

Article – Young people for the future of Europe: register now for EYE2020



Are you young and passionate about the environment, opportunities for young people or the future of Europe? We have just the event for you.

Every two years, thousands of young Europeans gather in Strasbourg for the [European Youth Event](#) to share their ideas for the future of Europe. The EYE offers young people a chance to have a voice in European democracy. Some 9,000 Europeans aged 16 to 30 are expected to take part; to share their ideas about the future of Europe and discuss them with MEPs and other European decision makers.

This year marks the fourth edition. It takes place on **29-30 May 2020 in Strasbourg**. The theme is “the future is now” and the [programme](#) includes the environment, migration and Brexit as well as education, technology and health. The programme will also include new formats such as sports activities and a special event for young journalists.

The ideas put forward during the event will be gathered in a report and shared with MEPs. The best ideas will be discussed with parliamentary committees in the autumn.

Registration

You can [register](#) for EYE2020 until **29 February**. All you need to do is gather

a group of minimum 10 participants and fill in the online form.

The event is open to all Europeans aged 16 to 30. Participation is free, but participants have to cover their own costs for transportation, accommodation and meals.

Instagram photo contest

Join our Instagram photo contest and you could win an invite to the EYE.

Simply share a photo with 'the future is now' slogan, tag [@europeanparliament](#), [@ep_eye](#) and add the hashtag #eye2020. Tell us what matters most to you and what you think the EU should be focusing on. Find examples [here](#) to get inspired.

We will pick four winners and a fifth winner will be chosen from the most liked photos among the weekly regrams on the Parliament's account. All five winners will be invited to EYE2020 in Strasbourg.

The competition runs until 2 March. Find more info about the rules on the Instagram page of the [EYE](#) and the [European Parliament](#).

MIFID II: ESMA ISSUES LATEST DOUBLE VOLUME CAP DATA

Today's updates include DVC data and calculations for the period 1 December 2018 to 30 November 2019 as well as updates to already published DVC periods.

The number of new breaches is 65: 55 equities for the 8% cap, applicable to all trading venues, and 10 equities for the 4% cap, that applies to individual trading venues. Trading under the waivers for all new instruments in breach of the DVC thresholds should be suspended from 14 January 2020 to 13 July 2020. The instruments for which caps already existed from previous periods will continue to be suspended.

In addition, ESMA highlights that none of the previously identified breaches of the caps proved to be incorrect thus no previously identified suspensions of trading under the waivers had to be lifted.

As of 9 January 2020, there is a total of 421 instruments suspended.

Please be aware that ESMA does not update DVC files older than 6 months.

Background

MiFID II introduced the DVC to limit the amount of dark trading in equities allowed under the reference price waiver and the negotiated transaction

waiver. The DVC is calculated per instrument (ISIN) based on the rolling average of trading in that instrument over the last 12 months.

Venezuela: Declaration by the High Representative Josep Borrell on behalf of the EU on the latest developments on the National Assembly

Recent acts against the only democratically elected body in Venezuela, the National Assembly, and many of its Members, including the President of the National Assembly, have further escalated the Venezuelan crisis. The attempts to forcibly block a legitimate election process for the Board of Directors of the National Assembly on 5 January and the use of force against its President and several lawmakers to impede their access to the National Assembly are utterly unacceptable.

The European Union considers that the voting session that led to the “election” of Luis Parra is not legitimate as it did not respect the legal procedures, nor the democratic constitutional principles. The EU expresses its full support to Juan Guaidó as President of the National Assembly and strongly rejects the violations of the democratic, constitutional and transparent functioning of the National Assembly, as well as the continuous intimidations, violence and arbitrary decisions against its Members.

Members of the National Assembly must be able to exercise their parliamentary mandate as received from the Venezuelan people free of any intimidation or reprisal.

In light of these serious acts and decisions undermining democracy, rule of law and human rights, the EU is ready to start work towards applying targeted measures against individuals involved in the violation of these principles and rights. These measures shall in no way harm the Venezuelan people that are already dramatically affected by the crisis. The EU will maintain its assistance to the population and is considering further action in order to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.

At the same time, the EU will spare no efforts to help a genuine and inclusive process towards a reinstatement of democracy and rule of law, through free and fair Presidential elections.

The EU encourages all members of the National Assembly and all political actors to engage meaningfully towards a peaceful and democratic resolution to the crisis and the reinstitutionalisation of public powers.

Remarks by President Charles Michel after his meeting with Prime Minister of Croatia Andrej Plenković

First of all, I would like to thank you, Prime Minister, dear Andrej, for our meeting. And I would like to congratulate you and your country on the first presidency. It's a very important moment for your country. It's also a very important moment for the European Union. I am optimistic because I know it will be possible to develop a very strong, very close cooperation in order to face together the difficult challenges ahead.

The first topic, first priority, we discussed at this point today, this morning is the next **European budget**.

It is very important. It's not a technical discussion. It is a political discussion. What are the European priorities? How is it possible to take strong decisions in order to face all the important challenges we have to face. Like climate change, like the digital agenda, like migration, like innovation. How is it possible to find the right balance between the classical European policies – more convergence at the European level through the cohesion funds, the support for an important sector, agriculture pillar one. Pillar two – with the new challenges we have to face like migration, like climate change, like innovation. How is it possible also to find compromises regarding the conditionality, regarding, maybe, the own resources? It is an important debate started in the European Parliament. How is it possible to develop a strong and close inter-institutional cooperation? Because, of course, the European Council has an important role to play.

The rotating presidency, your country, your government has also an important role to play. But the European Parliament has also a role to play in this process. And that's why the Prime Minister Andrej Plenković and myself, we will work in order to have a close cooperation with the European Parliament and with the different members of the European Parliament more involved in this important topic. And I hope it will be possible, as soon as possible, to make progress in order to give a strong signal. We are ready and we are able to challenge all the difficulties we have to challenge.

Point two, **Brexit**. But it is, of course, a British choice and we have to show respect for this choice. The withdrawal agreement is not agreed, and it means that the first priority will be to implement the withdrawal agreement, especially to respect the rights of the citizens, the European citizens, the British citizens. It is an important part of the withdrawal agreement.

But we have to prepare the next step. It will be complex. It will be difficult. And we will be very loyal in these negotiations. But we will promote and defend the European interests. The level playing field will be

very important for the European companies, for the European citizens, for the competitiveness in Europe. And we hope it will be possible to find the right channel of communication, the right channel of negotiations.

We have shown in recent years the possibility at the European level to guarantee the unity between the member states. And I think that is the way of working for the next step will also guarantee this important priority for us, the unity between the member states. We know that the timing will be a part of the difficulties, but we will be really committed in order to make progress, also regarding this important topic, in order to guarantee more predictability in the short term, in the mid-term. It's important for companies and for citizens.

Third point, and I know it is an important point in this country, but not only in this country, how is it possible to guarantee more stability, more security in our neighbourhood. How is it possible to give, from the European Union, a strong and clear signal to the neighbourhood? And also regarding the enlargement process, especially for two countries, Northern Macedonia and Albania.

And we had a few months ago in European Council a very important strategic decision. But we observed that it was not possible to reach an agreement in the European Council. It means that it will be very important in the next weeks together, the Prime Minister Plenković and myself, will be together very committed to develop a stronger political preparation in order to be able to make the clarity and to give, I hope, a clear signal. It means that we have, I hope, it will be possible to make progress on the modernization of the enlargement process and to see how is it possible to give the clarity for the different countries.

We will have the occasion later to discuss other important topics. One word, and it's important, I think, about the role we have to play as European Union at the external level. I think it is very important. We are a union with more than five hundred million citizens. We are an economic power, a strong economic power, and I'm convinced, at the international level, that we have to promote more our values, to promote more and to defend more our interests. It means, in Middle East, for example, that we have to be involved. And that's why I try as President of the European Council, to develop many channels of communication.

I spoke this morning by phone with President Rouhani. I will be in Turkey and in Egypt Saturday. I try to develop many channels of communication because I think the dialogue, the negotiation, is very important and it's important to make progress, to take steps in the good direction. And that's why, with all our partners, we will continue this dialogue. We will try to develop the channels of communication, because I think it is very important for the European Union not only to observe what others would decide for us, but it's important for the European Union to be an actor, to be a player and to promote and to defend our interests.

The stability, the security, to prevent more difficulties, to prevent more conflicts is key for our own stability, for our own security, for our own

prosperity. So strong commitment. I want Europe to be part of the game. I want Europe more involved at the external level. And you will have the occasion, close cooperation with the member states to be very active, to be very committed, not only in the short term and also in the mid-term and in the long term. Thank you.

EASO publishes a new Country of Origin Information (COI) report: Syria – Actors

The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) has published a Country of Origin Information (COI) report titled [“Syria – Actors”](#). This report is part of a series of Syria reports produced in 2019-2020. These reports cover actors of protection, internal mobility, key socio-economic indicators, and targeting of individuals. The reports provide information relevant for international protection status determination for Syrian asylum seekers and will be used in the development of a country guidance note on Syria.

Syrians continued to be the **top citizenship applying for asylum in the EU+ uninterruptedly since 2013**, although the number of applications lodged between January and September 2019 (some 51 200) was lower than in the same period in 2018 (about 57 000). Three in every four Syrian applications (almost 75%) were lodged in four EU+ countries.

Syrian applicants also received more first-instance decisions than any other citizenship group. Since the beginning of 2019, Syrian applicants received some 58 300 decisions. Syria was also the country of origin whose nationals had the most cases pending at first instance in the EU+. At the end of September 2019, there were some 44 600 Syrian applications awaiting a first-instance decision, some 80% of which were pending in just five EU+ countries.

The report, [EASO COI Report: Syria – Actors](#), aims to provide **relevant information regarding the main actors in Syria for the assessment of international protection status determination**, including refugee status and subsidiary protection, and in particular to inform the EASO country guidance development on Syria.

The report was drafted by the EASO COI sector with research contributions from the COI unit of the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration, Ministry of Internal Affairs, as referred to in the acknowledgments section in accordance with the [EASO COI Report Methodology](#), and was reviewed by COI experts from Austria. Additionally, external expert reviews were carried out by ACCORD, and by Aron Lund, fellow at the Century Foundation and guest researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Additional information to complement this report can be found in the following EASO report: [EASO COI Report: Syria – Security situation](#).

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