

Article – Plenary highlights: Brexit, ECB President, Amazon fires



MEPs [reaffirmed their support](#) for a Brexit based on the existing withdrawal agreement, However, they said they were open to a possible extension of the Article 50 negotiation period, if requested by the UK.

On Tuesday, [Christine Lagarde received the Parliament's support](#) to become the next president of the European Central Bank. If Lagarde gets the final nomination by the Council, she will become the first woman to hold the post when succeeding Mario Draghi on 1 November 2019.

Ahead of the UN Climate Action summit in New York, MEPs [urged](#) the EU to step up measures to tackle global warming. They also [discussed](#) forest fires in the Amazon.

On Wednesday, [MEPs voted in favour of granting additional funds](#) to EU research and education programmes. The EU's research funding programme Horizon2020 will receive a top-up of €80 million and the mobility programme Erasmus+ will receive a €20 million boost.

Members also urged the European Commission to do its utmost to convince the European Patent office not to grant [patents on plants](#) and seeds obtained from conventional breeding, such as crossing.