

## New EP committees to work on security and defence, health, democracy, housing

**Parliament has approved changes put forward by its Conference of Presidents, establishing two new standing and two special committees.**

The existing [subcommittees](#) on Security and Defence and on Public Health have been transformed into fully-fledged committees. In 2025, there will also be two new [special committees](#): one on the so-called “Democracy Shield” initiative included in the [Commission’s 2024-2029 political guidelines](#), and another to deal with the EU’s current [housing crisis](#).

The changes were [put forward by President Metsola and the leaders of Parliament’s political groups](#) to address Europe’s current challenges as well as Parliament’s own priorities, while taking into account citizen concerns and the results of the European elections.

MEPs voted in Strasbourg on the proposals laying down the responsibilities and size of all four committees, and the 12-month term of office of the two special ones:

- Standing committees [on Security and Defence and on Public Health](#), each comprising 43 members - 448 votes for, 161 against, 40 abstentions
- Special committee on the [European Democracy Shield](#), comprising 33 members - 441 votes for, 178 against, 34 abstentions
- Special committee on the [Housing Crisis in the European Union](#), comprising 33 members - 480 votes for, 148 against, 20 abstentions

### Next steps

The [membership](#) of the two standing and two special committees (which should reflect Parliament’s composition) will be determined by each political group and non-attached MEPs. The composition of the committees will then be announced during the 20-23 January 2025 plenary session .

The subcommittees on [Security and Defence](#) and on [Public Health](#) will cease to exist on the first day of the January plenary session and all four committees will be formally set up on the same day. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of each committee will be elected at their respective constitutive meetings.

### Background

Changes to the list and responsibilities of standing committees ([Annex VI](#) of Parliament’s Rules

of Procedure), as well as the establishment of special committees, require a decision of the [Conference of Presidents](#) and a plenary vote. Special committees, created to address specific issues, can sit for up to 12 months - unless their term is extended by a vote in Parliament.

The responsibilities of the new standing committees will be complementary to the adapted mandates of the committees on [Foreign Affairs](#) (AFET) and [the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety](#) (ENVI), which have been the “parent” committees of the pre-existing subcommittees. Accordingly, the ENVI committee will also be renamed “Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety”.

### Further information

[About the European Parliament’s committees](#)

[Parliament’s Rules of Procedure \(July 2024\)](#)

[Foreign interference: how Parliament is fighting the threat to EU democracy](#)

[EP Research Service - Briefing: Information integrity online and the European democracy shield \(10.12.2024\)](#)

[EP Research Service - At A Glance: Ensuring sustainable, decent and affordable housing in Europe \(01.10.2024\)](#)

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

### Contacts

---

Delphine COLARD

Acting Spokesperson and Head of Spokesperson’s Unit

☎ (+32) 2 28 43383 (BXL)

☎ (+33) 3 881 64123 (STR)

📱 (+32) 498 98 44 85

✉ [delphine.colard@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:delphine.colard@europarl.europa.eu)

---

Kyriakos KLOSIDIS

Press Officer

☎ (+32) 2 28 32357 (BXL)

📱 (+32) 470 96 47 35

✉ [kyriakos.klosidis@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:kyriakos.klosidis@europarl.europa.eu)

✉ [constit-press@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:constit-press@europarl.europa.eu)

🐦 [@EPInstitutional](#)

---