commission published a proposal to extend the list of EU crimes to include hate speech and hate crime.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Kennedy, A., The fight against poverty, social exclusion and discrimination fact sheet, Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies, European Parliament, October 2021.</p> <p>Szakács, J. and Bognár, E., The impact of disinformation campaigns about migrants and minority groups in the EU, Policy Department for External Relations, European Parliament, June 2021.</p>

Substream 4.3: Integration

<p>31</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the Directive 2013/33/EU on minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers in Member States be replaced by a compulsory EU regulation, which will be uniformly applicable in all Member States. A priority should be that reception facilities and accommodation be improved. We recommend the creation of a specific monitoring body from the EU for the implementation of the regulation.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In its resolution of 12 April 2016, Parliament regretted that the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) had not been fully implemented in many Member States and recalled that implementation was essential in order to harmonise national laws and promote solidarity among Member States. It further recalled that in order to meet the standards required under the CEAS, Member States could seek assistance from the European Asylum Support Office (subsequently replaced by the European Union Agency for Asylum). Parliament also stressed that harmonisation of reception conditions and asylum procedures can avoid stress on countries offering better conditions and are key to sharing responsibility. In its resolution of 5 July 2016, Parliament called on the Commission to consider a targeted revision of the Reception Conditions Directive to ensure that applicants for international protection have access to the labour market as soon as possible after their applications are lodged. In its resolution of 6 July 2016 on the strategic priorities for the Commission Work Programme 2017, Parliament called for conditions to be created within the EU for the well-managed reception of asylum seekers, ensuring their safety and humane treatment and paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable groups.</p> <p>The report adopted by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs in April 2017 on the proposal for recasting the Reception Conditions Directive states that Member States should in all circumstances ensure access to healthcare and an adequate standard of living for applicants. It further stresses that extra measures are necessary to protect the fundamental rights of applicants with special needs, and that rapid identification of those applicants and training of personnel in this regard are important.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>In order to improve the functioning of the CEAS, the Commission adopted two packages of legislative proposals in 2016, including a legislative proposal recasting the Reception Conditions Directive. On 14 June 2018, Parliament and the Council reached a partial provisional agreement on the recast directive. Under the deal, asylum seekers would be allowed to work for six months after requesting asylum, instead of the current nine months, and would get access to language courses from the day their asylum request is made. People applying for international protection would be entitled to primary and secondary healthcare, including mental and sexual and reproductive healthcare. Member States should ensure that every unaccompanied minor gets immediate access to healthcare and education under the same conditions as national minors. There was no final endorsement of the agreement by the Council.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Ecorys, Cornelisse, G. and Campesi, G., The European Commission's New Pact on Migration and Asylum – Horizontal substitute impact assessment, European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), August 2021.</p> <p>Radjenovic, A., Reception of asylum seekers – recast directive, EPRS, March 2019.</p> <p>Atanassov, N., Reform of the Reception Conditions Directive, EPRS, February 2022.</p>

<p>32 EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the EU ensures that every asylum seeker and refugee, during the process of the residence procedure, attends language and integration courses. The courses should be mandatory, free of charge and include personal assistance for the initial integration. They should start within two weeks after the submission of the residency application. Additionally, incentives and sanctions mechanisms should be established.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Parliament has adopted several resolutions aiming to foster the inclusion of migrants and refugees through intercultural dialogue and the engagement of all relevant actors. In January 2016, Parliament adopted a resolution on intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and education pointing out the importance of teaching people how to engage in intercultural dialogue, which is an essential tool of conflict management and helps people to develop a deeper sense of belonging. This position is reiterated in the resolution on Learning EU at school adopted by Parliament in April 2016. That same month, Parliament adopted another resolution underlining the importance of refugee integration through programmes offering accommodation, literacy and language courses, and intercultural dialogue and professional training. In its resolution of 5 July 2016 on refugees' social inclusion and integration into the labour market, Parliament also highlighted the importance of facilitating effective access for refugees and asylum seekers to housing, healthcare, education, social protection and the labour market. Moreover, it called on the Member States to ensure that welcoming refugees goes hand-in-hand with a solid integration policy, such as language and orientation courses and providing comprehensive insights into fundamental EU rights, values and social inclusiveness. Furthermore, it took the view that educational support, such as language learning, should already be provided in hotspots and reception centres, while a report approved by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs in April 2017 calls for access to language courses from the moment a person files an asylum application. In its resolution of 20 May 2021, Parliament noted that the divergent implementation of the existing directives by the Member States can hinder integration and that enhanced intra-EU mobility would allow non-EU nationals already in the EU to improve their integration prospects.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>Although national governments are primarily responsible for creating and implementing social policies, the EU is committed to supporting Member States through funding, by developing guidance and by fostering relevant partnerships. The Commission's 2005-2010 Common Agenda for Integration provided the framework for the implementation of the EU's integration policy, while the 2011 European Agenda for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals called for a strengthened and coherent approach to integration across different policy areas and government levels. In 2016, the Commission adopted an action plan setting out a comprehensive framework to support Member States' efforts to develop and strengthen their integration policies. The 2016 Council conclusions addressed the same issue, including provisions on pre-departure, pre-arrival and early integration measures, such as introductory language courses, civic orientation programmes and educational and vocational training for non-EU nationals. In November 2020, the Commission presented a new action plan for 2021-27, recognising persisting challenges in relation to employment, education, access to basic services and the social inclusion of migrants. The action plan on integration and inclusion complements existing and upcoming EU strategies to foster equality and social cohesion.</p>

	<p>Under the 2018 provisional agreement of Parliament and the Council on the Recast Reception Conditions Directive, asylum seekers would get access to language courses from the date their application for asylum is made. Finally, the Partnership of the Urban Agenda for the EU on the inclusion of migrants and refugees brings together cities, EU countries, the Commission and civil society organisations to develop common actions to promote integration.</p>
EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information	<p>Orav, A., Labour market integration of asylum-seekers and refugees, European Parliamentary Research Service, June 2021.</p> <p>Ask EP, How does the European Union regulate migration?, European Parliamentary Research Service, June 2021.</p>

Stream 5: Responsibility and solidarity across the EU

Substream 5.1: Distributing migration

<p style="text-align: center;">33</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend replacing the Dublin System with a legally-binding treaty to ensure just, balanced and proportionate distribution of asylum seekers in the EU on the basis of solidarity and justice. Currently, refugees are required to put forward their asylum requests in the EU Member State they first arrive in. This system transition should be as shift as possible. The EU Commission’s proposal for a New EU Pact on Migration and Asylum from 2020 is a good start and should be put into legal form, since it includes quotas on distribution of refugees among EU member states.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Since 2009, Parliament has consistently called for a binding mechanism for the fair distribution of asylum-seekers among all EU Member States (see Parliament’s resolutions of 25 November 2009, 11 September 2012, 9 October 2013, 23 October 2013, 17 December 2014, 29 April 2015, and 10 September 2015).</p> <p>The Commission’s 2016 proposal (COM(2016)0270) to recast the Dublin III Regulation was assigned to the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), with Cecilia Wikström (ALDE, Sweden) appointed as rapporteur.</p> <p>In Parliament’s first-reading report on the proposed recast of the Dublin Regulation in October 2017 LIBE committee adopted the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where asylum-seekers have a ‘genuine link’ with a particular Member State, this link should be the first relocation criterion for transferring them to that Member State; • asylum-seekers that have no genuine link with a particular Member State would automatically be assigned to a Member State according to a distribution key; that Member State would then be responsible for processing their asylum applications; • asylum-seekers would be able to choose among the four countries that, at that given moment, had received the fewest asylum-seekers according to the distribution key; • countries of first arrival must register all asylum-seekers and check their fingerprints, as well as the likelihood of an asylum-seeker being eligible for international protection; applications from asylum-seekers with a very small chance of receiving international protection would be examined in the country of arrival; • individual guarantees for asylum-seeking minors and an assessment of their best interests would be considered a priority; • faster procedures for family members should be introduced, under which asylum-seekers would be immediately transferred to a country in which they claim to have family; furthermore, family members’ applications for international protection should be processed together, without prejudice to the right of an applicant to lodge an application individually; • a clear system of incentives and disincentives should be introduced so that asylum-seekers do not seek asylum in more than one country.

Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue	<p>Article 67(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) states that the EU must lay out a common policy on asylum, immigration and external border control, based on solidarity between Member States, that is fair towards non-EU nationals.</p> <p>Article 80 TFEU explicitly provides for the principle of solidarity and the fair sharing of responsibility, including any financial implications, between the Member States. This principle governs the EU's asylum policies and their implementation.</p> <p>Article 45(2) of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights allows for the same freedom of movement and residence that EU citizens enjoy to be granted to non-EU nationals legally resident in the territory of a Member State in accordance with the relevant Treaty procedures.</p> <p>The Commission's New Pact on Migration and Asylum, published in September 2020 (COM(2020)0609) puts forward 'new forms of solidarity', by proposing a flexible contribution system in which Member States can choose between relocating refugees, sponsoring their return or providing operational support. One of its main elements is the proposal for an Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (COM(2020)0610), which seeks to address inconsistencies in Dublin III, including the urgent requirement of burden-sharing through mandatory solidarity and the issue of discrimination faced by asylum seekers.</p> <p>In December 2020, the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling for distributed responsibility among EU countries and a solidarity-based mechanism to ensure that the right to asylum in the EU be respected. Moreover, Parliament adopted a second resolution stressing the need to allocate more funds to build an effective and sustainable EU return policy.</p>
EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information	<p>Ecorys, The European Commission's New Pact on Migration and Asylum. Horizontal substitute impact assessment, European Parliamentary Research Service, August 2021.</p> <p>Radjenovic, A., The need for solidarity in EU asylum policy, European Parliamentary Research Service, September 2020.</p> <p>Radjenovic, A., Reforming asylum and migration management, European Parliamentary Research Service, October 2020.</p> <p>Schmid-Drüner, M., Fact Sheet – Immigration policy, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, September 2021.</p> <p>Schmid-Drüner, M., Fact Sheet – Asylum policy, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, September 2021.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">34</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend the EU provide support to the EU member states in order to process asylum requests both at a faster pace and according to joint standards. In addition, humanitarian accommodation should be provided for refugees. To take burden off the arrival countries, we recommend that refugees be relocated within the EU quickly and efficiently after their first arrival into the EU so that their asylum request can be processed elsewhere within the EU. For this, financial support from the EU as well as organisational support through the EU Asylum Agency is needed. People whose asylum requests were denied must be sent back to their countries of origin in an efficient manner – as long as their country of origin is considered safe.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Parliament has been calling for reliable and fair procedures, implemented effectively and founded on the principle of non-refoulement, the principle of not forcing refugees or asylum seekers to return to a country where they are liable to be subjected to persecution. It has stressed the need to prevent any reduction in levels of protection or in the quality of reception and to ensure fairer sharing of the burden borne by the Member States at the EU’s external borders. Parliament has called on the Member States to make use of existing possibilities to provide humanitarian visas. It takes the view that persons seeking international protection should be able to apply at any consulate or embassy for an EU humanitarian visa, which would require an amendment to the EU Visa Code. In Parliament’s view, further steps are necessary to ensure that the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) becomes truly uniform, which requires a comprehensive assessment of its implementation. Parliament has noted the importance of mutual recognition by Member States not only of negative, but also of positive asylum decisions.</p> <p>Parliament’s resolution of 12 April 2016 on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration provides an overview of its main positions and concerns on asylum.</p> <p>Parliament stressed that implementation of the CEAS is a key condition for achieving harmonisation and solidarity among Member States, which can, if needed, seek support from the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).</p> <p>Parliament observed that the current mechanisms have not managed to ensure ‘swift access to protection’ and referred to inadmissible applications, subsequent applications, accelerated procedures, and border procedures as examples where the current Asylum Procedures Directive ‘tried to strike a delicate balance between the efficiency of the system and the rights of the applicants’. It also called on Member States to ‘correctly apply the Asylum Procedures and the Reception Conditions Directives in relation to access to detention centres and urged Member States to examine alternatives to detention in accordance with international law and the Union’s Charter of Fundamental Rights’.</p> <p>Parliament’s Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) adopted its report on the 2016 Commission proposal for a reform of asylum procedures on 25 May 2018, calling for asylum procedures to be accelerated so that asylum requests would be registered within three working days and admissibility assessed in one month at most. Overall, the regular procedure should not exceed six months. The report agreed that accelerated procedures should be made mandatory in certain cases. The report insisted on procedural safeguards, such as the right to a personal interview, free legal assistance and appeal, and the need to assign a guardian to unaccompanied minors within 24 hours after they have made an application for protection. In the lead-up to the publication of the present,</p>

	<p>revised proposal, Parliament's LIBE committee started drawing up an implementation report specifically on Article 43 of the Asylum Procedures Directive, appointing Erik Marquardt (Greens/EFA, Germany) as rapporteur. On 10 February 2021, Parliament adopted a resolution on the application of the 2013 Asylum Procedures Directive, with a special attention to border procedures (Article 43). The rapporteur was Erik Marquardt (Greens/EFA, Germany).</p>
Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue	<p>Articles 67(2), 78 and 80 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).</p> <p>Article 18 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.</p> <p>Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted (recast).</p> <p>Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person.</p> <p>Regulation (EU) No 603/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on the establishment of 'Eurodac' for the comparison of fingerprints for the effective application of Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person.</p> <p>Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection.</p> <p>Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection.</p> <p>Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person.</p> <p>Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders.</p>
EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information	<p>Van Ballegooij, W. and Eisele, K., Asylum procedures at the border, European Parliamentary Research Service, November 2020.</p> <p>Wagner, M., Baumgartner, P., Dimitriadi, A., O'Donnell, R., Kraler, A., Perumadan, J., Schlotzhauer, J., Simic, I., Yabasun, D., The Implementation of the Common European Asylum System, European Parliament Policy Department C, May 2016.</p> <p>Orav, A., Common procedure for asylum, European Parliamentary Research Service, March 2021.</p> <p>Radjenovic, A., The need for solidarity in EU asylum policy, European Parliamentary Research Service, September 2020.</p>

	<p>Radjenovic, A., Reforming asylum and migration management, European Parliamentary Research Service, October 2020.</p> <p>Schmid-Drüner, M., Fact sheet on Asylum policy, European Parliament Policy Department C, September 2021.</p> <p>Guild, E., Costello, C., Garlick, M., Moreno-Lax, V., Mouzourakis, M., Carrera, S., New Approaches, Alternative Avenues and Means of Access to Asylum Procedures for Persons Seeking International Protection, European Parliament Policy Department C, October 2014.</p> <p>Guild, E., Costello, C., Garlick, M., Moreno-Lax, V., Enhancing the Common European Asylum System and Alternatives to Dublin, European Parliament Policy Department C, July 2015.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">35</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend strong EU financial, logistical and operational support for the management of the first reception which would lead to a possible integration or repatriation of irregular migrants. Beneficiaries of such support shall be the EU border States who carry the burden of the migration influx.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>The European Parliament has called for a holistic EU approach to migration and the establishment of an Asylum and Migration Fund. Furthermore, Parliament supports better using the operational capacity of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the EU Agency for Asylum (EUAA). Over the past six years, in response to migration challenges, the Commission has provided continuous operational, technical and financial support to the Member States most affected by irregular migration. EU funding has been critically important and the increased resources allocated for migration and border policies for the next financing period are a testament to the effectiveness of this solidarity. Support comes in a variety of forms. In some cases, such as in Greece, long-term support has allowed for new working structures and a solid and sustainable basis for cooperation. EU support has also come in the form of swift responses to a rapidly changing situation.</p> <p>Parliament has also insisted on the need for all related action to take due account of the EU's borders and asylum <i>acquis</i>, as well as the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Thus for some time, Parliament has been calling for reliable and fair procedures and a holistic approach to migration at the EU level.</p> <p>European Parliament resolution of 18 April 2018 on progress on the UN Global Compacts for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and on Refugees.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>Article 3(2) of the Treaty on European Union.</p> <p>Articles 67 and 77 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.</p> <p>As part of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework, the Commission adopted a proposal for a new regulation establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, which aims to contribute to the efficient management of migration flows in the EU. According to the new pact on migration and asylum proposed by the Commission in September 2020, border procedures are a key 'migration management tool' in the event of the arrival of a large share of asylum applicants from non-EU countries with a low asylum recognition rate in the EU. In the recent case of a sudden increase in irregular border crossings from Belarus, the EU provided a combination of operational, financial and diplomatic support in record time to address this unexpected crisis on the EU's eastern external border. The legislative proposals within the new pact represent an overarching approach that covers all aspects of migration and asylum policy and balances the interests and needs of all Member States. The pact provides guarantees that each Member State will deal with the asylum applications it is responsible for, and that a structured, predictable mechanism for solidarity will ensure that no Member State bears a disproportionate burden. There is an overall common understanding on the need to move towards a predictable mandatory and flexible framework for solidarity, tailored to the specific needs of Member States under pressure and allowing for relocation, return sponsorship and capacity building.</p> <p>The Commission has also called for a greater role for the EUAA, including in identifying risk trends, providing the Member States with guidance on improving reception condition standards and developing guidelines for strengthening</p>

	<p>legislative provisions against abuses. Furthermore, the Frontex mandate has been expanded to support Member States with border operations, including return.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Maciejewski, M., Management of the external borders, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs of the Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union, October 2021.</p> <p>Radjenovic, A., Protection of EU external borders, European Parliamentary Research Service, June 2019.</p> <p>Bux, U., Protection of EU external borders – Achievements during the legislative term 2014-2019: the role of the European Parliament, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs of the Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union, April 2019.</p> <p>Ecorys, Cornelisse, G. and Campesi, G., The European Commission's new pact on migration and asylum – Horizontal substitute impact assessment, European Parliamentary Research Service, August 2021.</p> <p>Radjenovic, A., Asylum, Migration & Integration Fund 2021-2027, European Parliamentary Research Service, July 2021.</p> <p>Radjenovic, A., Effective remedies for asylum-seekers at EU external borders – A new pact on migration and asylum, European Parliamentary Research Service, October 2021.</p> <p>Orav, A., Introducing the European Union agency for asylum, European Parliamentary Research Service, October 2021.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">36</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend that the mandate of the EU Agency for Asylum shall be strengthened to coordinate and manage the distribution of asylum seekers within the EU Member States to achieve a fair distribution. A fair distribution requires to take into account the needs of the asylum seekers as well as logistical and economical capacities of EU Member States and their needs in terms of labour market.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In its resolution of 12 April 2016 on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration, Parliament pointed out that Union action on migration must be based on the principle of solidarity.</p> <p>In June 2021, Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement to transform the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) into the EU Agency for Asylum. EASO is responsible for facilitating the functioning of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), ensuring convergence in the assessment of asylum applications across the EU and providing practical support when there is asylum-related pressure.</p> <p>In its resolution of 25 November 2021 Parliament encouraged the development of adequate legal economic migration channels.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>Article 80 TFEU states that ‘the policies of the Union set out in this Chapter and their implementation shall be governed by the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility, including its financial implications, between the Member States.’</p> <p>The Asylum Procedures Directive sets out the conditions for fair, quick and high-quality asylum decisions. Asylum seekers with special needs receive the necessary support to substantiate their claim. Moreover, protection of unaccompanied minors and victims of torture in particular needs to be ensured.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Orav, A., Introducing the European Union agency for asylum, European Parliamentary Research Service, October 2021.</p> <p>Ecorys, The European Commission’s New Pact on Migration and Asylum. Horizontal substitute impact assessment, European Parliamentary Research Service, August 2021.</p> <p>Brouwer, E., et al., The European Commission’s legislative proposals in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs, July 2021.</p> <p>Moreno-Lax, V., et al., The EU Approach on Migration in the Mediterranean, Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs, June 2021.</p>

Substream 5.2: Common approach to asylum

<p>37 EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend either creating an overarching EU institution or strengthening the EU Asylum Agency to process and decide upon asylum requests for the whole European Union based on uniform standards. It should also be in charge of a just distribution of refugees. This institution should also define which countries of origin are safe and which are not, and should be responsible for sending back rejected asylum seekers.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In June 2021, Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement to transform the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) into a fully-fledged EU Agency for Asylum. EASO is responsible for facilitating the functioning of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), ensuring convergence in the assessment of asylum applications across the EU and monitoring the operational and technical application of Union law. This includes assisting Member States with the training of national experts as well as with relocation and resettlement. Parliament ensured that the agency would have a fundamental rights officer in charge of compliance with fundamental rights in its activities, and who will also be manage the new complaints mechanism.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>The Asylum Procedures Directive sets out the conditions for fair, quick and high-quality asylum decisions. Asylum seekers with special needs receive the support they need to substantiate their claim. Moreover, unaccompanied minors and in particular victims of torture need to be protected.</p> <p>In its 2020 proposal to turn the Asylum Procedures Directive into a directly applicable Regulation, the Commission acknowledged the need to use the concepts of safe country of origin and safe third country in a more harmonised way on the basis of information provided by the EU Agency for Asylum.</p> <p>The Dublin Regulation helps to establish the state responsible for examining an application for international protection, and clarifies the rules governing the relations between states. It creates a system to detect early problems in national asylum or reception systems and to address their root causes before they develop into fully-fledged crises.</p> <p>An effective and humane return policy is an integral part of a comprehensive migration and asylum policy. The Return Directive sets out common EU rules on return, providing for clear, transparent and fair treatment of irregular migrants while fully respecting their human rights and fundamental freedoms.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Ecorys, The European Commission's New Pact on Migration and Asylum. Horizontal substitute impact assessment, European Parliamentary Research Service, August 2021.</p> <p>Brouwer, E., et al., The European Commission's legislative proposals in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, July 2021.</p> <p>Moreno-Lax, V., et al., The EU Approach on Migration in the Mediterranean, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, June 2021.</p>

<p>38</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend the establishment, without delay, of dedicated asylum centres for unaccompanied minors across all EU Member States. This should be done in order to accommodate and provide care to the minors according to their particular needs, at the earliest opportunity.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>In its resolution of 12 April 2016 on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration, Parliament stressed the vulnerable position of children arriving in the Union. It called on Member States to provide unaccompanied minors with access to legal assistance, guardianship, access to healthcare, accommodation, education, and the right to be spoken to in a language they understand and interviewed by properly trained officials. Member States should not detain children for immigration reasons. Parliament has also recalled the need to host unaccompanied children in separate facilities from adults in order to avoid any risk of violence and sexual abuse. In its resolution of 3 May 2018 on the protection of children in migration Parliament emphasised that children must not be detained for immigration reasons and called on the Member States to place all children and families with children in non-custodial, community-based accommodation while their immigration status is processed. In its resolution of 3 March 2021 on children's rights, Parliament stressed that the EU strategy on the rights of the child needed to include measures to improve the situation of children in migration and protect their interests, both within and outside the EU, at every stage of asylum procedures. It underlined that a particular focus was required on access to adequate reception conditions, social and medical care, timely appointment of qualified legal representatives and guardians for unaccompanied minors, and access to child-friendly information. In its resolution of 26 November 2019 on children's rights, Parliament called on Member States to improve the situation of children in migration and stressed the importance of child protection as a fundamental principle for the European Union.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>Under the EU Qualification Directive, children can apply for international protection as part of a family unit or in their own right if they meet the requirements to qualify as a refugee or to be granted subsidiary protection. Children arriving in the territory of a Member State that are unaccompanied by an adult responsible for them and those left unaccompanied after entering the territory of a Member States can also apply for international protection under the EU Asylum Procedure Directive. The Reception Conditions Directive provides for a proper standard of living, with access to housing, food, clothing and healthcare and education, while specifying that unaccompanied minors must be provided with accommodation suitable for their age, taking into account their gender and other specific reception needs. In April 2020, the Commission launched an initiative to resettle unaccompanied minors from crowded refugees camps in Greece, and several Member States have voluntarily pledged to receive a number of unaccompanied minors. According to the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, families with children under 12 and unaccompanied children will be exempt from border procedures. Furthermore, representatives for unaccompanied minors should be appointed quickly and provided with sufficient resources. Under the solidarity mechanism in the proposed Asylum and Migration Management Regulation, relocation of unaccompanied children is to be prioritised and Member States will receive more funding from the EU budget.</p>

EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information	<p>Díaz Crego, M. and Mácsai, Gy., Child migrants: Irregular entry and asylum, EPRS, February 2022. Ingeborg Odink, Unaccompanied migrant children in Greece: New relocation scheme, EPRS, May 2020.</p> <p>Brouwer, E., et al., The European Commission's legislative proposals in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, July 2021.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">39</p> <p>EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We recommend the establishment of a common, transparent system for dealing with the expeditious processing of asylum seekers. This process should provide for a minimum standard and should be applied across all Member States equally.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Parliament's resolution of 12 April 2016 on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration provides an overview of its main positions and concerns on asylum. Parliament has been calling for reliable and fair procedures, implemented effectively and founded on the principle of non-refoulement, the practice of not forcing refugees or asylum seekers to return to a country where they are liable to be subjected to persecution. It has stressed the need to prevent any reduction in levels of protection or in the quality of reception, and to ensure fairer sharing of the burden borne by the Member States at the EU's external borders.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>In September 2020 the Commission adopted a New Pact on Migration and Asylum aiming to safeguard more efficient procedures to ensure clearer responsibilities, while bringing clarity to applicants. The European Commission proposed reforming the system through a comprehensive approach to migration and asylum policy based on three main pillars: efficient asylum and return procedures, solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility, and strengthened partnerships with non-EU countries.</p> <p>The Asylum Procedures Directive sets out the conditions for fair, quick and high-quality asylum decisions. Under the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Commission proposes replacing the directive with a regulation, which is directly applicable. The directive should harmonise procedures, ensuring the same steps, timeframes and safeguards across the EU.</p> <p>The Reception Conditions Directive sets out the obligation to treat asylum seekers and refugees according to the standards laid down in human rights and refugee law. This applies to both their material reception conditions as well as to access to education, the labour market, language courses and benefits. The EU has set minimum standards for the Member States on these issues.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Ecorys, The European Commission's New Pact on Migration and Asylum. Horizontal substitute impact assessment, European Parliamentary Research Service, August 2021.</p> <p>Brouwer, E., et al., The European Commission's legislative proposals in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, July 2021.</p> <p>Moreno-Lax, V., et al., The EU Approach on Migration in the Mediterranean, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, June 2021.</p>

<p>40 EU in the world / Migration</p>	<p>We strongly recommend a complete overhaul of all agreements and legislation governing asylum and immigration in Europe. We further recommend that an ‘all of Europe’ approach be adopted.</p>
<p>European Parliament position</p>	<p>Parliament has adopted numerous resolutions addressing asylum and migration, in which it has advocated a humane, solidarity-based and common approach to migration. In its resolution of 12 April 2016 on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration, Parliament emphasised the need to develop safe and lawful routes for asylum seekers and refugees into the EU. In its resolution of 5 April 2017 entitled ‘addressing refugee and migrant movements: the role of EU external action’, Parliament recalled that international migration can contribute to socioeconomic development, and called on governments to address migration as a regular human phenomenon.</p> <p>In its resolution of 25 November 2021 Parliament encouraged the development of adequate legal economic migration channels.</p>
<p>Existing proposals and/or acts on the issue</p>	<p>The Common European Asylum System sets out common standards and cooperation to ensure that asylum seekers are treated equally in an open and fair system, regardless of where they apply. The system is governed by five legislative instruments and one agency.</p> <p>In view of increasing migratory pressure, in May 2015 the Commission adopted the European Agenda on Migration, which proposed several measures, including the hotspot approach, to address this pressure. In March 2019, the Commission reported on the progress made over the past four years and detailed the measures still required to address immediate and future migration challenges.</p> <p>In September 2020, the Commission adopted a New Pact on Migration and Asylum in order to create a system that is both humane and effective. It contains a number of solutions through new legislative proposals and amendments to pending proposals. The New Pact aims to promote more efficient procedures that ensure clearer responsibilities while providing clarity to applicants. The rules will improve the link between key processes, in particular asylum and return, provide a new solidarity mechanism on the relocation of recently arrived persons, return sponsorship, longer-term and immediate operational support, as well as tailored solidarity responses for specific scenarios.</p> <p>In September 2021 the Commission adopted its first report on migration and asylum covering all aspects of migration management and taking stock of the key developments in migration and asylum policy over the previous year and a half.</p>
<p>EPRS/POLDEP publications for more information</p>	<p>Brouwer, E., et al., The European Commission’s legislative proposals in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs, July 2021.</p> <p>Moreno-Lax, V., et al., The EU Approach on Migration in the Mediterranean, Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs, June 2021.</p> <p>Ecorys, The European Commission’s New Pact on Migration and Asylum. Horizontal substitute impact assessment, EPRS, August 2021.</p>

This publication presents background material about European Parliament and European Union activities relevant to the recommendations made by citizens during Panel 4 ('EU in the world / Migration') of the Conference on the Future of Europe. The elements included here are not exhaustive, but have been selected to provide context.

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