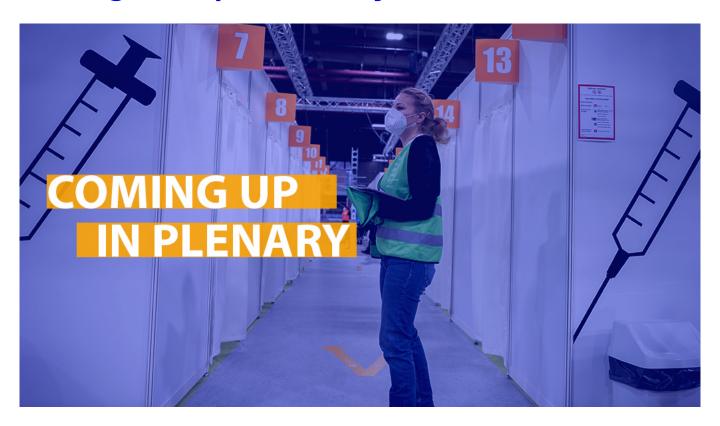
# Article - Coming up in plenary: vaccines, EU-US relations and Portuguese presidency



# **Vaccine contracts**

MEPs will hold a debate on Tuesday morning on the need for more clarity and transparency concerning vaccine contracts and the EU's decision-making process regarding Covid-19 vaccines.

### **EU-US relations**

With <u>Joe Biden taking over as president of the United States</u> on 20 January, MEPs are hopeful for a new chapter in EU-US relations. On Wednesday morning, Parliament will debate areas where the two partners can strengthen their collaboration in the future.

# Portuguese presidency

Portugal took over the six-month rotating <u>presidency of the Council of the EU</u> on 1 January. Portuguese prime minister António Costa will address MEPs on his country's priorities on Wednesday morning.

# Right to disconnect

The current pandemic has meant that one in three Europeans are now working from home. In a vote on Thursday, Parliament is likely to call on the Commission to make "the right to disconnect" a legal entitlement in the EU. MEPs say workers, when off work, should not feel obliged to answer work-related calls, emails and messages.

# Impact of Covid-19

On Wednesday afternoon, MEPs will quiz Council and Commission representatives on the measures the EU is taking to deal with the social and employment effects of the Covid-19 crisis.

# Artificial intelligence

MEPs are also set to debate and vote on how to govern the use of <u>artificial</u> <u>intelligence</u> (AI) specifically within the military and public domains. They are expected to insist on respect for human rights when using AI technologies in mass surveillance.

# Gender equality

On Thursday, the Parliament will debate the <u>EU's strategy for gender equality</u> as well as how Covid-19 has impacted women's rights and how to include women in the digital economy.