

Venice Universities' Model
European Union 2026

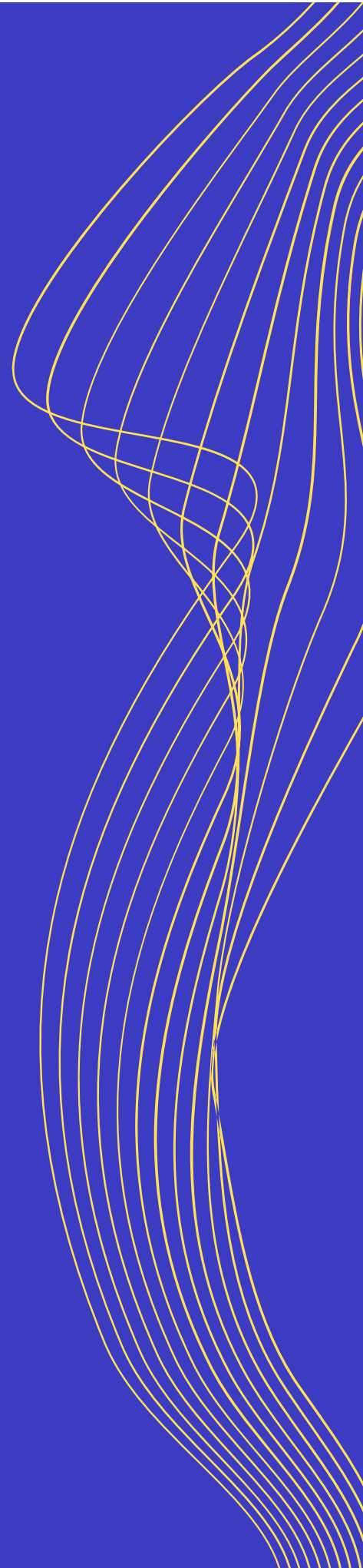
STUDY GUIDE



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The organizers

The **Venice Diplomatic Society** was founded in June 2015, when a group of Ca' Foscari students decided to team up and **invest in young people's expertise** within the field of **diplomacy and international relations**. The aim of "VDS" is to provide students, graduates, and citizens with the chance of acknowledging the complex functioning of international organizations, introducing their inner workings, training to speak a foreign language in front of an international audience, and debating about the most pressing topics on Planet's agenda. Among their activities, we can find: **organizing and designing MEUs, debates, workshops, conferences, and more.**

For more information: www.venicediplomaticsociety.com



Venice International University (VIU) is something **unique** in the international academic environment: a **group of 20 Universities** from all over the world sharing a common Campus on the beautiful **Island of San Servolo**, in the Venice lagoon. These Universities collegially devise study programs to prepare their students to face today's **global challenges**: Sustainable Development, Ageing and Welfare, Global Ethics and Cultural Heritage are central topics of VIU programs. Students who choose to spend a term studying at VIU are taught to move across disciplines and through cultures with a flexible approach, an open mind and creative thinking. VIU offers its support for research programs involving the various Universities that form its network, and develops specific programs for advanced training.

For more information: <http://www.univiu.org>

Ca' Foscari University of Venice was born as the **first business school in Italy and the second in Europe**. Today it provides several courses in various departments, such as Languages, Management, Environmental studies, Philosophy, Science, Humanities, International Relations and more. Just like the city that hosts it, it is a crossroad of cultures, fields of research, ideas and creativity; a modern university that keeps abreast of things by realizing, within its eight departments, advanced research projects and innovative study programs that guarantee an excellent educational experience. Whoever studies in Venice can this way acquire a wider range of and more articulate skills: economy interfaces with cultural heritage, languages intersect with economics, restoration meets science just to cite a few examples.

For more information: <http://www.unive.it>



EUROPE DIRECT
Venezia Veneto

Direct is a **European Commission information network** designed to inform citizens about the activities and opportunities offered by the European Union. Europe Direct aims to **reinforce citizens' sense of attachment to the European Union** by involving them in the process of building Europe. The Veneto has a Europe Direct information relay, set up by the City of Venice - as leading figure - and 18 institutional partners: the Veneto Region, the Prefettura di Venezia, the Provinces of Venice, Belluno, Padua, Rovigo and Treviso, the Venice Chamber of Commerce, the Eurosportello of Unioncamere Veneto, the Cities of Bassano del Grappa, Chioggia, Jesolo, Padova, Thiene and Valdagno, Università luav di Venezia (Architecture and Design), ESU of Venezia (Students' Union) and USR (the Veneto Regional Schools). 32 centers in the region support citizens in accessing information relative to the areas of activity of the European Union. Since 2008 the information relay has also hosted **Eurodesk**, providing young people and youth workers with information on the sector-opportunities offered by the European Union and the European Council.

For more information: <http://europa.eu/contact/>, www.comune.venezia.it/europedirect Email: infoeuropa@comune.venezia.it

With the support and participation of:



European Parliament Research Service: EPRS' mission is to provide Members of the European Parliament, and where appropriate parliamentary committees, with independent, objective and authoritative analysis of, and research on, **policy issues relating to the European Union**, in order to assist them in their parliamentary work. EPRS provides a comprehensive range of products and services, backed by specialist internal expertise and knowledge sources in all policy fields, so empowering Members and committees through knowledge and **contributing to the Parliament's effectiveness and influence as an institution**. EPRS also supports and promotes parliamentary outreach to the wider public, including universities.

For more information:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/stay-informed/research-and-analysis>

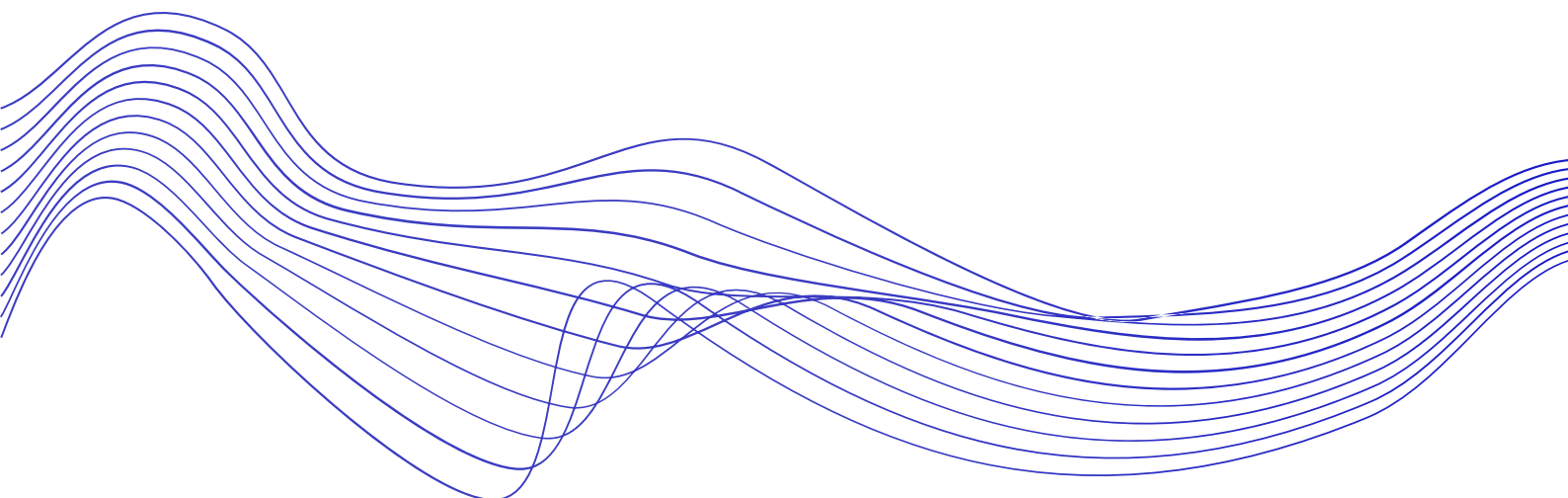
Società San Servolo – Servizi Metropolitan di Venezia srl performs services of general interest promoting the **development and social cohesiveness of the metropolitan area** through tasks assigned by the Metropolitan City of Venice which has control over the company.

For more information: <http://sanservolo.servizimetropolitani.ve.it>



The Regional Company for the Right to Studies (**Azienda Regionale per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario ARDSU-ESU**), is an instrumental entity of the Veneto Region with the aim to guarantee and promote the right to Higher Education within its competences, assigned by the Veneto Region (Regional law n. 8 of the 7th of April 1998). It provides assistance and support to university students through the delivery of benefits and services that favour access to and attendance of university studies, including the successful completion of the chosen instruction path, in particular for those who, though deserving educational opportunity due to their academic results, find themselves in conditions of economic difficulty.

For more information: <https://www.esuvenezia.it/home>



Welcome letter

**DEAR MEMBERS OF THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,
MINISTERS AND JOURNALISTS...**

WELCOME TO VEUMEU 2026!

It is our greatest pleasure to welcome you to the tenth edition of the Venice Universities' Model European Union. We look forward to the speeches, debates, and press conferences that are going to make this year's VeUMEU unique and unforgettable.

First of all, we wish to thank the institutions that contributed to the organization of this simulation: Venice Diplomatic Society, Venice International University, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Europe Direct Venezia, the European Parliamentary Research Service, San Servolo Servizi Metropolitan di Venezia, and the Global Campus of Human Rights. We are also deeply grateful to Professors Sara De Vido and Sara Dal Monico, whose unwavering support has been the bedrock of VeUMEU since its very first edition. And last but not least, our thanks go to the incredible VeUMEU Staff, whose passion and hard work constitute the fundamental pillars of the event.

As coordinators, we have been dedicating our energies to the realization of VeUMEU 2026, and we are extremely proud of the result. Now, the event only needs a final touch, and it is yours! As participants, you will be discussing the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and the Third-country Nationals Who Are Long Term Residents Directive. Nowadays, the topics treated in these directives are becoming increasingly more relevant, and we are certain that the contribution each one of you will bring to the discussion will be extremely meaningful and compelling.

**We wish you all the best for
VeUMEU 2026 and we look
forward to seeing your
performance throughout
the simulation!**



Meet the Directors



Emiliano
Raffaglio

Director General



Angelica
Capelli

**Deputy Director
General**



Giorgia Del
Fabbro

Event Coordinator





Dear everyone,

Let me introduce myself: my name is Emiliano, and I have the pleasure to be the Director General of VeUMEU 2026!

I am also treasurer of VDS and, before becoming the Director General of this year's edition, I was last year's Deputy Director General. Indeed, it was in that position that I could learn the processes, procedures and guidelines behind VeUMEU that are now essential for my current role.

As a second-year PISE student, I am glad to say that VeUMEU is a great chance to look at the functioning of the European Union from multiple perspectives: whether my interest was focused on the theoretical aspects or European law, on the workings of the institutions of the Union or on practiced politics, I always felt I was in the right place!

VeUMEU is also a remarkable opportunity to meet many amazing people and great professional figures: from university colleagues and professors to EPRS experts; but what's even more amazing, is that you can confront yourselves with them freely and insightfully.

I have just one piece of advice: always believe that hard work and respect for others can bring you everywhere!

See you soon!

Emiliano Raffaglio,
Director General



Dear delegates and journalists,
welcome to VeUMEU 2026!

My name is Angelica Capelli, I am a first-year Master student in Comparative International Relations and I am delighted to serve as this edition's Deputy Director General.

My first experience as a MEU Coordinator has quickly taught me how teamwork, ambition and enthusiasm can truly change the game, both inside and outside the simulation.

As we prepare for VeUMEU, I feel that we, as young people, are standing at a pivotal moment, in which we can choose to step forward, claim our space and rediscover the true meaning of the European Union from the inside. The more European institutions are perceived as distant and outdated, the more essential your role in this simulation will be. VeUMEU is not just an exercise: you are called to engage in your role at the best of your abilities, and to realise how much power you already carry within yourself.

During the sessions, you might feel tension or a strong sense of responsibility, whether you are defending your delegation's position or challenging someone else's. That feeling is a sign of commitment, not of insecurity: it shows that you care and you are stepping into your role with intention.



Don't let that pressure hold you back: raise your placard, take the floor, and trust in the impact of every word you deliver. My advice for you is simple: embrace your potential, raise your voice, and come meeting the extraordinary people who might just change your path.

Remember: Europe is not a distant force above our heads. We *are* Europe, we embody its ideals and carry its ambitions. Together, we will shape its future.

I am eager to meet you all!

Angelica Capelli
Deputy Director General





I first took part in a MUN in New York in 2022, and from that moment onwards, I decided to become more involved, leading to my current position as Staff Member for Future We Want. Looking at MUNs from an external perspective is an amazing experience because it helps you realise the impact that you are generating. You get the chance to meet hundreds of delegates from a variety of backgrounds, each of them with different aspirations and skills. What strikes me the most is always the capacity that these simulations have to bring people together and to act as magnets for new talents to flourish.

Dear participants,

My name is Giorgia Del Fabbro, and it is my pleasure to welcome you to VeUMEU 2026 as this year's Event Coordinator.

I'm a third-year PISE student and Councillor of VDS. Before becoming the Event Coordinator of this year's edition, I was also a Delegate. In fact, I represented the Minister of the Netherlands last year.

My decision to apply for this role stems mainly from my desire to approach a new challenge and to understand the hidden mechanisms of how simulations are carried out.

This is why my biggest advice is to not be scared to speak, not just in front of the public, but also with others. The people you meet can become a great resource. I encourage you to take these days seriously and to use VeUMEU as a laboratory to learn, lead, debate and engage. You do not have to be the loudest in the room; be the one with the best arguments. Speak clearly and when unsure, learn even more.

I wish you all the best of luck. See you at San Servolo!

Giorgia Del Fabbro
Event Coordinator



The Venice Universities' Model European Union 2026

The Venice Universities' Model European Union 2026 will focus on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and the Third-country nationals who are long-term residents Directive. During the Model EU, the Deputies and Ministers will be asked to discuss the following Commission's proposals:

Proposal 1:

Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937

Proposal 2:

Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents (recast)





EPRS

Meet the EPRS Experts



Stefano
Spinaci



David De
Groot



Stefano Spinaci has been an analyst at the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) since 2018. His work focuses primarily on the European Union policies, with particular focus in industrial policy, digital transformation, and innovation ecosystems.

His research often explores how EU-level strategies affect competitiveness, technological development, and economic resilience across member states. Before joining EPRS, he was involved in policy research and analysis in European and international contexts, building a strong background in economic and regulatory affairs.



Stefano Spinaci

Corporate Sustainability Due-Diligence Directive

David De Groot has worked for the European Parliamentary Research Service since 2021, where he works in the Members Research Service.

He obtained is LL.B. and LL.M. European Law School at Maastricht University in the Netherlands and his PhD summa cum laude at the University of Berne in Switzerland. Before joining the European Parliament, he wrote a number of studies for the European Commission. Among his specialisations figure EU citizenship and legal migration, family law, private international law and LGBTI rights.



David De Groot

Third-country nationals who are long-term residents Directive

Role of the European Commission

At the European level, the European Commission holds a central role within the decision-making process, since it is responsible for proposing legislations. The Venice Universities' Model European Union (VeUMEU) has the purpose of simulating such processes. Therefore, participants will already be provided with two proposals: a Directive on **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence** and a Directive on **Third-country nationals who are long-term residents**.



The role of the VeUMEU Commissioners will be: introducing the proposals to the participants at the beginning of the first two days by underscoring what matters to the EU as a whole, proposing amendments, and influencing the course of the discussions in accordance with the objectives and principles of the European Union, specifically of the European Commission.

During the simulation, participants can ask for the help of the Commissioners by proposing a **motion to summon the Commissioner**, and, on that occasion, they can ask for clarifications, or they can ask them to state the position of the Commission on that particular matter. However, Commissioners are not obliged to help or guide participants as the Chair does, because they play an active role within the simulation.

Meet the Commissioners and the Legal Advisor



Agnese De
Zolt

Commissioner



Sara Dal
Monico

Legal Advisor



Marija
Mihajlovic

Commissioner



Dear all,

This is Sara Dal Monico and I will be your Legal Advisor in this new edition of the VeUMEU.

I am a Postdoctoral Researcher and Adjunct Professor at Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

I am not new to VeUMEU simulations, nor am I new to the role of the Legal Advisor for the VeUMEU.

Simulations both of the EU and UN have been enriching life experiences both from a personal and an academic point of view, and I am positive that this will be the case for you as well. You will learn the values of cooperation and compromise, and you will see how necessary it is to bring to the table both extensive knowledge and soft skills.



Take advantage of this opportunity as much as you can, learn as much as you can, since in times like those we are living in, taking part in simulations and promoting the role and values of the EU is absolutely fundamental.

Bests,

Sara Dal Monico
Your Legal Advisor



The legislative Acts of the EU

The legislative acts of the European Union are regulated in **article 288 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union (TFEU)**. The article states:

Article 288

(ex Article 249 TEC)

To exercise the Union's competences, the institutions shall adopt **regulations, directives, decisions, recommendations and opinions**.

A regulation shall have general application. It shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

A directive shall be binding, as to the result to be achieved, upon each Member State to which it is addressed, but shall leave to the national authorities the choice of form and methods. A decision shall be binding in its entirety. A decision which specifies those to whom it is addressed shall be binding only on them.

Recommendations and opinions shall have no binding force.

Regulations and directives are different legal acts, they have different features and characteristics.

- **Regulations** set out precise rules. They are usually deployed in areas in which the EU has exclusive competence. They are applied automatically and uniformly in all Member States as soon as they enter into force, with no need to transpose the act into national law - requiring no transposition means that Member States do not have to draft a national law that receives the act and makes it binding inside the country: the regulation automatically enters the legal systems of the States.

Regulations have three main features:

1. They have **general application**: it means that the subjects to their rules are not only Member States, but also individuals for instance.
2. They are **binding in their entirety**, which means that every provision, rule and obligation is binding, and States cannot select part of the act to implement or not.
3. They are **directly applicable**, which, as it was already explained, means that they do not need transposition and start to produce legally binding effects as soon as they enter into force. This also means that they have a **direct effect**: they create rights and obligations on subjects of law, with the consequence that natural and legal persons can file complaints in front of national courts, claiming that the application of the rights enshrined in the regulation.

Directives, on the other hand, are used to set an objective. As a matter of fact, as article 288 states: **“they shall be binding as to the result to be achieved”**; meaning that they set a result which Member States have to reach, but States are free in terms of how to reach it. Thus, directives are binding as to the goal they set, but the choice on how to implement them is up to the discretion of the States. Unlike regulations, they do require transposition, meaning that States have to draft a national law to receive the directive and make it binding (thus they are not directly applicable per se). However in certain cases the European Court of Justice acknowledged that a directive can acquire direct effect. Specifically, a directive has direct effect when its dispositions are unconditional and sufficiently clear, and when the Member State has not transposed the Directive by its deadline.

The **power of legislative initiative** typically belongs to the European Commission in the EU, as provided by **article 17(2) TUE**.

Nonetheless, the Treaty of Maastricht initially, and remarked later by the Treaty of Lisbon, has introduced a right of legislative initiative also for the European Parliament. It is a way to ensure more democracy in EU law-making processes.

Interestingly, the Treaty of Lisbon has also introduced a **right of legislative initiative for European Citizens** (provided that some requirements are met!).

Nonetheless, as stated by **Article 225 TFEU**, the power of the EP is limited, as it only may “request to the Commission to submit any appropriate proposal on matters which it considers that a Union act is required”. Thus, the EP can only ask the Commission to submit a proposal. If the Commission decides not to proceed, it has to provide reasons for such denial.

Summing up the main features:

Regulations:

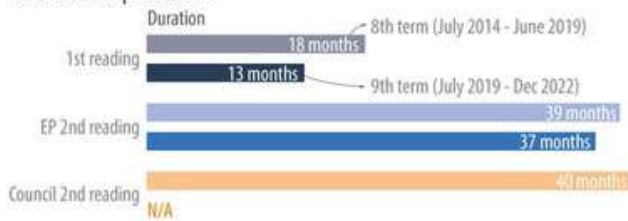
1. General application
2. Binding in their entirety
3. Direct applicability and effect
4. It sets precise rules to follow

Directives:

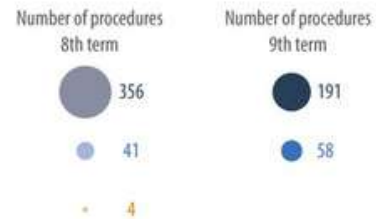
1. No general application
2. It requires transposition
3. Direct applicability if certain requirements are met
4. It sets an objective that Member States must reach

Ordinary Legislative Procedure

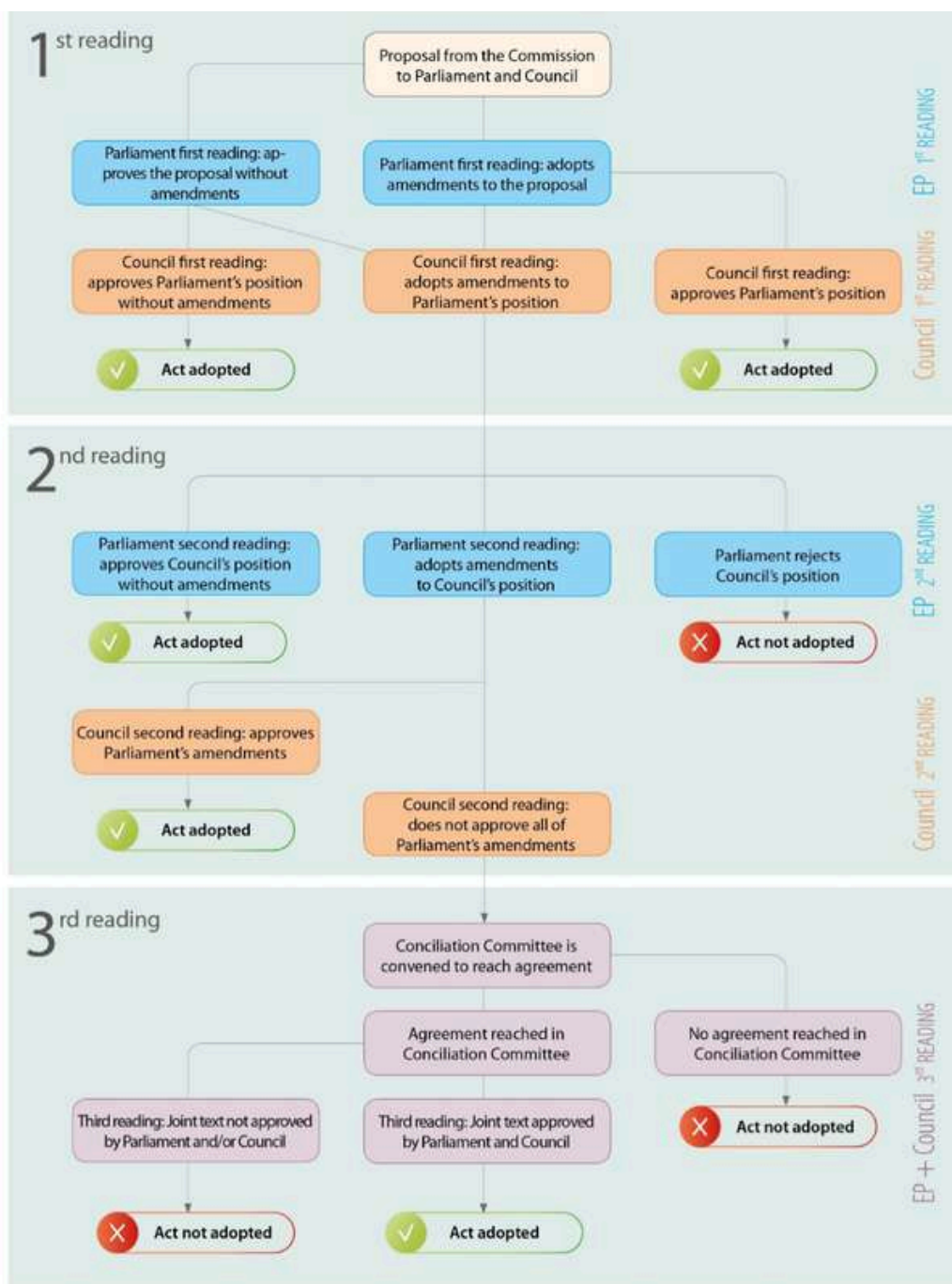
Co-decision procedure



Data source: EPRS.



EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service



Hello everyone!

I am Agnese De Zolt, a first-year master student in International Relations and European Studies at Ca' Foscari.

It is a pleasure to be one of this year's Commissioner for the Venice Universities' Model of European Union.

I believe that VeUMEU '26 will be a great opportunity to dive into multilateral negotiations and gain knowledge about the European Union. As younger generation, it is important for us to be active in the international arena and speak out in favour of our values and interests. This experience will not only deepen our understanding of European policymaking, but also strengthen the ability to contribute to the challenges shaping our future.

My advice to all participants is to set fear apart and challenge ourselves by taking part in this stimulating and enriching opportunity. It will be the perfect occasion to meet new people, discuss global issues and collaborate with a variety of different experts.



Looking forward to this new experience!

Best regards,

Agnese De Zolt

Commissioner for the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)



Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2022 on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937

1. Proposal Overview

Companies are key players in the promotion of a sustainable economy and society. At the same time, their global value chains can negatively impact human rights and the environment. A growing number of EU companies have already implemented due diligence processes, often based on international standards and conventions. Some Member States have meanwhile begun to develop their own legal regime on corporate due diligence. Within this context, the primary objective of this Directive is to establish a European framework for the identification, prevention and mitigation of adverse human rights and environmental impacts in the activities of the companies operating in the European Union. It represents a significant step toward mandatory due diligence in the value chain, which currently lacks a unified legal framework.

Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence means that a company is actively committed to ensure sustainability in its operations, specifically regarding human rights and environmental decisions. According to this Directive, due diligence process should cover the following steps: (1) integrating due diligence into a company's policies and management systems, (2) identifying and assessing adverse human rights and environmental impacts, (3) preventing, mitigating, bringing to an end or minimising actual and potential human rights and environmental impacts, (4) monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of measures, (5) reporting, and (6) providing remedial measures. Significantly different requirements regarding due diligence among Member States create fragmentation of the internal market. Differences in terms of scope, risks covered, level of detail, enforcement and liability can pose challenges to EU companies operating in the EU single market. This fragmentation hinders the effectiveness and competition of transnational activities. The proposed act is therefore designed to prevent and remove such obstacles by harmonising the requirements for companies.



The aforementioned due diligence applies to the company's operations, the operations of their subsidiaries and the operations of their business partners in the value chain. Furthermore, the Directive will establish a civil liability regime for companies that do not comply with the implications set out in this text. The duty will be applied not only to the company's own operations, but also to the value chains of their subsidiaries and partners, whether they are located in or outside the European Union. Furthermore, it lays down rules on directors' duties and the protection of persons reporting breaches. In this way, sustainability will no longer be merely a voluntary responsibility for companies but it will become a legal obligation.

Finally, in addition to identifying potential risks, this Directive will require companies to take action in the prevention, protection and assessment of their activities concerning environmental sustainability and social rights. A company will be responsible to integrate appropriate human rights and environmental due diligence into its policies and risk management systems. Quantitative and qualitative consultations with affected parties, such as employees and relevant stakeholders, will be arranged to ensure that the best strategies are being applied. For assessing the company's operations, preventive and corrective plans shall be developed in collaboration with affected parties. The scope of this Directive applies to companies which fulfil certain conditions, as outlined in Article 2. The application differentiates companies based on their size, turnover and location, meaning whether they were formed in accordance with the legislation of a EU Member State or the legislation of a third country. Such categorization aims to create a balance between the interests in achieving the goals of the Directive and the interests in minimising the financial and administrative burden on companies. In addition, companies which operate in areas deemed to have a higher risk of adverse impacts are subject to lower thresholds. These sectors include textiles (including leather and footwear), agriculture (including fisheries, forestry and food production) and mineral resources (including metal products and chemicals).

Content summary of the specific provisions of the proposal:

Article 1 sets out the subject matter of the Directive, whose purpose is to lay down obligations and liability for companies, with respect to their own operations, the operations of their subsidiaries, and the value chain operations carried out by established business relationships.

Article 2 provides a detailed description of the companies subject to this Directive.



1. This Directive shall apply to companies which are formed in accordance with the **legislation of a Member State** and fulfil one of the following conditions:

a) The company had more than **500 employees** and a net worldwide turnover of more than **EUR 150 million** in the last financial year,

b) The company did not reach the thresholds under point (a), but had more than **250 employees**, a net worldwide turnover of **EUR 40 million** in the last financial year and at least 50% of it derived from one of the following sectors:

- manufacture of textiles and related products,
- agriculture, forestry, fisheries,
- the extraction of mineral resources;

2. This Directive shall also apply to companies which are formed in accordance with the legislation of a third country and fulfil one of the following conditions:

a) The company generated a net turnover of more than **EUR 150 million** in the Union in the last financial year,

b) The company generated a net turnover of more than **EUR 40 million** in the Union in the last financial year and at least 50% of it derived from the sectors specified in paragraph 1, point (b).

Article 3 contains definitions useful for the purpose of this Directive. Outlined below are the most relevant:

a. 'adverse environmental impact' refers to a negative impact on the environment resulting from the violation of one of the prohibitions and obligations to the international environmental conventions;

b. 'Adverse human rights impact' refers to a negative impact on protected persons resulting from the violations of the rights enshrined in the international conventions on human rights;

c. 'Subsidiary' means a legal person over which the activity of a 'controlled undertaking' is exercised;

d. 'Business relationship' refers to a relationship with a contractor, subcontractor or any other legal entity or partner. This relationship becomes an 'established business relationship' when it is expected to be lasting in view of its intensity and/or duration;

e. 'Value chain' refers to all the activities carried out by a company regarding the production of goods and services. These include also the development and the disposal of the product;

f. 'SME' stands for micro, small or medium-sized enterprises;

g. 'Stakeholders' is used to indicate the companies' employees, the employees of its subsidiaries, or any other individual or entity whose rights and interests are or could be affected by the activities of the company;

h. 'director' applies to any responsible member for the administration and management of the company

i. 'authorised representative' means a natural or legal person resident in the Union who acts on behalf of a company formed in accordance with the legislation of a third country to which this Directive is applied according to **Article 2**.

Article 4 outlines the responsibility for Member States to ensure that companies conduct human rights and environmental due diligence in accordance with this Directive.

Article 5 requires Member States to ensure that companies **integrate** due diligence into all corporate measures and have in place a due diligence policy that is updated annually. Moreover, this policy should include:

- a description of the company's approach to due diligence,
- a code of conduct to be followed by the company's employees and subsidiaries,
- a description of the processes put in place to implement and verify compliance with due diligence.

Article 6 establishes the obligation for Member States to ensure that companies take appropriate measures to **identify** actual or potential adverse human rights and environmental impacts in their own operations, in the operations of their subsidiaries and at the level of their established direct or indirect business relationships in their value chain.

Article 7 sets out the requirement for Member States to ensure that companies take appropriate measures to **prevent** potential adverse impacts identified in the Article 6, or to adequately mitigate those impacts, where prevention is not possible. In order to do so, a prevention action plan shall be implemented. Moreover, a company may decide to include **contractual assurances** from a direct business partner to ensure compliance with the company's code of conduct and prevention action plan. With regards to contractual assurances between a company and a SME, the terms used shall be fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory and the bigger company shall bear the costs for the verification. To comply with this obligation, a company may also decide to suspend or conclude any business relationship that jeopardises the effectiveness of this Directive.



Article 8 establishes the obligation for Member States to ensure that companies take appropriate measures to bring to an end actual adverse human rights and environmental impacts that they had or could have identified in the Article 6. Where an adverse impact cannot be brought to an end, Member States should ensure that companies minimise the severity of the impact. In order to do so, a corrective action plan shall be implemented. Where necessary, Member States shall intervene to increase the company's ability to bring the adverse impact to an end.

Article 9 sets out the obligation for Member States to ensure that companies provide for the possibility to submit complaints in case of legitimate concerns regarding those potential or actual adverse impacts. Complaints may be submitted by persons, trade unions and civil society organisations active in the area concerned.

Article 10 introduces the obligation for Member States to require companies to periodically assess the implementation of their due diligence measures. The aim is to monitor the identification, prevention, mitigation and minimisation of the adverse impacts. Such assessments shall be based on quantitative and qualitative indicators and be carried out at least every 12 months.

Article 11 implies that companies should publish a report on the matters covered by this Directive. The content of the report should be determined by the Commission.

Article 12 sets out the obligation for the Commission to provide support for companies in order to facilitate their compliance with Articles 7 and 8.

Article 13 arranges the possibility for the Commission to issue guidelines in consultation with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, the European Environment Agency and international bodies having expertise in due diligence. The scope of such consultations is to provide support to companies or to Member State authorities on how to fulfil their due diligence obligations.

Article 14 requires the Member States and Commission to have an active role in the implementation of the Directive. In particular, such support can range from the operation of dedicated websites, portals or platforms to financial support to SMEs, and facilitation of joint stakeholder initiatives. This provision further clarifies that companies may rely on industry schemes and multi-stakeholder initiatives to support the implementation of due diligence and that the Commission, in collaboration with Member States, may issue guidance for assessing the fitness of such schemes.

Article 15 focuses on combating climate change. Member States shall ensure that companies comply with the transition to a sustainable economy and with the limiting of global warming to 1.5 °C in line with the Paris Agreement.

Article 16 sets out the requirements and implications in the designation of authorised representatives, who need to be domiciled in one of the Member States and notified to their supervisory authorities.

Article 17 implies that each Member State shall designate one or more supervisory authorities to oversee compliance with the obligations derived from this Directive. The powers and resources of supervisory authorities are further detailed in **Article 18** and include:

- initiate an investigation in case of a possible breach by a company,
- grant companies an appropriate period of time to take remedial measures in case of failure of compliance,
- impose pecuniary sanctions.

Article 19 concerns the submission and assessment of substantiated concerns. In particular, Member States shall ensure that natural and legal persons are entitled to submit substantiated concerns whenever they believe that a company is not complying with the obligations deriving from this Directive. The procedure should be assessed by supervisory authorities.

Article 20 deals with the rules on sanctions applicable to infringements. Such rules, determined by Member States, shall be effective, dissuasive and proportionate with respect to a company's turnover. Companies's efforts to comply with any remedial action shall be taken into consideration when determining the appropriate level of the sanction. Moreover, Member States shall ensure that any decisions by a supervisory authority containing sanctions is published.

Article 21 introduces a European Network of Supervisory Authorities. The network, composed by the representatives of the supervisory national authorities, aims at the coordination and alignment of the supervisory practices.

Article 22 provides for the **civil liability** for companies that do not comply with due diligence and the obligations of **Articles 7** and **8**. Member States shall ensure that where a company has taken preventive measures referred to in articles 7 and 8, the company shall not be liable for damages caused by partners with whom it has an established business relationship.

Finally, this Directive shall be without prejudice to Union or national rules that apply liability in situations not covered by or providing for stricter liability than this Directive.

Article 25 clarifies directors' **duty of care**. Companies' directors should take into account the consequences of their decisions in matters concerning human rights, climate change and the environment. Furthermore, under **Article 26**, directors are responsible for implementing and monitoring due diligence measures.

Article 30 contains provisions on the transposition of the Directive. Member States have a 2 year period of time to adopt and publish regulations and provisions necessary to comply with this Directive. Such measures should then be communicated to the Commission.

2. Previous Legislation and EU Objectives

With respect to existing policy provisions in the policy area, this Directive will complement some directives and regulations which regulate the reporting and transparency framework of the Union.

At EU level, sustainable corporate governance has been mainly fostered indirectly, for instance through the Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD) which imposes reporting requirements to companies. Even though the NFRD has led to some improvements, it has recently been replaced by the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), which extended the number of companies covered by the NFRD. The CSRD and the CSDDD are closely inter-related and complementary to each other. Complementarity is expected to enhance effectiveness of both measures and induce corporate behavioral change.

In a similar way, this Directive will complement the Taxonomy Regulation. The Taxonomy Regulation is a transparency tool useful to facilitate decisions on investment by providing a list of environmentally and socially sustainable economic activities. By working together, this Directive and the Taxonomy Regulation can further help investors to allocate resources to responsible and sustainable companies.

The proposed Directive will also complement Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and the Employers' Sanctions Directive, which prohibits the employment of third-country nationals who are irregularly present in the European Union. Finally, the Directive will also complement other existing or planned sectoral and product-related value chain due diligence instruments as a result of its cross-sectoral scope and broad range of sustainability impacts covered.

Sustainable prosperity and competitiveness has represented one of the Commission's top priorities in recent years. In this context, the CSDDD Directive is designed to be consistent with a range of EU policies which focus on sustainability, climate change and human rights. As part of the European Green Deal, the Commission has proposed a list of initiatives on sustainable corporate governance. Among these are the "**Fit for 55**" package and the Environmental Liability Directive. Moreover, through the European Climate Law, the Union has legally committed to becoming climate neutral by 2050 and to reducing emissions by at least 55% by 2030. Despite these significant achievements, there is still the need for a Directive conceived to regulate EU companies' value chains as well as external suppliers, from where 80-90% of environmental harm of EU production may occur. This Directive will therefore complement existing measures and reinforce liability for companies' operations. In the protection of human rights and social policies, this Directive aligns with the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy and the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child. Moreover, by promoting fair working conditions within and outside the Union, it contributes to the European Pillar of Social Rights. All together, the provisions in this Directive will reinforce the protection of workers and the prevention of abuses within and across Member States.

3. Legal Basis

The Legal Basis for the proposal of this Directive is provided by **Article 50** and **Article 114** of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

Article 50 TFUE gives the EU competence to coordinate activities among companies in order to guarantee freedom of establishment, which allows EU citizens to set up and operate businesses in another EU member state under the same conditions as nationals of that country. Such coordination is therefore necessary to safeguard the interests of companies and those of their stakeholders. The European Union's intervention through this Directive would prevent future disparities capable of hindering the harmonization of policies and measures among Member States. Furthermore, it will ensure that business strategies in the European Union are compatible with the limiting of global warming to 1.5°C (in line with the Paris Agreement), as well as that directors implement duty of care in the activities of their companies.

Article 114 TFUE provides for the adoption of measures which have as their object the establishment and functioning of the internal market. Differences between national rules on sustainable corporate governance and due diligence have a direct effect on the functioning of the internal market. Such divergences in requirements can negatively impact competition and SMEs in particular, leading to a distortion of the free allocation of goods and services.

The principle of **subsidiarity** is respected given the fact that Member States legislation alone in the area is unlikely to be sufficient and efficient. On the one hand, problems such as pollution, climate change, biodiversity etc. have a transboundary nature and cross-border effects. On the other hand, many companies operate EU-wide or globally and are therefore subject to regulations of different countries. The two aspects combined justify and urge the intervention of the European Union in the matter of due diligence.

With respect to **proportionality**, the Commission acknowledges the financial implications for smaller companies in comparison to the bigger ones. For this reason, full due diligence obligations will be applied only to very large companies. For SMEs, due diligence obligations will be simplified as they will focus on severe adverse impacts that are relevant for their sector. The scope is to use fair, reasonable, non-discriminatory and proportionate requirements for companies, in line with the national law of the Member States.

The choice of instrument is a directive since **Article 50 TFEU** is the legal basis for company law legislation and it requires to act by means of directives. The Commission may issue guidelines to provide support to companies and Member State authorities on how they should fulfil their due diligence obligations.

4. Context of the Directive

Businesses have enormous power and influence over societies and the planet. Globalisation has facilitated opportunities for companies, enabling them to expand their activities and improve complex supply chains. At the same time, some firms have relocated production processes from developed to developing countries, where labor is generally cheaper and environmental standards are lower. These developments have resulted in new sustainability challenges, especially in the context of transnational activities and global value chains.

Increased consumer awareness plays a pivotal role in the pursuit of more sustainable and transparent corporate operations. Opaque value chains, inadequate due diligence procedures and inefficient accountability regimes contribute to the perpetration of human rights violations and unsustainable systems in business operations. As a response, EU citizens and institutions have called for binding rules to ensure that businesses operate in a sustainable manner and take appropriate measures to control the consequences of their activities. In this context, the proposed Directive represents a step toward the EU's objective of "**an economy that works for people**", whose purpose is to align economic activities with sustainability, human rights, and environmental protection goals. Companies will in fact need to ensure that their direct and indirect partners respect due diligence requirements and take appropriate measures to comply with this Directive.

While Member States have a duty to protect human rights, they have often failed to prevent corporate abuses and hold companies accountable. At the same time, the current legal framework on corporate due diligence is characterized by fragmented legislation among Member States. The first country to implement a due diligence law was France in 2017, when the '*Loi sur le devoir de vigilance*' entered into force. Germany, one of the largest EU economies together with France, adopted a due diligence law in 2021, the '*Sorgfaltspflichtengesetz*'. As states continue to issue legislation in the matter, fragmentation is expected to intensify overtime. Given that EU companies operate through complex international supply chains, such regulatory inconsistencies create legal uncertainty and reduce the effectiveness of due diligence efforts. According to a [2020 Commission study](#), only 37% of business respondents (operating across the EU and the world) currently conduct environmental and human rights due diligence. Among them, only 16% cover the entire supply chain. As the Commissioner for the internal market Thierry Breton affirmed, "while some European companies are already leaders in sustainable corporate practices, many still face challenges in understanding and improving their environmental footprint and human rights track record". As a matter of fact, some businesses have voluntarily adopted due diligence measures based on international standards, such as the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. However, these agreements are examples of soft law that do not create legal requirements for businesses with respect to social and environmental impacts. Existing divergences in both corporate practices and national requirements have jeopardised their efficiency and created distortions in the internal market. Companies therefore need a comprehensive and harmonised system which ensures cohesion and minimises legal uncertainty. In this way, big market players could take a leading role in mitigating the risks across their value chains and support smaller companies in adapting to changes.

5. Limits of the Directive

The main limits to this Directive originate from the necessity of balancing economic and sustainable interests in the single market. It is for this reason that micro companies and SMEs are not subject to the implications of this Directive. Such companies account for 99% of businesses in the European Union and their corporate behavior has indeed an impact on sustainability. Even though the Directive does not directly apply to them, the Commission hopes that by fostering due diligence among bigger companies this will create positive spillovers and encourage more sustainable choices among smaller companies. Moreover, this Directive does not fully apply to financial operations: under **Articles 7** and **8**, when companies provide credit, loan or other financial services, they shall not be required to terminate the contract when this can cause prejudice to the entity to whom the service is being provided.



6. Commission Notes

Companies can play a key role in the promotion of a sustainable economy and society. According to the estimates of the Commission, about 13 000 EU companies will be covered by this Directive. Moreover, the text will cover about 4 000 no-EU companies that have significant operations within the Union market.

In a legislative-initiative resolution adopted in 2020, the European Parliament called on the Commission to introduce mandatory due diligence legislation which could give businesses and citizens legal certainty. In preparation for the proposal, the Commission arranged dedicated workshops and conferences with affected parties, social partners and stakeholders. The outcome of these meetings acknowledged the need for an EU legal framework on due diligence.

In the end, the Commission decided to proceed with this initiative for a number of reasons. First, it aligns with the Commission's political priority of 'An economy that works for the people' as well as with the joint priorities of the Council and the Parliament; second, it responds to the urgency of action in the field of value chain due diligence; and third, it addresses the risk of increasing the fragmentation of the single market.

Under **Article 21**, the Commission is actively committed to provide support to Member States and companies in the implementation of this Directive. It will do so by setting up a European Network of Supervisory Authorities as well as by arranging meetings with Union agencies with relevant expertise in the area. Furthermore, according to **Article 12**, the Commission may provide guidelines and model contractual clauses with the scope of helping companies cascade due diligence obligations to their business partners in a fair and proportionate manner.

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Hi VeUMEUrs,

My name is Marija Mihajlović, and I am a third-year PISE student, as well as your Commissioner for the Directive on Third Country Nationals.

For the past two years, I have found myself returning to the island of San Servolo again and again as part of VeUMEU, each time as a MEP, and each time leaving with more than I could have imagined. This journey has been full of new perspectives, new friendships, and a deeper understanding of the world around me.

Stepping into the role of Commissioner is both an honour and a responsibility that I embrace wholeheartedly. I know how transformative this experience can be, and understand where you are now, full of ideas, maybe a little nervous, but ready to challenge yourself. And that is exactly what I hope you will do!

In a world that often feels divided and fast-moving, taking the time to engage, to listen, to raise awareness, and to speak up is more important than ever. Here, you have the space to do just that. You will spend long nights drafting proposals, shaping arguments, and preparing speeches, but it is in those moments that something truly valuable happens. You grow, find your voice and realize the impact your words can have.



I encourage you to fully embrace this journey, not only the formal debates, but also the conversations in between, the laughter, the late-night discussions and the connections you will build. These are the things that stay with you long after the session ends.

Please remember that you are not alone in this process. We are here for every and any question you might have!

Marija Mihajlovic

Commissioner for the Third-Country Nationals Directive



Directive on third-country nationals who are long term residents

DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents (recast) 2022/0134(COD)

1. Proposal Overview

Third-country nationals who have legally and continuously resided within the European Union for a significant period contribute to the economic and social development of Member States. At the same time, differences in national legislation regarding their legal status create uncertainty and unequal treatment across the Union. Within this context, the primary objective of this Directive is to establish a common legal framework governing the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents. The Directive aims to promote their integration by granting a secure residence status and a set of uniform rights that are comparable, as far as possible, to those enjoyed by EU citizens.

Long-term resident status is granted to third-country nationals who have legally and continuously resided within a Member State for at least five years and who meet certain conditions, including stable and regular resources and sickness insurance. This status provides enhanced security of residence and facilitates mobility within the European Union under specified conditions. A key feature of the Directive is the principle of equal treatment. Long-term residents are entitled to equal treatment with nationals in several areas, including access to employment and self-employment, education and vocational training, social security, tax benefits, and access to goods and services. However, Member States may impose certain limitations, particularly in areas involving public authority.

The Directive also establishes rules governing the acquisition, maintenance, and loss of long-term resident status. It sets out the conditions under which status may be withdrawn, including prolonged absence from the territory of the European Union or threats to public policy and security.



Furthermore, the Directive provides for intra-EU mobility. Long-term residents may reside in a second Member State for purposes such as employment, study, or other activities, subject to compliance with national requirements. This mobility framework aims to enhance labour market flexibility and economic integration across the Union.

Overall, the Directive represents an important step toward harmonising the legal status of third-country nationals, strengthening their rights, and facilitating their integration into European societies while ensuring a balanced approach between Member State competences and Union objectives.

Content summary of the specific provisions of the proposal:

Article 1 defines the subject matter of the Directive and establishes its core objective: to lay down the conditions for granting long-term resident status to third-country nationals and to define the rights attached to that status. It also introduces the framework for residence in other Member States, thereby linking legal residence with intra-EU mobility.

Article 2 provides a set of definitions essential for the interpretation of the Directive. Among the most relevant are:

- (a) “third-country national”, referring to any person who is not a citizen of the Union;
- (b) “long-term resident”, indicating a third-country national who has been granted such status under the Directive;
- (c) “first Member State”, meaning the first State that granted long-term resident status;
- (d) “second Member State”, referring to any other Member State where the long-term resident seeks to exercise mobility rights.

These definitions ensure clarity and consistency in the application of the Directive across different national systems.

Article 3 determines the scope of application. The Directive applies to third-country nationals legally residing in a Member State but excludes specific categories, such as individuals residing for temporary purposes (e.g. au pairs, seasonal workers, posted workers), applicants for or beneficiaries of temporary or international protection, and persons whose residence status is formally limited. These exclusions reflect the intention to restrict the Directive to individuals with a stable and long-term connection to the host Member State.

Article 4 establishes the main eligibility requirement for acquiring EU long-term resident status, namely **legal and continuous residence** within a Member State for a period of at least **five years**. It also specifies how this period is to be calculated. In particular, certain absences from the territory do not interrupt continuity if they remain within permitted limits. At the same time, periods of residence based on temporary or formally limited permits may be excluded, either fully or partially, from the calculation. The provision ensures that only applicants with a **genuine and stable link** to the Member State can acquire the status.

Article 6 allows Member States to refuse the granting of long-term resident status on grounds of **public policy or public security**. Any such decision must be based on an individual assessment of the applicant's situation. In doing so, Member States must take into account factors such as the **seriousness of the offence committed**, the **duration of residence**, and the strength of the person's links with the host Member State. This ensures that refusals comply with the principle of proportionality.

Article 7 regulates the **procedural rules governing applications** for long-term resident status. Applicants must submit the necessary supporting documentation demonstrating that they meet the conditions laid down in the Directive. The competent national authorities are required to take a decision within a reasonable period of time and must notify the applicant of that decision. In case of refusal, the decision must be **duly reasoned**, and the applicant must have access to appropriate **legal remedies**.

Article 8 provides for the issuance of the **EU long-term resident residence permit**. The permit must clearly indicate the holder's status as a long-term resident and serves as formal proof of that status. It is issued in accordance with EU rules on residence permits and is subject to **periodic renewal**, although the underlying status itself is of a long-term nature. The permit facilitates the exercise of the rights attached to the status.

Article 9 sets out the conditions under which long-term resident status may be withdrawn or lost. These include cases where the status was obtained fraudulently, where the person is subject to an expulsion measure on serious grounds of public policy or public security, or where the individual has been absent from the territory of the European Union for a prolonged period. The provision ensures that the status is maintained only by those who continue to fulfil its underlying conditions and retain a genuine link with the Union.

Article 10 establishes the **procedural safeguards** applicable in cases of refusal, withdrawal, or loss of long-term resident status. Decisions must be **notified in writing** and must state the reasons on which they are based. In addition, the person concerned must have access to judicial or administrative redress procedures, allowing them to challenge the decision. This guarantees transparency and effective protection of individual rights.

Article 11 regulates the possibility for Member States to impose fees for processing applications. While Member States are allowed to charge such fees, the provision makes clear that they must be **proportionate** and **not excessive**. In particular, fees must not have the effect of **hindering or discouraging** applications, thereby safeguarding the effectiveness of the Directive. This reflects the case law of the Court of Justice, which limits administrative burdens that could undermine EU rights.

Article 12 establishes the principle of equal treatment between long-term residents and nationals. This principle applies to key areas such as access to employment and self-employment, education and vocational training, recognition of professional qualifications, social security, tax benefits, and access to goods and services. It represents a cornerstone of the Directive's objective of promoting integration.

Article 13 strengthens protection against expulsion. Long-term residents may only be expelled on serious grounds of public policy or public security. Economic considerations alone cannot justify expulsion. Authorities must take into account factors such as the duration of residence, age, family situation, and social and cultural integration.

i. Article 13 7/8 guarantees procedural safeguards in expulsion cases. Individuals must be informed of the reasons for the decision, have access to legal remedies, and be granted sufficient time to leave the territory. The provision reinforces the principle of proportionality and respect for fundamental rights.

Article 14 confirms that Member States may issue national residence permits of permanent or unlimited validity alongside the EU long-term residence permit. At the same time, the Directive introduces safeguards to ensure a level playing field between the two systems.

Member States must ensure that:

- conditions (such as integration and resources) are not stricter for the EU status,
- fees are comparable,
- procedural safeguards and rights are not less favourable,
- and access to information is equivalent.

The aim is to guarantee that third-country nationals have a **real choice** between national and EU long-term residence permits.

Article 15 introduces **more favourable rules for family reunification** for EU long-term residents, derogating from general EU law. In particular:

- Member States should not apply integration conditions for family reunification,
- family members should have immediate access to the labour market,
- and no waiting periods should apply.

Additionally, the Article introduces a new rule regarding children:

children of EU long-term residents who are born or adopted in the Member State should acquire EU long-term resident status automatically, without being subject to prior residence requirements.

Article 16 introduces the right of long-term residents to reside in a second Member State. This right may be exercised for various purposes, including employment, self-employment, studies, or other activities. It represents a key innovation aimed at enhancing mobility within the Union.

Article 17 lays down the conditions for residence in a second Member State. Applicants must comply with national requirements, such as demonstrating sufficient resources, health insurance, and, where applicable, labour market conditions. Member States may also impose integration measures, provided they are proportionate.

Article 18 addresses family reunification in the second Member State. It allows family members to accompany or join the long-term resident, subject to certain conditions. This provision ensures that mobility rights are compatible with the protection of family life.

Article 19 regulates the withdrawal or non-renewal of residence permits in the second Member State. It sets out the conditions under which residence may be terminated, ensuring that decisions are justified and proportionate. The article provides that a second Member State may refuse an **application for residence** submitted by a long-term resident. However, such refusal is limited to specific grounds, namely:

- public policy,
- public security,
- or public health.

This ensures that refusals are not arbitrary and must be based on clearly defined and legitimate grounds.

Article 20 clarifies the scope of the public health ground mentioned in **Article 19**. It aligns the definition of threats to public health with EU standards by referring to the relevant provisions of EU law (such as the Schengen Borders Code). This ensures that public health cannot be used excessively or inconsistently by Member States.

Article 21 establishes procedural guarantees for applications in the second Member State. Authorities must process applications within reasonable deadlines and provide clear reasoning for decisions. The provision aims to ensure transparency and legal certainty.

Article 22 deals with withdrawal of status and readmission obligations.

An EU country can withdraw long-term resident status in certain situations, such as:

- if the status was obtained fraudulently,
- If the person becomes a serious threat to public policy or security,
- If the person is absent from the EU for too long (generally 12 consecutive months, or longer under specific conditions),
- If the person acquires long-term resident status in another EU country.

If a person loses their status in one EU country but had moved to another Member State, there are rules on which country must take them back. Typically, the first country that granted long-term resident status has an obligation to readmit the person (and their family members), often without formalities

The article also ensures that decisions to withdraw status must follow procedural safeguards, meaning they must be justified, proportionate, and open to appeal.

Article 22 sets out when long-term resident status can be taken away and clarifies which EU country is responsible for taking the person back if their status ends.

Article 23 on procedural guarantees provides safeguards against the refusal of residence in the second Member State. Decisions must be based on objective criteria and respect the principle of proportionality. Applicants must have access to remedies to challenge refusals.

Article 24 extends the principle of equal treatment (originally established in **Article 12**) to long-term residents who exercise mobility rights and reside in a second Member State. Once admitted, they must be treated like nationals of that State in areas such as employment, education, and social benefits. The provision also removes certain transitional restrictions, thereby facilitating **labour market access and integration** in the second Member State.

Article 25 regulates situations in which residence in the second Member State is withdrawn or not renewed. In such cases, the first Member State (which granted long-term resident status) is generally obliged to readmit the individual and their family members. The provision also aligns with the Return Directive 2008/115/EC, ensuring that return procedures follow common EU standards. This guarantees both continuity of protection and legal certainty.

Article 26 allows long-term residents who have moved to a second Member State to acquire long-term resident status there as well. The required residence period is reduced (typically three years), reflecting the fact that the individual is already integrated in the EU. However, unlike the first application, periods of residence in different Member States cannot be cumulated for this purpose. The provision aims to promote further integration while maintaining national control.

Article 27 introduces an obligation for Member States to ensure that applicants have easy access to clear and relevant information about:

- how to apply for long-term resident status,
- the rights attached to it.

This includes transparency in procedures and awareness-raising measures. The goal is to address a key weakness identified in practice: many eligible individuals do not apply simply due to lack of information.

Article 28 establishes the framework for monitoring and evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of the Directive. Its primary function is to ensure that the rules governing EU long-term resident status are not only formally adopted by Member States, but are also applied correctly and achieve their intended objectives in practice.

A key aspect of **Article 28** is the obligation to collect and analyse relevant data and information. Monitoring is based on measurable indicators, such as:

- the number of long-term residence permits issued,
- the use of mobility rights between Member States,
- and the practical accessibility of the status.

This data-driven approach reflects the broader EU emphasis on evidence-based policymaking, allowing the institutions to evaluate whether the Directive is functioning as intended or whether barriers persist in its application.

Article 29 provides for administrative cooperation and exchange of information between Member States. This cooperation is essential to ensure consistency in the application of the Directive and to prevent abuse. establishes the designation of national contact points to facilitate communication and coordination between Member States.

Article 30 sets out provisions on transposition. Member States are required to adopt and publish the laws, regulations, and administrative provisions necessary to comply with the Directive within a specified period.

Article 31 provides that Directive 2003/109/EC is repealed once the recast Directive is transposed. This ensures legal clarity by replacing the previous framework with the updated version.

Article 32 establishes that the Directive shall enter into force following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. This marks the formal beginning of its legal effect.

Article 33 specifies that the Directive is addressed to the Member States, meaning they are responsible for implementing its provisions into national law. This reflects the nature of EU directives, which are binding as to the result but leave discretion regarding the form and methods of implementation.

2. Previous Legislation and EU Objectives

At the EU level, the legal framework governing third-country nationals has developed progressively through a series of directives aimed at regulating migration, residence, and integration. The European Council held a special meeting on 15 and 16 October 1999 in Tampere on the creation of an area of freedom, security and justice in the European Union. The Tampere Conclusions stated that long term residents should be as near as possible to EU citizen rights: 'The legal status of third country nationals should be approximated to that of Member States' nationals. A person, who has resided legally in a Member State for a period of time to be determined and who holds a long-term residence permit, should be granted in that Member State a set of uniform rights which are as near as possible to those enjoyed by EU citizens; e.g. the right to reside, receive education, and work as an employee or self-employed person, as well as the principle of non-discrimination vis-à-vis the citizens of the State of residence. The European Council endorses the objective that long-term residence permit, should be granted in that Member State a set of uniform rights which are as near as possible to those enjoyed by EU citizens; e.g. the right to reside, receive education, and work as an employee or self-employed person, as well as the principle of non-discrimination vis-à-vis the citizens of the State of residence. The European Council endorses the objective that long-term legally resident third country nationals be offered the opportunity to obtain the nationality of the Member State in which they are resident.

The original Long-Term Residents Directive (Directive 2003/109/EC) established a common status for third-country nationals who have resided legally and continuously in a Member State for five years.

This recast Directive seeks to address these shortcomings, especially the competition with national long term residence permits, by simplifying procedures, strengthening rights, and improving mobility within the Union. It complements other legislative instruments, including directives on family reunification, the Blue Card for highly skilled workers, and the Single Permit Directive.

The Directive is also aligned with broader EU objectives concerning integration, social inclusion, and economic development. By granting a more secure status and equal treatment, it aims to enhance the participation of third-country nationals in European societies and labour markets.

Furthermore, the Directive contributes to the creation of a more coherent migration policy, reducing fragmentation and ensuring fair and consistent treatment across Member States.



3. Legal Basis

The legal basis for this Directive is **Article 79(2)** of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which empowers the Union to adopt measures concerning the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals, as well as the definition of their rights.

This provision enables the European Union to establish a common immigration policy, including rules governing long-term residence and intra-EU mobility. The Directive also contributes to the proper functioning of the internal market by facilitating the movement of legally residing third-country nationals between Member States.

The principle of subsidiarity is respected, as the objectives of the Directive cannot be sufficiently achieved by Member States acting alone due to the cross-border nature of migration and mobility. Instead, coordinated action at EU level ensures consistency and effectiveness.

The principle of proportionality is also observed, as the Directive sets minimum standards while allowing Member States discretion in implementation, particularly regarding integration measures and administrative procedures.

4. Context of the Directive

Migration has become an increasingly important feature of the European Union, both economically and socially. Third-country nationals represent a significant portion of the EU population and contribute to labour markets, innovation, and demographic sustainability.

However, national approaches to long-term residence have varied considerably, leading to legal uncertainty and unequal treatment. In particular, barriers to mobility between Member States have limited the potential contribution of long-term residents to the internal market.

The recast of the Directive responds to these challenges by strengthening rights and simplifying procedures. It also reflects the need to improve integration policies and ensure that long-term residents can fully participate in economic and social life.

At the same time, the Directive takes into account concerns related to public policy, security, and the capacity of Member States to manage migration flows. It therefore seeks to strike a balance between integration objectives and national competences.

5. Limits of the Directive

Despite its objectives, the Directive presents certain limitations. First, it excludes specific categories of third-country nationals, such as those residing on a temporary basis, thereby limiting its overall scope.

Second, while the Directive promotes equal treatment, Member States retain the ability to impose restrictions in certain areas, which may result in continued national provisions across the Union. Member States may issue residence permits of permanent or unlimited validity on terms that are more favourable than those laid down by this Directive. Such residence permits shall not confer the right of residence in the other Member States as provided by Chapter III of this Directive.

Third, intra-EU mobility remains subject to national conditions, meaning that long-term residents do not enjoy full freedom of movement comparable to EU citizens. Administrative procedures and requirements may still create barriers to mobility. Additionally, the implementation of integration measures varies significantly among Member States, potentially affecting access to long-term resident status.

6. Commission Notes

The European Commission has highlighted the importance of strengthening the rights of third-country nationals who are long-term residents as part of a broader strategy for legal migration and integration.

According to the Commission, improving access to long-term resident status and facilitating mobility within the Union can contribute to economic growth, labour market efficiency, and social cohesion.

In preparing the recast Directive, the Commission conducted consultations with Member States, stakeholders, and civil society organisations. These consultations revealed the need to simplify procedures, reduce administrative burdens, and enhance the effectiveness of the existing framework.

The Commission also emphasised the importance of ensuring consistency with other EU migration instruments and promoting a coherent legal framework. The recast Directive is therefore designed to complement existing measures while addressing their shortcomings.

Finally, the Commission remains committed to monitoring the implementation of the Directive and supporting Member States through guidance and cooperation mechanisms to ensure its effective application across the Union.

Meet the European Parliament



**Arianna
Guida**
President



**Lara
Colombo**
Vice-President



**Simon
McPhail**
Secretary



Dear all,

I'm Arianna Guida and I will be the President of the European Parliament for this year's edition.

I'm a third-year Bachelor's student in Philosophy, International and Economic Studies at Ca' Foscari University. I am also the President of the Venice Diplomatic Society, the student association that is among the organizers of this initiative.

I have a special bond with VeUMEU. In my first year, I participated as a member of the European Parliament and faction leader of the Identity and Democracy political group. It was my first time ever joining a Model of the European Union (or any kind of model), so for the first-timers reading this, I'd like to say don't be scared! The right preparation and willingness to challenge yourself can take you places you never imagined reaching. The following year, I became the Event Coordinator. It was a great experience that forged some of the friendships I still cherish today.

Let me give you some advice. Don't be shy in any way! Talk to people, make new friendships and don't hesitate to speak up. Jump into debates and make the most of this unique experience.



I believe this is a special opportunity to learn by doing how the EU legislative process actually works.

If you are interested in diplomacy, consider joining the Venice Diplomatic Society to help with the next VeUMEU or other events and activities.

Wishing you a great time at VeUMEU26!

Arianna Guida

President of the European Parliament



Hello everyone, and welcome you all to VeUMEU26. I am Lara Colombo, and in this edition, I will serve as the Vice-President of the European Parliament. I am a second-year student in Philosophy, International and Economic Studies at Ca' Foscari University.

Last year, it was my first time taking part in any kind of simulation of an International Organisation, and I participated as a member of the European Parliament, so for me it is even more exciting this year to be the Vice-President of the institution which introduced me to this new world!

As someone who approached this type of experience really recently, let me tell you not to be scared to stand up and let your voice be heard: you have no idea how important every contribution is for this simulation to be the best experience for all. Not to mention how your active involvement will make each of these three days even more amazing and funny: take this initiative not only as a way to get in touch by first hand with the European Institutions' environment, but also as a way of developing and improving new helpful skills like public speaking and cooperation.

Try to "take the role of the other" without prejudices, even if that other does not represent your political ideas, your beliefs or tendencies... It's all part of the game!



My last advice is to engage with the other participants as much as you can: I had the best parties with people I did not even know three days before VeUMEU25, and I wish you the same for VeUMEU26!

Don't be shy and take all that this amazing experience can give you!

Lara Colombo

Vice President of the European Parliament



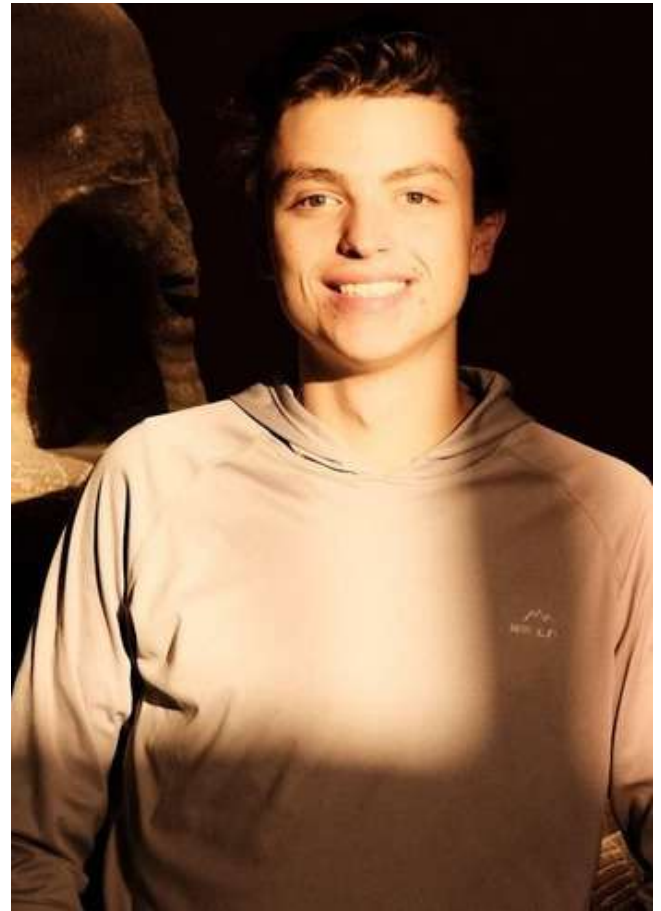
Hello All,

I am Simon McPhail, and I will be the Secretary of the European Parliament at VeUMEU 2026.

Currently a third-year PISE student from the US. My journey with model events started a few years ago, doing a model UN simulation back in the US, as well as participating in last year's VeUMEU as a member of the Council.

After participating in the previous VeUMEU, I am excited to be a part of this year's iteration of the event. I look forward to seeing meaningful diplomatic engagement between a multitude of backgrounds in a time when civil discourse is needed most.

With the experience and understanding of diplomatic and civil negotiation, along with the knowledge of how legislative processes work, you will be able to take with you in any future career path.



My advice: view problems from another's perspective, don't be afraid to get out there, and have fun!

Simon McPhail
Secretary of the European Parliament

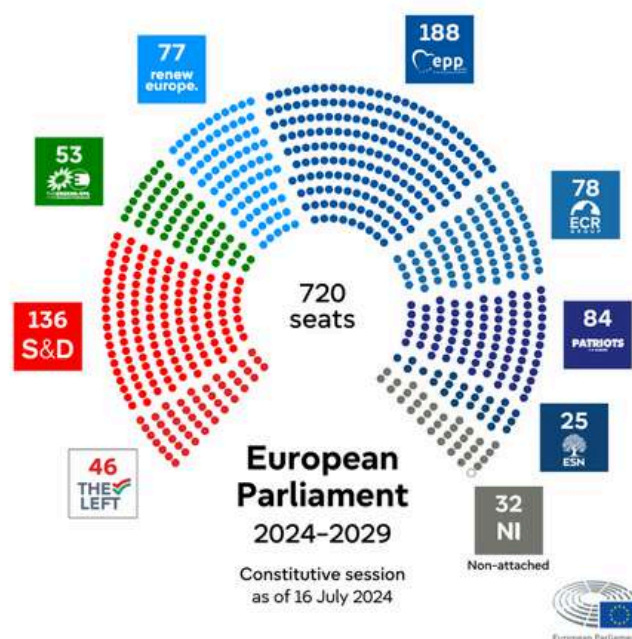


Role of the European Parliament

The European Parliament (EP) is one of the seven institutions of the European Union, founded in 1952 as the Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community and directly elected through universal suffrage from 1979. It has three main functions: legislative, supervisory, and budgetary. It is one of the main legislative bodies of the EU and has its headquarters in Strasbourg, while the administrative offices are located in Luxembourg City. Additional plenary sessions are held in Brussels.

In 2024, the Parliament increased from 705 to 720 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), who are directly elected every five years by citizens of the Member States. The most recent elections were held from 6 to 9 June 2024, marking the tenth parliamentary election since the first direct elections in 1979. In total, 187 MEPs (26% of Parliament) belong to the far right, more than ever before in history.

MEPs are organized into political groups based on their political affiliations. As of the 2024 elections, the 9 political groups are: The Left, Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), Greens–European Free Alliance, Renew Europe, European People's Party (EPP), European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR), Patriots for Europe (PfE), Europe of Sovereign Nations (ESN) and the group of the Non-Inscrits (NI).



Timeline

- 1952: establishment of the Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community (consultative assembly of 78 parliamentarians appointed from national parliaments with no legislative powers)
- 1958: name is changed to European Parliamentary Assembly after the establishment of the European Economic Community and Euratom (rearrangement according to political ideology)
- 1962: name is changed to European Parliament
- 1970: EP is given powers over areas of the European Communities' budget
- 1975: EP is given powers over the whole European Communities' budget
- 1979: EP is directly elected for the first time (expansion of elected members after each enlargement, Treaty of Nice imposes a cap of 732)
- 1992: European Council agrees to retain the formal seat of the EP in Strasbourg, but with all other parliamentary activity in Brussels
- 2009: Lisbon Treaty grants power over the whole EU budget, makes EP's legislative powers equal to the Council in almost all areas and links the appointment of the Commission's President to EP elections.

Functions and procedures

Legislative

Along with the Council of the European Union, the EP adopts legislation proposed by the European Commission. It does not possess the power of legislative initiative (it cannot propose legislation, but it only discusses and adopts it). A big chunk of the legislative process occurs in the parliamentary committees, which are 22 in total: "A Member of the European Parliament, working in one of the parliamentary committees, draws up a report on a proposal for a 'legislative text' presented by the European Commission [...]. The parliamentary committee votes on this report and, possibly, amends it. When the text has been revised and adopted in plenary, Parliament has adopted its position. This process is repeated one or more times, depending on the type of procedure and whether or not agreement is reached with the Council." In adopting legislation, depending on the specific case, the EP can either have a role of 'codecision' with the Council (this is the case of the Ordinary Legislative Procedure employed in our simulation), or an advisory role (the 'consultation procedure').

Supervisory

As the embodiment of the interests of EU citizens, the EP supervises the functioning and output of the other EU institutions. In particular, at the beginning and end of each six-month presidency the President of the Council of the European Union discusses their programme with MEPs in plenary, which can ask written and oral questions to and to initiate new policies. Also, the EP has the right to approve and dismiss the European Commission, the executive body of the EU. "Under the Lisbon Treaty, EU heads of state propose a candidate for Commission President, taking into account the results of European elections. The candidate is elected by the EP.

Budgetary

Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty (2009), the European Parliament now shares the power to decide on the entire annual budget of the EU with the Council of the European Union and it has the final say. In detail, the EP and Council receive, no later than 1 September each year, a draft budget from the European Commission. Before 1 October, the Council finalizes its stance on the draft budget and submits it to the EP, along with the rationale behind its stance. Concurrently, parliamentary committees deliberate on the proposed budget and provide their viewpoints to the Budgets Committee, tasked with formulating the EP's stance. The EP has 42 days either to approve the Council's position, or, by an absolute majority of its members, to amend it. "If Parliament approves Council's position, or declines to state a position, the budget is deemed adopted. However, Parliament normally adopts amendments and the amended text is forwarded to the Council. In this case, the President of the Parliament immediately convenes a meeting of the Conciliation Committee." Such a committee, composed of both representatives from the EP and Council, has 21 days to reach an agreement on a joint text. If it does so, the Parliament and Council have 14 days to approve it. Once the budget is adopted, the Commission is responsible for its implementation.

Political Groups

The current President of the European Parliament is Roberta Metsola from the European People's Party (EPP). She was re-elected for a second term on 16 July 2024, securing 562 out of 623 votes, marking the largest margin of victory ever for this position. Metsola has been an advocate for Ukraine amid the war with Russia and has focused on inclusivity to combat political polarization. During her first term, she raised the profile of the European Parliament and pushed for new regulations to address the Qatargate scandal. With the support of centrist parties, Metsola has strived to make the Parliament a unified force against the recent increase in far-right influence within the EU. The composition of the European Parliament is reported in the following table. Note that this table is adjusted according to the changes of political groups done by MPs and variations in the number of MPS, from 720 to 718, as of 26th March 2026 in Brussels.

NAME (Full)	NAME (Short)	Number of seats
Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)	EPP	184
Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament	S&D	135
Patriots for Europe	Patriots	85
European Conservatives and Reformists Group	ECR	81
Renew Europe Group	Renew	77
Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance	Greens/EFA	53
The Left group in the European Parliament - GUE/NGL	The Left	46
Europe of Sovereign Nations Group	ESN	27
Non-Inscriptis	NI	30



Dear Participants,

Here you will find a brief description of the political groups of the European Parliament regarding the topics of discussion, as well as some useful links to get you started. Please, keep in mind that the following statements are to be considered as general remarks about the policies or political trends of the parties: they can guide you in understanding how to better represent your faction and develop ideas and positions accordingly. However, they cannot substitute your own research on the topics. If you happen to have any doubts, do not hesitate to ask the Commission.

*Best of luck to all of you,
The Parliament Team*

Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive

The Left - GUE/NGL

The Left Group -GUE/NGL is in favour of the Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence as they strive to defend human, animal and environmental rights. A directive that ensures corporate accountability for environmental damages and justice for victims is seen as indispensable. This Directive stands together with the fight of workers and of unions, an expression of EU solidarity. It is a concrete step against the deregulation tendency in favour of big businesses. However, the Left considers that further improvements could be achieved in ensuring access to evidence and to EU courts for victims and severe sanctions for offenders. Furthermore, specific sectors, like textile, financial and extractive ones, remain improperly regulated.





Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA)

The Greens have been prioritizing the Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence for a long time, since it perfectly harmonizes with the forward-looking and global gaze that the political group holds towards future generations and the world. The Greens are deeply engaged in the fight for the upholding of human rights, environmental protection and justice for affected communities and individuals. Furthermore, they believe the directive positively influences European business competitiveness and gender equality in the workplace. Improvements are still necessary: the Greens are centred on climate responsibility, concrete results rather than greenwashing, and ensuring the broadest reach to all kinds of businesses.

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D)

The S&D Group is strongly advancing the Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence. They consider this directive fundamental for the future upholding of human and environmental rights and justice against multi-corporations profiting from an unsustainable economy. The Directive extends the respect of rights in the European Union to worldwide supply chains. At the same time, the S&D Group deems it fundamental to provide clear instructions that are equal for all businesses and ensure fair competition. The Directive does not undermine small and medium enterprises. Instead, it can be an opportunity to bring European companies to the forefront of sustainable business development. The S&D Group strives for balance between the needs of consumers, victims and multinationals.





Patriots for Europe (PfE)

The PfE is against the regulatory framework of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). The directive adds unnecessary bureaucratic and regulatory requirements that limit growth, hurt Small and Medium Enterprises (SME), and drive up energy costs for Europeans. PfE opposes the CSDDD as well as the Green Deal due to its anti-industrial nature that discourages business growth and destroys jobs for citizens. The PfE believes that the CSDDD will weaken the continent economically in the international market and continue to drive energy costs up for all citizens. In order to keep Europe economically competitive on the world stage, deregulation and the free market must be allowed.

Europe of Sovereign Nations Group (ESN)

The ideas of ESN regarding the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) is one of widespread skepticism and regulation overreach. ESN stands strong in the belief that the green deal and CSDDD is limiting the market growth in Europe. They advocate for an end to sustainability reporting and initiatives in favor of free market deregulation. ESN advocates that in order for the EU to be competitive in the modern global market an abolishment of the CSDDD is needed. ESN is looking to restore Europe through environmental deregulation and member states taking back their sovereignty.





Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) (EPP)

The European People's Party, biggest and most influential political group in the European Parliament and centre-right party, demands a revision of the legislation yet to be implemented, including delegated and implementing acts, and the rigorous implementation of the “one in, two out” principle (i.e. for every new onerous regulation, two old, still effective regulations must be abolished) in order to cut back bureaucracy and regulation substantially aiming at reducing administrative burden especially on Small and Medium-sized enterprises.

They believe that regulation can bring benefits for companies through harmonisation of divergent national rules or by technical rules that establish how a legislative framework should be implemented in practice throughout the EU. However, this can also entail numerous additional obligations and burdens for companies, with a cumulative effect over time, leading to a lower productivity in the EU with a consequently slower income growth and weaker domestic demand in Europe.

Renew Europe Group (Renew)

The Renew Europe Group, the centrist and liberal political group in the European Parliament, supports the adoption of the Legal Affairs Committee of the Corporate sustainability due diligence bill that aims to ensure from large companies a more effective protection of the human rights and the environment. It supports this regulation since they believe it will require international and global big companies to make sure they have done all they can to identify, lessen and end their negative impact on human rights and the environment, such as child labour, labour exploitation, pollution and biodiversity loss. The party has faith that this reform will help companies better understand who is responsible for what on their value chains and avoid reputational risks, encouraging also developing countries to take up human rights and environmental standards and increase standards of living.





European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR)

The European Conservatives and Reformists Group, party of right-wing and extreme-right radical conservatives, fiercely opposes Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence and amending Directive (CSDD). The position is rooted in the idea that this regulation would place a bureaucratic nightmare for companies that would be in disadvantage against US and Chinese competitors and that the standards for companies should be voluntary rather than mandatory legal obligations, thus voting against the Directive means protect European competitiveness and prevent what they termed “regulatory overreach”.

Non-Inscriptis (NI)

The Non-Inscriptis view on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence and amending Directive (CSDD) has a broad range of ideologies as they are the independents of the European Parliament. Depending on the MEP and their ideological background determine the decisions they make on amendments. Further, right NI members will be more arguably against the CSDDD and its regulatory manner. An MEP aligned further with the left will support the environmental regulations put on corporate companies. While independent in theory, the decisions made by NI members are guided by their own individual beliefs and goals.

CSDDD - Sources

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Third-country Nationals who are long-term residents Directive

The Left in the European Parliament (The Left)

The Left Group in the European Parliament – GUE/NGL is in favour of recasting the Directive on the status of third-country nationals who are long term residents in the EU. As a political group, they stand for dignity, equality and solidarity. Consequently, they deem essential that third country nationals benefit from the same rights as EU citizens do. In this sense, third country nationals need to be granted freedom of movement across EU Member States, equal work and educational opportunities and equal treatment without facing discrimination and racism. The Left believes the EU should welcome people seeking better ways of life and should not put in place regulations hindering a “humane migration system”.

Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA)

The Group of the Greens/ European Free Alliance is strongly advancing the Directive on third-country nationals who are long term residents. The Greens advocate for a welcoming society where the rights and dignity of all human beings are respected and everyone is treated as full citizens. This directive is seen as a contribution to a positive narration of migration: third-country nationals are seen as a source of talent and skills to advance European competitiveness. In amending this directive, the Greens are pushing for the right to intra-EU mobility, the possibility to accumulate years of stay across different EU countries and a reduced required legal residence period.





Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D)

The Group of Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament views positively the new Long-Term Third-Country Residents Directive. The S&D Group considers migration to be helpful to the EU, lessening the demographic crisis and clearing labour market shortages. The current regulation prevents moving, as a long-term resident status can be acquired only by residing long term in one single EU Member State. Therefore, third-country nationals need to be able to move freely across the EU and should not be disincentivized in doing so. Furthermore, the S&D Group is concerned about the illegal exploitation of migrant workers. This Directive would be fundamental to improve their rights and integration in communities.

Renew Europe Group (Renew)

The Renew Europe group has been the primary advocate in support of the Long-term residents Directive, centring its position on the idea that long-term integration is key to an efficient European migration policy and that legal residents who contribute to the economy should be granted the same rights of European citizens. Under the leadership of Abir Al-Sahlani, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs adopted a legislative own-initiative report, calling for the creation of new avenues for legal labour migration to the EU. The group pushes also for an admittance scheme for low and medium-skilled third-country workers to complement the already adopted revision of the Blue Card Directive for highly-skilled third-country workers, in order to further enhance the EU's economic competitiveness.





Europe of Sovereign Nations Group (ESN)

ESN has a strong anti-migration view that is against the Directive Concerning Third Country Nationals Who are Long Term Residents. The party blatantly rejects the open borders migration policy by the EU, and deems the policy a complete failure. ESN believes that each member state should have the sovereign right on migration policy within their borders. Deeming migration as a national security issue, and the need to protect European cultures. ESN holds firm ideals that in order to protect cultural identity, and safety of European nations the liberal open border policy and migration agenda of the EU needs to be put to an end.

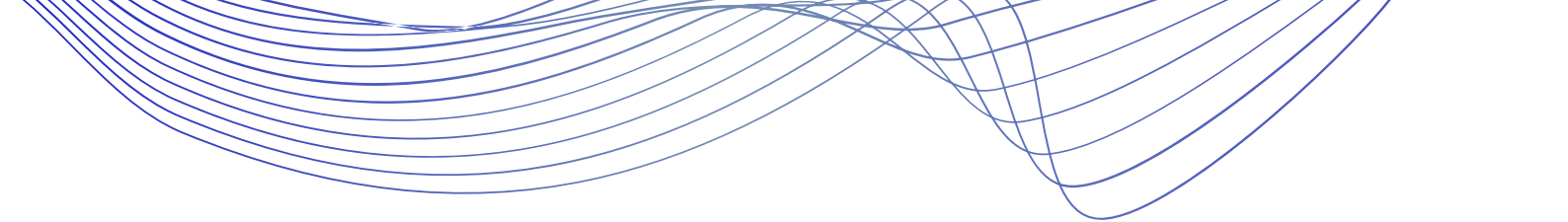
Patriots for Europe (PfE)

The views that the PfE has on immigration and the Directive Concerning the Status of Third Country Nationals Who are Long Term Residents is one of heightened security. While also allowing member states to have autonomy in their immigration policy. The liberalization that the directive implements is seen as a potential security threat. PfE believes in the cooperation and aligned communication of EU member states while still allowing each member state to make sovereign decisions in the immigration process. The directive is seen as a potential security issue and another policy that limits the rights and safety of EU citizens.

Non-Inscriptis (NI)

The independent nature of the Non-Inscriptis on the Directive Concerning Third Country National Who are Long Term Residents creates a multitude of agendas. There is no set path for an NI member in deciding their view on the regulation. With members varying across the political spectrum and operating as an independent the decisions made by NI members differ from MEP to MEP. A member with further right ideological values and beliefs will be more in favour of stricter migration, state sovereignty, and a deregulated system.





While a member that aligns themselves with the left is more prone to be pro-directive and stand with the EU's policy. Each member has their own personal agenda and beliefs that dictate their stance on the issue without having to align themselves to a specific party's viewpoints.

European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR)

The European Conservatives and Reformists group maintains the most restrictive and sovereign-focused position among the biggest parties in the EU Parliament concerning the Long-Term Residents Directive, adopting a "Member State first" approach by giving priority to national security. The Group describes migration as the "defining challenge" of our time and considers itself as the only counter-force to the "weak, ineffective and damaging legislative proposals" that come from the European Commission. They believe that there are many examples of the Commission ignoring fundamental issues like refusing to acknowledge the basic right of Member States to control migration volumes and to fund physical border barriers, while only seeming to focus on proposals whose only effect would be that of increasing the powers of European institutions at the expenses of Member States.

European People's Party (EPP)

The European People's Party takes a significantly cautious and security-oriented position on the Long-Term Residents Directive, acknowledging the need for legal migration to address labour shortages, but focusing on making sure that residence permits do not become a "blank cheque" for unrestricted movement within EU, misused to bypass common asylum and migration rules. They indeed recall that large-scale or poorly coordinated regularisation schemes at national level risk weakening the credibility of the Union's migration policy, generating strong pull factors and triggering secondary movements within the Schengen area. Thus, they advocate for stronger monitoring and the enforcement of mechanisms to prevent unauthorised secondary movements and abuses of national residence schemes.

Third-country Nationals who are long-term residents Directive - Sources

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<https://patriots.eu/manifesto/>

ESN:

<https://esn-group.eu/what-we-stand-for>

<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/07/10/afd-and-allies-form-new-far-right-group-in-brussels-called-europe-of-sovereign-nations>

<https://esn-group.eu/news>



EPP:

<https://www.epp.eu/papers/presidency-resolution-on-migration#:~:text=We%20underline%20that%20residence%20permits,with%20any%20abuse%20effectively%20addressed>

Renew:

<https://www.reneweuropengroup.eu/news/2021-10-27/renew-europe-drives-the-creation-of-new-avenues-for-legal-migration-to-the-eu#:~:text=%E2%80%9CThanks%20to%20our%20political%20group,legally%20migrating%20third%2Dcountry%20nationals>

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/spotlight-JD%2023-24/file-revision-of-long-term-residents-directive#:~:text=Allowing%20nationals%20of%20non%2DEU,shortages%20and%20offsetting%20regional%20imbalances>

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/theme-promoting-our-european-way-of-life/file-revision-of-long-term-residents-directive?sid=10001#:~:text=The%20proposal%20additionally%20puts%20in,real%20choice%20between%20the%20two>

ECR:

https://ecrgroup.eu/campaign/ecr_policy_group

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/LIBE/DV/2023/03-28/FINAL_Compromises_LongTermResidenceDirectiveRecast_24March23_EN.pdf

NI:

<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/09/19/oddballs-or-just-independent-minded-meet-the-european-parliaments-outsiders>

<https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/PaperDetails/87113>



Meet the Council of the European Union



Zein
Khalil

President



Lia
Moreno

Vice-President



Filippo
Rostirolla

Secretary

Hello everyone!

I am Zein Khalil, your president of the European Council.

I am currently pursuing my Master's studies in Global Development and Entrepreneurship, and I completed my undergraduate studies in Egypt, where I was deeply involved in Model United Nations.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to chair more than eight MUN conferences, including serving in four presidencies. In my senior year, I took on the role of Secretary General for the Nile International Model United Nations, which was a defining experience in both leadership and organization.

Having participated in numerous model diplomacy experiences, I can confidently say that each one has been both impactful and memorable. These events offer a unique opportunity to understand complex global systems while developing practical skills that extend far beyond the conference room.



My advice is simple: come prepared, stay engaged, and make the most of every moment. Focus on what you can learn, but also on what you can contribute to those around you.

Looking forward to meeting you all.

Zein Khalil

President of the European Council



Hi everyone!

My name is Lia Moreno. I am a second year PISE student, and I will be the Vice-President of the Council. I'm also the Debate Society coordinator within VDS.

I am from Quito, Ecuador, where my journey began as a delegate for inter-school MUN events a few years ago. By now, I cannot count how many simulations I have attended, however the experience I've acquired and the personal relations that I have built remain as core parts of my life.

I'm beyond excited to be expanding my horizons onto my second VeUMEU, where topics of high complexity and relevance receive the spotlight. I was a delegate of the Council myself last year, and I can gladly say it was one of the most rewarding things I've done in my university career. This event is a wonderful opportunity for anyone interested in improving at research, understanding of diplomacy and the EU, and of course, debating.

One thing I've tried to remember over every simulation is that there are two goals to reach: international cooperation and honouring each country's circumstances and difficulties. Do not be afraid, as delegates, to stand up for your nation's interests no matter how contrarian they may seem.



Research to the best of your ability, and keep in mind the context that has led the European Union to the current topics being discussed. It may seem silly to take a simulation so seriously, but to see it as legitimate is the most effective way to make the best of this opportunity.

I'm looking forward to seeing new faces this year, and I'm particularly excited about the topics to be treated as both my personal interests and things that are relevant to my situation as an international student.

Lia Moreno

Vice-President of the Council



Hello everyone!

My name is Filippo, I am a second year Philosophy International Studies and Economics student at Ca' Foscari University and I will serve as this year's Secretary of the Council.

Even though I may not have any direct experience with VeUMEU to list on my CV, I am ready to put my all into it. My academic experience has enabled me to understand the complex world surrounding the structure of international relations.

Communication between prominent figures, the public, states and various other actors is the foundation of the constructive dialogue that drives the evolution of the international arena, and this is what I think we must focus on delivering. The fact that this fundamental function can be a passion in itself is incredible, and it makes me even more proud to pursue it.

I believe the most important need is to be able to maintain a dialogue that follows the EU's key doctrines, founded on a blend of freedom and respect. If we add coherence to these, I think we can achieve a place of true cooperation.



A debate has one main purpose, that to facilitate the direct exchange of ideas between the parties.

My goal is to ensure a clearly structured process along these lines.

I am looking forward to sharing this experience with the rest of the Council and all the other participants, confident that it will be an excellent opportunity.

See you soon!

Filippo Rostirolla
Secretary of the Council



Role of the Council of the European Union

The Council of the European Union, less formally known as the **Council of Ministers**, was established in 1958 and is located in Brussels, Belgium. Alongside with the Parliament, the Council is one of the two main decision-making bodies of the EU: **it serves to amend and approve** – or veto – the proposals of the European Commission.

The Council is composed by the **national Ministers** of the 27 countries of the Union; for each meeting, it can assume different ministerial configurations, depending on the matter discussed. The Ministers' duties include: negotiating and adopting EU laws together with the Parliament, coordinating EU countries' policies, developing the EU's foreign and security policy, concluding agreements between the EU and other countries or international organizations, and adopting the annual budget of the Union, together with the European Parliament. Moreover, the Council defines and implements EU foreign and security policy based on the guidelines set by the European Council. Together with the High Representative of the Union for the Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, it ensures the unity, consistency, and effectiveness of the EU's external action.

The presidency of the Council rotates among the EU member states every six months for 18 months. It is currently held by the State of **Cyprus**, which priority is to guarantee the autonomy of the Union through security, competitiveness and openness to the rest of the world, along with unity and economic prosperity in such a pivotal moment of transformation. Member states holding the presidency on rotation work together closely in groups of three, called *Trois*, to set long-term goals and prepare a common agenda, determining the topics and major issues that will be addressed by the Council. This is except for the Foreign Affairs Council, which is chaired by the elected EU High Representative (currently Kaja Kallas).



The Council of the European Union should not be confused with the European Council, which is convened of the Heads of State and the Council of Europe, which is a completely separate entity made up of all EU + non-EU European countries.

There are three ways of decision-making in the Council:

Qualified Majority: The most widespread one. It accounts for at least 15 of the 27 member states (55%) representing at least 65% of the population. Decisions can be blocked by at least 4 countries accounting for more than 35% of the population, thus giving more power to more populated countries such as Germany, France, and Italy. Abstention is counted as a vote “against” in qualified majority voting.

Unanimous Vote: Only for issues deemed to be sensitive by member states. These can be; common foreign and security policy, rights of citizenship, EU membership, indirect taxation, EU finances, provisions on justice and home affairs, social security, and protection. Abstention does not prevent a decision from being taken.

Simple Majority: At least 14 of the 27 member states (50% or more), no condition on the percentage of the population. Used in two different areas: in procedural matters, such as the adoption of its own rules of procedure and the organization of its Secretariat General, or the adoption of the rules governing the Committees foreseen in the Treaties to request the Commission to undertake studies or submit proposals.

The Council

Austria

Austria approaches the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) with a clear commitment to responsible business conduct and alignment with EU sustainability objectives. The country recognises that voluntary frameworks have not ensured consistent respect for human rights and environmental standards in global value chains. At the national level, Austria supports the Directive's overarching goals while emphasising proportionality, legal certainty, and practical implementation. Austrian institutions and business associations consistently call for avoiding unnecessary administrative burdens, ensuring predictable liability rules, and providing clear guidance for companies, including SMEs indirectly affected as suppliers. This reflects Austria's intention to implement the CSDDD in full coherence with EU standards. Austria's broader regulatory framework reinforces this direction. The adoption of the **Sustainability Reporting Act (NaBeG)** to implement the EU's **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive** (CSRD) has already strengthened corporate transparency and created a foundation for integrating due diligence obligations. Legal analyses further note Austria's aim to embed the CSDDD within existing governance structures while maintaining competitiveness in global markets.

Overall, Austria's position combines principled support for stronger human rights and environmental safeguards with a pragmatic focus on feasibility. By aligning national implementation with EU objectives and ensuring a balanced regulatory approach, Austria seeks to contribute to a more sustainable global economy and uphold its role as a responsible and forward-looking EU member state.

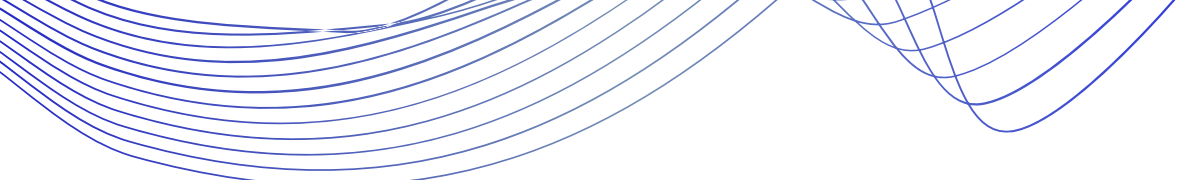
<https://www.bindergroesswang.at/en/news/agreement-of-the-eu-member-states-on-the-csddd>

<https://www.schoenherr.eu/content/navigating-the-csddd-a-game-changer-for-business-and-human-rights/>

<https://www.tanso.de/en/blog/austria-implements-csrd-nabeg-adopted>

Austria's residence system is built on a structured legal framework that assigns each residence title a specific purpose and regulates transitions between categories through clearly defined procedures. National rules require applicants to meet all statutory conditions—including integration requirements, proof of secure livelihood, and, where applicable, quota limitations—before a change of status can be granted.





This approach ensures predictability, legal certainty, and orderly progression toward long-term residence. Compared with Austria's national system, the recast Directive introduces a more flexible approach to mobility and reduces administrative barriers for individuals who have already demonstrated stable integration within the Union. While Austria's system emphasises **purpose-bound residence titles** and **controlled transitions**, the recast directive aims to streamline pathways and enhance the portability of rights across the EU. Austria's existing procedures already provide structured routes for long-term residence, particularly for family members, students, researchers, highly qualified workers, and EU Blue Card holders. However, national rules remain more restrictive than the proposed EU framework in areas such as mobility between Member States and the conditions under which previous periods of residence may be counted toward long-term status. The recast directive would require Austria to adapt certain elements of its system, particularly regarding **recognition of residence periods** in other Member States and the facilitation of onward mobility. Austria continues to contribute to EU-level coordination through the **European Migration Network**, ensuring that national practice remains aligned with common standards and informed by comparable data. Austria's intention is to integrate the new provisions into its established legal framework while maintaining the coherence and stability of national procedures.

International Organization for Migration (IOM), *Changes of Immigration Status and Purpose of Residence in Austria*, Vienna: IOM Country Office for Austria

European Migration Network (EMN), Council Decision 2008/381/EC- *Establishing the European Migration Network*

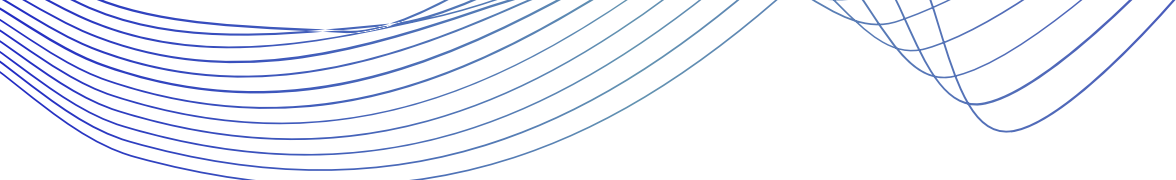
2008.2015.https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/migrant-integration/eu-long-term-residence_en

<https://www.oesterreich.gv.at>

Belgium

Belgium has taken significant steps to align its corporate governance and sustainability landscape with the European Union's evolving regulatory agenda. In December 2023, the Belgian Parliament adopted the law transposing the **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)**, introducing harmonised reporting obligations for large undertakings, listed companies, and certain third-country entities. This development strengthens transparency requirements and prepares Belgian companies for the broader due diligence obligations introduced under the CSDDD.





Belgian legal analyses underline that companies will need to embed due diligence into their operational processes, contractual arrangements, and governance structures. This includes risk-based assessments, board-level oversight, and the establishment of remediation mechanisms. Given the directive's scope, a substantial number of undertakings active in Belgium—both EU and non-EU—will fall under its obligations. Belgium's recent implementation of the CSRD demonstrates a preference for faithful and coherent transposition of EU legislation, ensuring consistency and legal certainty for companies. This approach is expected to guide the national transposition of the CSDDD as well. Belgian commentary highlights the importance of integrating the directive with existing corporate governance rules, particularly regarding **directors' duties** and **sustainability-related** oversight.

Belgium's broader sustainability environment positions the country to implement the CSDDD in a coordinated and predictable manner. As the directive moves toward national transposition, Belgium is expected to maintain regulatory continuity while supporting the EU's objective of strengthening responsible business conduct across global value chains.

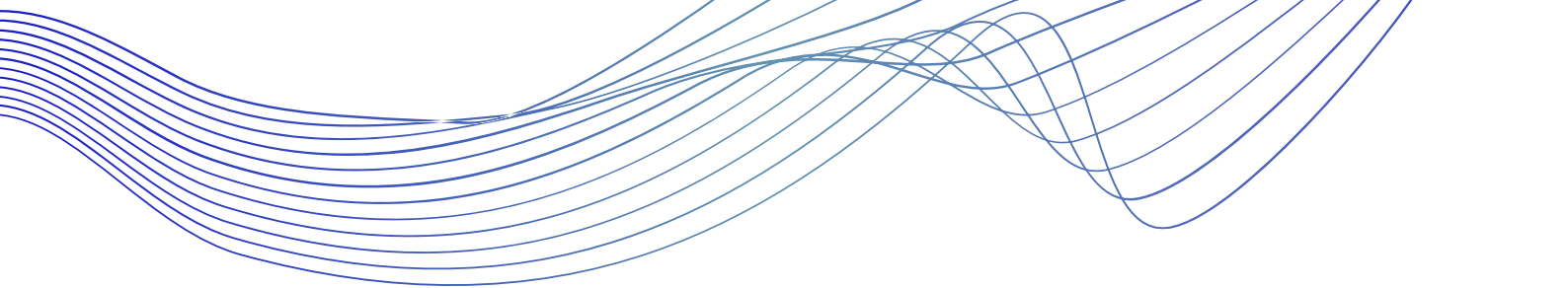
<https://www.eubelius.com/en/news/belgium-transposes-the-eu-corporate-sustainability-reporting-directive>

<https://www.kpmglaw.be/en/news/csr-d-is-transposed-into-belgian-law/>

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=fd22ab3f-280c-4aab-9da0-1787d259685e>

<https://www.pwclegal.be/en/news/corporate-sustainability-due-diligence-directive-adopted-by-the-european-parliament.html>

Belgium grants long-term resident status to third-country nationals under the **Law of 15 December 1980** and the **Royal Decree of 8 October 1981**. The national system requires **five years** of legal and uninterrupted residence, stable and regular income, health insurance, and compliance with integration conditions. Public order and national security assessments form part of the decision-making process. Belgium also applies specific rules for EU Blue Card holders, who may combine periods of residence accumulated in different Member States when applying for long-term residence. Said national rules already reflect several core elements of the Directive, such as the five-year residence requirement, equal-treatment principles, and the possibility of onward mobility.

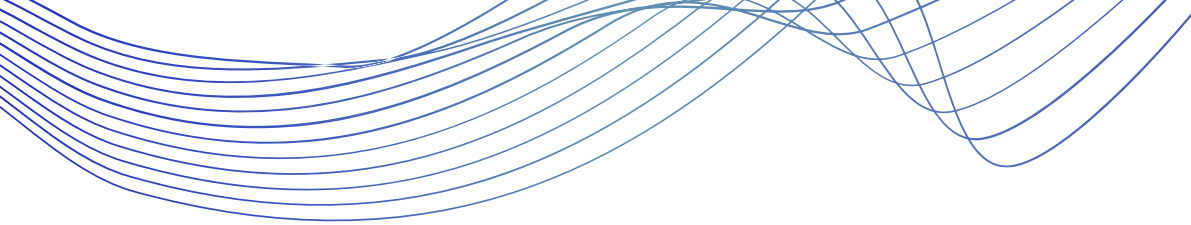


However, the recast directive would require Belgium to adjust aspects of its system, particularly regarding the portability of residence rights across Member States and the facilitation of intra-EU mobility for more categories of residence, such as student years or periods under temporary protection. It would also strengthen mobility rights for long-term residents and their family members. Belgium contributes actively to EU-level coordination through the **European Migration Network**, supporting the development of coherent and comparable approaches across Member States.

Bulgaria

Bulgaria is in the early stages of preparing for the implementation of the CSDDD. While the country has already completed the transposition of the **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive** (CSRD) through amendments to the **Accounting Act** and the **Independent Financial Audit Act** in August and September 2024, no official legislative steps have yet been announced regarding the CSDDD. National authorities have not designated a lead ministry, and no draft transposition text has been published. For Bulgaria, implementing the Directive will require the establishment of a supervisory authority, the introduction of civil liability provisions, and the integration of due diligence obligations into national corporate governance rules. Bulgaria's existing environmental and sustainability legislation provides a partial foundation for the CSDDD, particularly in hazardous waste management, environmental protection and corporate reporting. However, national rules remain more fragmented and sector-specific than the comprehensive due diligence obligations introduced at EU level. The directive's risk-based approach, its emphasis on value-chain responsibility, and its requirement for climate transition planning will require Bulgaria to expand its regulatory architecture significantly. This will involve strengthening institutional capacity, clarifying enforcement mechanisms, and supporting companies, particularly SMEs indirectly affected through value-chain obligations, in adapting to the new requirements.

<https://www.kinstellar.com/news-and-insights/detail/3056/update-on-the-esg-reporting-obligations-in-bulgaria-croatia-the-czech-republic-hungary-romania-and-slovakia>
<https://penkov-markov.eu/bg/articles/environment-comparative-guide-for-bulgaria>



Bulgaria regulates the residence of third-country nationals through the **Law on Foreigners** and its implementing regulations. The system distinguishes between temporary, long-term, and permanent residence. Long-term residence reflects the EU Long-Term Residents Directive, requiring five years of legal and continuous stay, stable resources, and health insurance. **Permanent residence**, however, is a broader national category that predates the EU acquis and remains more accessible for certain groups, including persons of Bulgarian origin, parents of Bulgarian citizens, and specific investors: Bulgaria's **national permanent residence regime** is often easier to navigate than the EU long-term residence status, with clearer information and broader eligibility. However, unlike EU long-term residents, national permanent residents do not benefit from intra-EU mobility rights. Application procedures remain fragmented, involving multiple authorities and largely paper-based processes.

Recent amendments to the Foreigners Act introduced a legal basis for **digital nomads**, expanding the categories of third-country nationals eligible for residence. Overall, Bulgaria combines formal compliance with EU migration directives and a parallel national policy that is more flexible domestically, but more limited in terms of EU-wide rights.

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/0b8e0e5c-6f3e-11e9-9f0501aa75ed71a1>

<https://immigration2bulgaria.com/bulgarian-long-term-residency/>

<https://penkov-markov.eu/bg/articles/environment-comparative-guide-for-bulgaria>

Croatia

Croatia is progressively aligning its corporate regulation with the EU sustainability agenda, building on the transposition of the **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive** (CSRD) and preparing for the application of the **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive** (CSDDD). CSRD obligations for companies operating in the Croatian market phased in from the 2024 financial year onwards, with detailed reporting based on the double-materiality approach and the European Sustainability Reporting Standards. The CSDDD will however require large EU and certain non-EU companies active in Croatia to identify, prevent, mitigate, and remediate adverse human rights and environmental impacts across their value chains, including upstream and (partially) downstream business partners. Croatia's ESG regulatory landscape is evolving quickly, with financial, energy, and industrial sectors already subject to increasing EU-driven requirements.



National authorities are expected to designate a competent supervisory body and establish enforcement and liability mechanisms once the CSDDD is transposed. For companies operating in Croatia, the strategic challenge is to move from compliance-only approaches to using due diligence and reporting as tools for risk reduction, access to finance, and competitive positioning in EU value chains.

<https://www.dnv.com/life-sciences/insights/turning-the-eu-csddd-into-a-strategic-opportunity/>

<https://www.wolftheiss.com/insights/key-insights-on-csrd-reporting-requirements-for-companies-operating-in-the-croatian-market/>

<https://www.sgs.com/en-hr/news/2024/07/sgss-csddd-q-and-a>

Croatia regulates the entry, stay, and rights of third-country nationals through the **Foreigners Act**, which has undergone several reforms; the 2021 one replaced the former quota-based system with a labour-market test model, streamlining access for foreign workers while maintaining state control over labour migration. The reform also aligned Croatia more closely with EU migration standards and international commitments, including the **Global Compact for Migration** and the **Global Compact for Refugees**. The reforms also expand pathways for highly skilled third-country nationals, particularly through relaxed EU Blue Card rules, simplified recognition of qualifications, and more flexible work-permit arrangements aimed at attracting global talent.

Despite these improvements, Croatia maintains a distinction between temporary residence, long-term EU residence, and permanent residence. Long-term EU residence requires five years of continuous legal stay, in line with Directive 2003/109/EC. National permanent residence, however, remains more restrictive and does not confer intra-EU mobility rights. Overall, Croatia combines formal alignment with EU legal migration directives and a dynamic national reform agenda aimed at attracting skilled workers. The ongoing updates to the Foreigners Act signal a strategic shift toward greater openness, while maintaining compliance with EU standards on residence, mobility, and the rights of third-country nationals.

<https://www.pragueprocess.eu/en/countries/842-croatia>

<https://rm.coe.int/1680494248>

<https://www.expatincroatia.com/croatian-law-on-foreigners-2025/>

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/0b8e0e5c-6f3e-11e9-9f05-01aa75ed71a1>



Cyprus

Cyprus is progressively embedding EU sustainability legislation into its corporate and regulatory architecture, with the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (**CSRD**), preparing the ground for the implementation of the CSDDD. As CSRD obligations phase in according to the EU timetable, undertakings operating in Cyprus are required to adopt the double-materiality perspective and report in accordance with the **European Sustainability Reporting Standards**. This enhanced transparency regime is expected to facilitate the operationalisation of due diligence obligations by generating more robust data on environmental, social, and governance risks. Within the framework of the CSDDD, large EU and certain non-EU companies with activities or value-chain linkages in Cyprus must identify, prevent, mitigate, and remedy adverse human rights and environmental impacts across their chain of activities. Legal and advisory analyses emphasise that this shift necessitates the systematic integration of due diligence into **corporate governance, risk-management processes**, and contractual arrangements. For companies active in Cyprus, the strategic challenge lies in moving beyond formal compliance and leveraging due diligence as a tool for risk mitigation, investor confidence, and strengthened positioning within EU and global value chains.

<https://www.harneys.com/our-blogs/regulatory/cyprus-businesses-and-csrd-key-deadlines-overview/>

<https://www.bsr.org/en/insights/eu-csddd-finalized-key-due-diligence-expectations-remain-intact>

Cyprus has undergone significant legislative and policy adjustments in recent years to regulate the entry, residence, and integration of third-country nationals. Amendments to the **Aliens and Immigration Law** in August 2024 introduced the EU Blue Card regime, harmonising national legislation with Directive (EU) 2021/1883 and enabling highly-skilled third-country nationals to live and work in Cyprus under enhanced mobility and family-reunification rules. The reform aims to increase Cyprus's attractiveness to qualified non-EU workers, particularly in ICT, pharmaceuticals, and maritime sectors, and establishes clearer procedural standards, including a three-month examination period for applications and facilitated access to the labour market for spouses of Blue Card holders.

The national integration strategy and action plan sets out measures across reception, social inclusion, anti-discrimination, and access to services, supported by EU funding instruments (AMIF).



Cyprus continues to face structural challenges in its treatment of third-country nationals, including pushbacks at sea, delays in accessing asylum procedures, limited reception capacity, and persistent barriers to labour-market participation for asylum applicants. Beneficiaries of subsidiary protection remain excluded from family reunification, and naturalisation pathways are constrained by stringent residence and integration requirements. Taken together, these issues underscore a dual trajectory in Cypriot migration governance: on one hand, targeted reforms aimed at attracting highly skilled third-country nationals and modernising integration structures; on the other, enduring systemic shortcomings in asylum processing and long-term inclusion. Whether forthcoming strategies and legislative updates can reconcile these parallel tracks into a more coherent and rights-compliant system remains an open question.

<https://kpmg.com/xx/en/our-insights/gms-flash-alert/flash-alert-2025-142.html>
https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/migrant-integration/migrant-integration-hub/eu-countries-updates-and-facts/migrant-integration-cyprus_en
<https://ecre.org/aida-country-report-on-cyprus-update-on-2025/>

Czech Republic

Czechia is advancing the integration of EU sustainability legislation into its national framework, with developments in both the **CSRD** and the CSDDD. The national debate has focused on scope adjustments, such as the exclusion of certain financial undertakings and the increase of employee thresholds for in-scope companies, while emphasising that due diligence obligations will nonetheless become binding for large undertakings operating in or through Czechia. Under the CSDDD, Czech companies must integrate due diligence into governance structures, risk-management systems, and supplier contracts, with particular attention to high-risk sectors such as manufacturing, energy, and extractives. The enforcement will include administrative sanctions and **civil liability** for failure to conduct adequate due diligence, signalling a shift from voluntary ESG commitments to legally enforceable obligations. Czech companies are increasingly required to disclose environmental and social impacts in line with the **European Sustainability Reporting Standards**, reinforcing transparency and providing the data infrastructure necessary for CSDDD implementation.

<https://www.sgs.com/en-cz/news/2024/07/sgss-csddd-q-and-a>



<https://cms.law/en/cze/legal-updates/esg-implementation-in-the-czech-republic-key-insights-into-sustainability-reporting>

<https://www.kinstellar.com/news-and-insights/detail/3380/update-on-the-implementation-of-cs3d-and-csrd-and-related-local-legislative-developments-in-bulgaria-croatia-the-czech-republic-hungary-romania-and-slovakia>

Czechia's approach to third-country nationals is framed by its **Migration Policy Strategy**, which underlines the need to "secure **peaceful coexistence** of its citizens and foreign nationals" through proactive integration policies, including regional integration centres, compulsory adaptation-integration measures for some newcomers, and communication tools aimed at preventing social exclusion and negative social phenomena. At the same time, it stresses strict enforcement against irregular migration, organised smuggling, and human trafficking, alongside a flexible but rules-based asylum system aligned with the **Common European Asylum System** and the principle of **non-refoulement**. Czechia has recently modernised its labour-migration framework to manage third-country workers more systematically. The July 2024 amendments introduced clearer employer obligations and closer coordination with labour authorities, while mapping exercises highlight a diversified set of legal pathways, including the EU Blue Card, highly qualified worker schemes, and targeted programmes for nationals of countries such as Ukraine, India, Belarus, and Turkey. Further visa and residence changes aim to streamline procedures and reduce administrative burdens, yet remain anchored in the security and integration priorities of the national Migration Policy Strategy. This creates a dual dynamic: expanding channels for legal and high-skilled migration alongside continued emphasis on enforcement, returns, and conditional integration.

<https://www.expats.cz/czech-news/article/czechia-s-2026-visa-changes-what-non-eu-workers-need-to-know>

<https://www.migrationpartnershipfacility.eu/knowledge/resources/47-mapping/212-mapping-legal-pathways-czech-republic-summary-2024/download>

https://www.ey.com/en_gl/technical/tax-alerts/czech-republic-implements-amended-regulations-governing-employment-of-third-country-nationals



Denmark

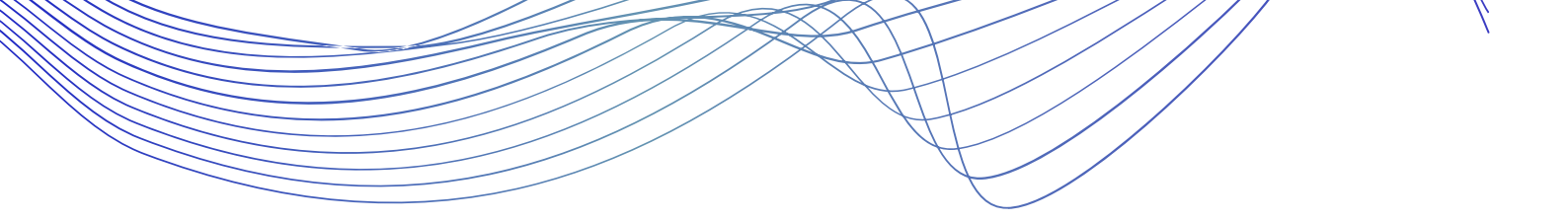
Denmark is positioning itself among the **frontrunners** in the implementation of the CSDDD, building on a long-standing tradition of responsible business conduct and existing **soft-law** and sectoral due diligence requirements. The CSDDD will codify and expand expectations already familiar to many Danish companies, particularly those working with the **OECD Guidelines** and **UN Guiding Principles**, by turning risk-based human rights and environmental due diligence into a binding legal obligation across value chains. Under the CSDDD, Danish companies will need to strengthen internal processes for impact identification, integrate due diligence into board-level oversight, and align climate-related strategies with EU targets, including transition planning obligations for in-scope companies. Effective transposition should avoid dilution of the Directive's core elements, such as **value-chain coverage**, **civil-liability provisions**, and **access to remedy**, essential to ensure that the CSDDD delivers real improvements for rights-holders and affected communities. Denmark's forthcoming transposition is situated within a broader shift **from voluntary CSR to hard-law** corporate accountability at EU level. The interaction between the CSDDD, the CSRD, and existing Danish non-financial reporting and due diligence expectations will be central in practice, as companies seek to use CSRD-driven data and double-materiality assessments to inform CSDDD risk mapping and prioritisation. For Danish companies, the strategic challenge is therefore twofold: to move beyond a compliance-only approach and treat due diligence as a core element of corporate governance and competitiveness, while navigating evolving legal standards, supervisory expectations, and potential litigation risk under the new regime.

<https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/transposition-corporate-sustainability-due-diligence-directive-practical-guide-0>

<https://www.we-support-the-csddd.eu/>

<https://denmark.dlapiper.com/en/news/eu-corporate-sustainability-due-diligence-directive-csddd-proposal-has-been-adopted>

Denmark's approach to third-country nationals combines relatively open channels for labour migration with restrictive policies in asylum and long-term integration. The legal framework is shaped both by EU law on long-term residents and by national choices that often go beyond minimum standards: already in 2000, emerging EU rules on long-term residents were explicitly intended to integrate long term resident migrants, a goal that continues to frame debates on the status and rights of third-country nationals today.



In the field of asylum, Denmark has attracted particular attention for its extraterritorial “asylum export” model. A 2021 law allows the transfer of asylum seekers to processing centres in third countries, where their claims would be examined and protection would be provided outside Denmark: such a system risks breaching Denmark’s obligations under international refugee and human-rights law, including the principles of non-refoulement and effective access to asylum procedures. At the same time, Denmark maintains a comparatively strict approach to family reunification, permanent residence, and citizenship, with demanding language, employment, and “self-sufficiency” requirements that shape the long-term position of third-country nationals. Denmark is revising integration tools, including disability-pension rules for migrants, to tighten eligibility and reinforce work-first expectations. In parallel, Denmark has moved to simplify the hiring of third-country nationals in sectors facing labour shortages, streamlining procedures and easing some conditions for employers.

<https://eumigrationlawblog.eu/denmarks-legislation-on-extraterritorial-asylum-in-light-of-international-and-eu-law>

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/new-policies-and-studies-migrant-integration-denmark-2026-02-27_en

<https://pub.norden.org/nord2025-038>

Estonia

Estonia’s position on the CSDDD has been unusually explicit compared to other Member States. The Ministry of Justice announced in early 2024 that Estonia **does not support** the directive, arguing that the proposal imposes disproportionate administrative burdens on companies, creates legal uncertainty, and risks weakening competitiveness, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises. The government’s position emphasises that mandatory due diligence should not extend to the entire value chain and that civil-liability provisions may expose companies to excessive litigation. This **sceptical stance** places Estonia among the more critical voices in the Council negotiations. However, Estonian companies are already experiencing the indirect effects of the EU’s broader sustainability agenda. The **CSRD** is pushing Estonian firms out of their comfort zone, requiring them to develop structured reporting systems, improve data quality, and integrate sustainability considerations into governance. This reporting infrastructure is expected to become a key enabler for future due diligence obligations, even if Estonia initially opposed the CSDDD.

Even in a context of national scepticism, Estonian firms integrated into cross-border value chains will be required to comply with the directive through contractual obligations imposed by larger EU partners. Estonia's approach reflects a tension between **political reluctance** at the national level and **practical convergence** at the corporate level. While the government has criticised the directive for overreach, Estonian companies are already adapting to the emerging EU sustainability architecture through CSRD-driven reporting, market expectations, and value-chain pressures. The effectiveness of Estonia's eventual transposition will depend on how it balances competitiveness concerns with the EU's broader shift toward mandatory human-rights and environmental due diligence.

<https://www.justdigi.ee/en/news/controversial-corporate-sustainability-due-diligence-directive-approved-eu>

<https://interreg-baltic.eu/project-posts/sustool/estonian-financial-radio-aripaev-the-corporate-sustainability-reporting-directive-pushes-companies-out-of-their-comfort-zone>

<https://www.ekei.ee/en/news/estonia-does-not-support-corporate-sustainability-due-diligence-directive>

Migration governance in Estonia is characterised by a structured legal-migration system, clear procedural rules, and a strong emphasis on **labour-market** relevance. Estonia relies primarily on **work-based residence permits**, the EU Blue Card, and targeted schemes for sectors facing shortages, while maintaining more restrictive conditions for lower-skilled employment.

Long-term residence follows the EU framework, granting secure status after five years of legal stay, though naturalisation remains more demanding due to language and civic-integration requirements. Integration policy is comprehensive but **conditional**: national programmes focus on Estonian-language acquisition, civic education, and labour-market participation, supported by AMIF-funded regional integration centres.

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2019-03/201903_ee-legal-migration-check-annex-2a-icf-201806.pdf

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/migrant-integration/migrant-integration-hub/eu-countries-updates-and-facts/migrant-integration-estonia_en

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/document/download/46dc9d57-6d24-4d22-aa06-164efda82f69_en



Finland

Finland has taken a constructive and forward-looking stance toward the CSDDD, as a natural extension of the country's commitment to responsible business conduct. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment notes that implementation will be **phased**, with the largest companies entering scope first, followed by medium-sized entities as the Directive's thresholds gradually expand. In-scope Finnish firms will be required to identify, prevent, mitigate, and remedy adverse human-rights and environmental impacts across their chain of activities, integrate **due diligence into governance** and risk-management systems, and adopt transition plans aligned with EU climate objectives. Finnish companies which already follow **OECD** and **UNGP-based** due diligence practices will nonetheless face more stringent documentation, contractual oversight, and board-level accountability requirements.

The directive's interaction with the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (**CSRD**) is particularly relevant in the Finnish context. CSRD-driven reporting obligations are already pushing companies to develop more sophisticated sustainability data systems, and Finnish experts describe this as a necessary foundation for effective due diligence. The shift **from voluntary ESG** commitments **to binding obligations** is expected to reshape corporate governance practices, especially in sectors with complex value chains such as forestry, manufacturing, and technology. While Finnish companies are comparatively well-positioned, the CSDDD marks a decisive shift toward enforceable sustainability governance, requiring both regulatory coordination and sustained corporate investment in risk-management and value-chain oversight.

<https://www.inogenalliance.com/news-blog/blog-post/navigating-corporate-sustainability-reporting-directive-csrd-comprehensive-overview>

<https://kpmg.com/fi/en/insights/esg/the-corporate-sustainability-due-diligence-directive-has-been-adopted-in-the-european-parliament.html>

<https://tem.fi/en/-/implementation-of-corporate-sustainability-due-diligence-directive-requires-national-preparation-in-finland>

Labour-migration reforms in Finland have recently tightened the link between residence rights and **stable employment**. New rules shorten the period during which an employed migrant may remain in the country after losing a job, reducing the time available to secure new employment before a residence permit becomes invalid. This shift reflects a broader policy trend toward ensuring that **work-based** migration remains closely tied to **genuine labour-market participation**.



Regulatory changes also introduce heightened obligations for both employers and third-country nationals. Employers must now meet stricter compliance and documentation requirements, while migrants face clearer conditions related to employment continuity and permit validity. These measures aim to strengthen oversight, reduce misuse of work-based permits, and reinforce the **integrity** of Finland's labour-migration system. Alongside these controls, Finland continues to expand support for labour-market integration. Recent legislative and research initiatives focus on improving **skills recognition**, reducing administrative barriers, and enhancing pathways into sectors facing labour shortages. Finland combines tighter regulatory safeguards with targeted measures to improve labour-market access, producing a migration framework that prioritises economic contribution while maintaining strong oversight of employment-based residence pathways.

<https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/65075/finland-changes-to-residence-permit-for-employed-migrants>

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/research-and-legislation-changes-promote-migrant-integration-and-access-labour-market-finland-2026-01-22_en

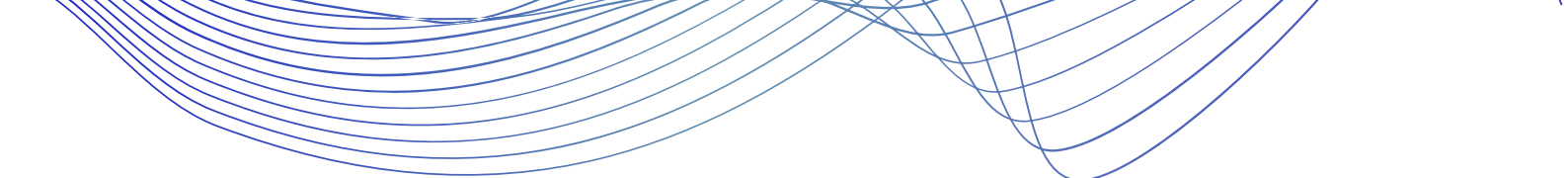
https://www.ey.com/en_gl/technical/tax-alerts/finland-confirms-the-implementation-date-for-heightened-requirements-for-employers-and-third-country-nationals

France

On corporate sustainability due diligence, France is one of the member states whose domestic framework was already close to the logic of the EU file, because the 2017 **Devoir de Vigilance** Law already requires large companies to identify and prevent serious human-rights and environmental risks in their operations and value chains. Recent French government consultation material also shows concern that EU due-diligence rules should remain proportionate and workable for business. Overall, France looks supportive in principle on both files, but keen to preserve a structured, legally managed implementation rather than a maximalist reading of either proposal.

<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F35602/2?lang=en&utm>





France's position on the long-term residents file appears broadly compatible with the proposal's objective of giving settled third-country nationals a stable and meaningful EU status, but its existing practice still reflects a controlled approach to intra-EU mobility. Official French guidance allows a third-country national who has lived legally and continuously in France for at least five years to obtain the **Carte de résident de longue durée-UE**, a renewable ten-year status that also allows residence in other EU countries under conditions. At the same time, France's own public-service guidance makes clear that a long-term resident card obtained in another EU country does not by itself authorise work in France, and that the person must still apply for the relevant French residence permit, which suggests that France supports long-term integration while remaining cautious about turning intra-EU mobility into something close to automatic movement.

<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F17359?utm>

Germany

Germany already adopted its national **Supply Chain Due Diligence Act** before the EU directive, which shows clear acceptance of the idea that large companies should address human-rights risks in supply chains. Yet in the decisive 2024 phase of the EU negotiations, Germany's internal coalition dispute helped produce a German abstention that contributed to delaying approval, and the federal government's 2024 growth initiative later stressed that both the German law and the transposition of the EU directive should avoid disproportionate burdens on companies. Overall, Germany's stance is supportive of due diligence as a concept, but strongly focused on pragmatism, legal certainty, and limiting bureaucracy.

[https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/service/archive/supply-chain-act-1872076?
utm](https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/service/archive/supply-chain-act-1872076?utm)

[https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/eu-postpones-decision-proposed-supply-
chain-due-diligence-law-2024-02-09/](https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/eu-postpones-decision-proposed-supply-chain-due-diligence-law-2024-02-09/)

[https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/998440/2298242/b27ba5f4d51b2f9ba
d3a67d4e7234da8/2024-07-08-wachstumsinitiative-en-data.pdf?download=1&utm](https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/998440/2298242/b27ba5f4d51b2f9bad3a67d4e7234da8/2024-07-08-wachstumsinitiative-en-data.pdf?download=1&utm)

Germany's position on the long-term residents file appears broadly favourable to the idea that long-term residence should be a real integration status with cross-border utility. Official **BAMF guidance** describes the EU long-term residence permit as an open-ended title that can also be used to settle in another EU member state, and German material on EU mobility presents this cross-border possibility as part of the Union's attractiveness for immigrants. Germany therefore seems institutionally comfortable with the proposal's emphasis on making EU long-term resident status more effective, even if movement to another member state still remains subject to the rules of that second state.

<https://www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/MigrationAufenthalt/ZuwandererDrittstaaten/Migration/Niederlassen/niederlassen-node.html>

Greece

On corporate sustainability due diligence, Greece appears institutionally compatible with the broader responsible-business agenda, but not especially visible as a leading political driver of the EU directive itself. The official picture is one of adaptation, strategy, and administrative alignment rather than strong public advocacy or resistance. Indeed, the country has been developing wider integration, governance, and sustainability-related frameworks, the most visible of which is still anchored in the OECD Guidelines and the national contact-point structure housed within the foreign-affairs and economic-openness apparatus. However, the most visible official material does not suggest that it tried to shape the due-diligence debate as aggressively as countries like France or Germany. This makes Greece's likely position best described as generally receptive but not agenda-setting. It seems likely to accept the logic that companies should take greater responsibility for human-rights and environmental impacts connected to their operations and business relationships, especially within the broader EU sustainability context, yet from a practical state-management perspective rather than a normative leadership one. In short, Greece looks more like a country that will work within the EU framework once agreed than one that sought to define the outer boundaries of the debate.

https://migration.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/ENGLISH_BROCHURE.pdf

<https://migration.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/NATIONAL-STRATEGY-FINAL.pdf>

Greece's position on the long-term residents issue appears legally accommodating but administratively controlled. Official Greek migration material clearly recognises a long-term resident permit for third-country nationals, and Greece also provides a formal procedure for third-country nationals who already hold long-term resident status in another EU member state and wish to work in Greece. Greek official guidance for beneficiaries of international protection also states that, after five years of legal and permanent residence and subject to the statutory conditions, they may apply for long-term resident status. This suggests that Greece accepts the broad architecture of the recast, but through a permit-based model that still keeps entry, work, and residence under close administrative supervision.

<https://apdattikis.gov.gr/en/process/1-1-4-dependent-employment-and-provision-of-services-or-work-mobility-third-country-nationals-with-long-term-resident-status-in-another-eu-member-state-article-98-law-4251-14-granting/?utm>

https://migration.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Οδηγός-Πληροφόρησης-Δικαιούχων-Διεθνούς-Προστασίας_Eng.pdf

Hungary

On corporate sustainability due diligence, Hungary does participate in the OECD responsible-business-conduct framework and has a functioning National Contact Point that was the subject of an OECD peer review in 2024. However, the public official material visible on Hungary is much more institutional and OECD-based than it is openly political in favour of a far-reaching EU due-diligence regime. The overall picture is therefore one of limited enthusiasm for broad supranational expansion: Hungary recognises the relevant legal categories and international frameworks, but its posture looks more cautious, state-centred, and control-oriented than norm-entrepreneurial.

https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/national-contact-point-for-responsible-business-conduct-peer-reviews-hungary-2024_a26a0229-en.html

Hungary's position on the long-term residents file appears more sovereignty-conscious and nationally controlled than integration-expansive. Official Hungarian material frames longer-term stay for third-country nationals primarily through national immigration law and the rules administered by the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing, which suggests that Hungary's instinct is to keep residence rights tightly connected to domestic legal categories and state supervision. That makes Hungary likely to treat the recast proposal cautiously, especially where it would make the EU long-term resident status more portable or less dependent on national discretion.

https://thb.kormany.hu/download/9/ec/a0000/10_Act%20II%20of%202007%20and%20Government%20Decree%20114_2007.pdf

https://thb.kormany.hu/download/9/ec/a0000/10_Act%20II%20of%202007%20and%20Government%20Decree%20114_2007.pdf

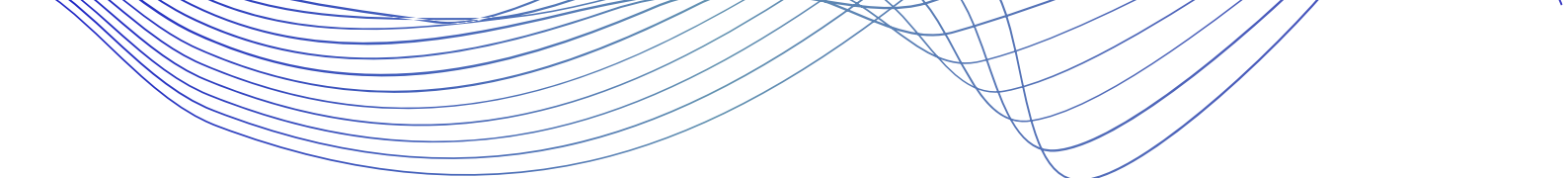
Ireland

Ireland is clearly engaged with the corporate sustainability due-diligence agenda, but its recent official language shows a strong preference for simplification and business-manageable rules. The Department of Enterprise explains that the directive will require in-scope companies to identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for adverse human-rights and environmental impacts in their chain of activities. That indicates acceptance of the substance of the EU file. At the same time, government statements in 2025 welcomed EU proposals to simplify sustainability-related obligations and reduce burdens on business. This reveals an important tension in the Irish position: Ireland is not rejecting the due-diligence project, but it wants it scoped and implemented in a way that avoids excessive complexity and administrative load. So Ireland's stance is best described as supportive in principle, but strongly focused on proportionality, competitiveness, and simplification. It accepts the regulatory direction, but prefers a lighter and more practical design.

<https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/what-we-do/the-business-environment/corporate-sustainability-due-diligence> <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-enterprise-tourism-and-employment/press-releases/minister-burke-welcomes-eu-proposals-for-simplifying-the-obligations-on-business-in-relation-to-corporate-sustainability>

<https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/publications/publication-files/note-on-enterprise-forum-3-april-2025.pdf>





Ireland is a special case on the long-term residents file because it remains partly outside the ordinary justice-and-home-affairs framework and continues to rely primarily on its own national immigration arrangements. Official Irish guidance shows that a person may qualify for **Long Term Residency** after **60 months of legal residence** under certain immigration permissions, particularly employment-based ones. This demonstrates that Ireland is not hostile to the idea that long-term legal migrants should eventually gain a more stable and secure status. However, the route is national rather than fully embedded in the common EU migration framework in the same way as in most other member states. As a result, Ireland's position is not best understood in terms of simple support or opposition to the recast. Rather, it has its own long-term residence logic and remains more semi-detached from the common scheme. That means Ireland supports long-term residence as a domestic policy tool, but its relationship to EU-level harmonisation in this field is structurally more limited and selective.

<https://www.irishimmigration.ie/my-situation-has-changed-since-i-arrived-in-ireland/long-term-residency><https://www.irishimmigration.ie/registering-your-immigration-permission/information-on-registering/immigration-permission-stamps>

Italy

Italy's stance on due diligence has been more politically cautious and burden-conscious than its stance on long-term residence. Italy has not fundamentally rejected the idea that companies should bear responsibility for serious human-rights and environmental risks in their operations and supply chains, but its position has leaned toward narrowing, delaying, or simplifying obligations rather than endorsing a broad and heavy regime. This is consistent with a wider Italian industrial-policy concern that sustainability obligations should not undermine business competitiveness or impose disproportionate burdens, especially on firms that are already operating under complex regulatory conditions. In practice, that means Italy's position is not anti-due-diligence in substance, but it is wary of expansive legal obligations and strongly attentive to compliance costs, scope thresholds, and implementation timing. Italy therefore appears to accept the direction of the EU file only insofar as it remains practical, proportionate, and business-manageable.

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/eu-postpones-decision-proposed-supply-chain-due-diligence-law-2024-02-09>

<https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/eu-envoys-clear-proposed-supply-chain-audit-law-belgian-presidency-says-2024-03-15/>

https://www.mimit.gov.it/images/stories/documenti/Made_in_Italy_2030_-_Per_una_nuova_strategia_industriale.pdf

Italy appears broadly supportive of the principle that long-term legal residence should lead to a more secure and durable status, but it still places that status squarely within a controlled national framework. Official Italian guidance explains that the **permesso di soggiorno UE per soggiornanti di lungo periodo** is an **indefinite residence title** and may generally be requested after **at least five years of valid residence** in Italy. This suggests clear compatibility with the EU long-term residence model. However, the same body of official information also stresses public-order and security considerations, and Italy's guidance on residence in other EU member states makes clear that even with this permit, the holder must still comply with the internal rules of the country where they want to work or settle. That means Italy supports the long-term resident framework, but not as a substitute for national control over migration and labour-market access. Its likely posture toward the recast is therefore supportive of stable residence and gradual integration, but cautious toward any version of the proposal that would substantially weaken the role of member states in managing secondary movement and access to employment.

<https://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/it-it/Ricerca-news/Dettaglio-news/id/2118/Che-cose-il-permesso-di-soggiorno-Ue-per-lungo-soggiornanti-A-cosa-da-diritto>

<https://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/it-it/Ricerca-news/Dettaglio-news/id/2118/Che-cose-il-permesso-di-soggiorno-Ue-per-lungo-soggiornanti-A-cosa-da-diritto>



Latvia

Latvia has a visible and active responsible-business-conduct infrastructure, which makes it more institutionally aligned with the due-diligence agenda than some countries where official structures are weaker or less visible. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs explains that the **Latvian National Contact Point for Responsible Business Conduct** serves as a mediation and dispute-resolution mechanism under the OECD Guidelines, and later official material shows that the body is structured as a broader inter-institutional platform involving ministries and social partners. This suggests that Latvia is comfortable with the language and mechanisms of responsible business conduct and due diligence, even if it has not been one of the most prominent political voices shaping the EU directive. So Latvia's likely position is supportive in institutional terms, but measured and implementation-focused rather than ideologically expansive.

<https://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/latvian-national-contact-point-responsible-business-conduct>
<https://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/article/baltic-and-nordic-oecd-national-contact-points-responsible-business-conduct-gather-their-annual-meeting>

Latvia appears institutionally compatible with the long-term residents framework, but it approaches the matter in a controlled and procedural way. The available official migration material recognises **EU long-term resident status** as part of Latvia's legal residence system, which indicates that Latvia accepts the idea that lawful long-term stay by third-country nationals can lead to a more secure and durable status. At the same time, Latvia's broader migration administration remains formal, document-based, and state-managed, so this support should not be confused with enthusiasm for a highly liberal mobility regime. In practice, Latvia seems likely to accept the basic architecture of the recast, particularly where it improves legal clarity and preserves structured procedures, while remaining cautious toward any interpretation that would significantly loosen national oversight of residence and secondary movement.

<https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/en/long-term-resident-status-european-community-latvia>

Lithuania

Lithuania's visible official approach to due diligence is technocratic, OECD-linked, and implementation-oriented. Government-linked material promotes OECD due-diligence guidance and provides practical information touching on the scope and implications of the CSDDD, which suggests that Lithuania is institutionally aligned with the responsible-business-conduct agenda and prepared to work within EU sustainability rules.



Rather than taking a highly political or confrontational stance, Lithuania seems to approach the file through guidance, administration, and policy coherence. That makes Lithuania look more supportive than sceptical, though not necessarily as a leading political entrepreneur of the directive. Its likely position is one of practical acceptance: due diligence is viewed as part of the broader EU and OECD sustainability framework, and the main question is how to implement it coherently rather than whether it should exist at all.

<https://eimin.lrv.lt/en/structure-and-contacts/news-1/opportunity-for-lithuanian-business-to-strengthen-the-semiconductor-industry-and-improve-approach-to-circular-economy/> <https://eimin.lrv.lt/en/contact-points/national-contact-point/guidelines-for-multinational-enterprises/sectoral-guidelines/>

Lithuania appears broadly aligned with the long-term residents framework and already operates comfortably within its core logic. Official migration guidance states that the **Permit of a Long-term Resident of the Republic of Lithuania to Reside in the European Union** functions as confirmation of permanent resident status, showing that Lithuania treats this as a central and established category within its migration system rather than a marginal or exceptional form of residence. That indicates strong legal compatibility with the recast proposal's underlying objective of providing settled third-country nationals with durable residence rights. At the same time, Lithuania still handles the matter within a formal administrative framework of documents, fees, and migration procedures, so its support is best understood as structured and legalistic rather than politically expansive. In other words, Lithuania looks supportive of the status and comfortable with its logic, but still within a classic member-state model of regulated residence.

<https://migracija.lrv.lt/en/activities/identity-documents/residence-permits-documents/residence-permits-since-2020>

Luxembourg

Luxembourg has a relatively developed official responsible business-conduct framework, which places it in a stronger institutional position than a number of smaller member states.



Government material explicitly promotes **responsible business conduct**, and Luxembourg's National Contact Point structure shows that the country already treats these questions as part of its economic and international policy architecture. This suggests that Luxembourg is broadly aligned with the direction of the due-diligence agenda and is unlikely to be fundamentally resistant to the idea that companies should address serious human-rights and environmental risks linked to their operations and business relationships. At the same time, Luxembourg's visible official posture is more institutional and coordination-based than rhetorically activist. It looks like a country that fits well within the due-diligence framework and is prepared to implement it through established structures, rather than one that frames the issue in highly political terms. Overall, Luxembourg seems supportive, orderly, and implementation-focused on this file.

<https://mae.gouvernement.lu/en/directions-du-ministere/affaires-europeennes/organisations-economiques-int/conduite-responsable-entreprises.html>
<https://pcn.gouvernement.lu/dam-assets/documents/rapport-annuels/luxncp-annual-report-2024.pdf>

Luxembourg appears broadly supportive of stable long-term residence for third-country nationals, but it still situates that support within a carefully structured national framework. Official guidance explains that third-country nationals may obtain **long-term resident status** after lawful residence in Luxembourg and also specifies categories of persons who are excluded from this status. This indicates that Luxembourg accepts the basic principle that settled migrants should be able to move from temporary residence toward a more secure and durable legal position. However, the way the rules are framed also shows that Luxembourg remains attached to clearly defined eligibility criteria, legal categories, and a nationally administered residence regime. That suggests a posture that is compatible with the recast's general direction, especially where it improves legal certainty and reinforces stable residence, but not one that would favour turning EU long-term residence into a lightly regulated mobility instrument detached from domestic admission rules. Luxembourg therefore appears supportive of the status, but within a controlled and legally structured model.

<https://guichet.public.lu/en/citoyens/immigration/plus-3-mois/ressortissant-tiers/sejour-5-ans/statut-resident-longue-duree-ressortissant-pays-tiers.html>



Malta

Maltese efforts in improving sustainability for their companies began with the implementation of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), a regulation passed along with the CSDDD. In 2026 Malta introduced the **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Regulations, 2026** (Legal Notice 39 of 2026), marking a significant development in the country's corporate regulatory landscape. The Regulations transposes the CSRD into Maltese law and substantially expand the obligations of certain undertakings to disclose sustainability-related information; however, some entities, such as the Central Bank of Malta are exempt. Reporting regarding the regulation started on January 1, 2026. Companies within Malta in sectors such as tourism and air travel, amongst others, have expressed commitment to increased usage of renewable energy and reduction of carbon footprint. One such example is the possibility for tourism-related companies (hotels, resorts, agencies) to become **Eco-Certified** under the authority of the Global Sustainability Tourism Council, Green Key, and the EU Ecolabel. Additionally, banks offer loans with **reduced interest to green initiatives** applied to establishments such as solar panels, electric vehicles, etc. Malta's Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Public Cleanliness is also a key actor, as the undertaker of the Long Term Waste Management Plan for Malta 2021-2030. The Ministry is also responsible for Malta's Sustainable Development Strategy for 2050, which specifically addresses a transition to a climate-neutral green and blue economy.

<https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2026/39/eng>

<https://sustainability.gov.mt/ministry/>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.gov.mt/maltas-sustainable-development-strategy-for-2050/>

In general, the Maltese government's plan regarding Third Country Nationals (TCN) movement focuses on increasing employment while promising stability and protection of workers' rights. In January of 2025, a new policy specifically regarding labour migration started to be evaluated. The policy discusses appropriate salaries, disability benefits, and skill checks, amongst other factors. It is set to be fully implemented by October 2026. Malta has a specific pathway to residency of this kind known as the **Malta Permanent Residence Programme** (MPRP). This initiative requires a minimum of €500,000 in assets, payment of the required government fees and taxes, and a €2000 philanthropic donation. It targets executives, technocrats, global investors, and other groups that may specifically forward the Maltese economy.



<https://jobsplus.gov.mt/media/0c3ppzjb/malta-labour-migration-policy-implementation-doc-jul-2025.pdf>

<https://wdm.com.mt/expertise/residence-and-relocation/long-term-residence-non-eu-nationals>

<https://www.ccmalta.com/publications/malta-permanent-residence-guide>

The Netherlands

The Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, sister regulation of the CSDDD, was transposed on a one-to-one basis to Dutch national law with no extra requirements. This reflects the Netherlands' commitment to abiding by both the CSDR and CSDDD. Without deviating from the minimum implementation approach, the draft bill and accompanying explanatory notes contain some provisions and explanations that aim to embed the provisions in the broader Dutch law framework. Some of these include:

- facilitating compliance with climate transition plan obligations, by allowing companies to share information or resources within their group or with other entities.
- adding certain definitions that are not included in the CSDDD to ensure that its rules can be properly applied in the Netherlands. These include defining "environment", since in Dutch legislation, the term environment usually includes "climate". However, since the due diligence obligation included in the CSDDD does not cover climate, the proposed definition of environment expresses this distinction.
- designating the Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM) as the relevant supervisory authority, including for financial undertakings. Enforcement tools available to the ACM include the binding instruction, order under penalty and an administrative fine of 5% of consolidated worldwide net sales. This means that the Dutch supervisory authority cannot impose higher fines than originally proposed by the European Commission. The proposal does not include criminal law enforcement mechanisms.

<https://business.gov.nl/amendments/large-companies-must-report-sustainability/>

<https://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/versnellingshuis>

<https://www.debrauw.com/articles/the-netherlands-takes-first-step-towards-implementing-csddd?>

<https://www.welcome-to-nl.nl/work-in-nl/sustainable-innovation>



Additionally, the Dutch government has provided companies with extensive resources regarding the implementation of the CSDR and CSDDD, including step-by-step guidelines along with the popularisation of private counselling services. The broader environmental initiatives in the Netherlands include ocean cleanup efforts, “smart city” urban planning measures, green mobility, increased funding towards environment-related research, etc.

<https://business.gov.nl/amendments/large-companies-must-report-sustainability/>

<https://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/versnellingshuis>

<https://www.debrauw.com/articles/the-netherlands-takes-first-step-towards-implementing-csddd?>

<https://www.welcome-to-nl.nl/work-in-nl/sustainable-innovation>

The Netherlands maintains migration policies extremely similar to those of other EU countries. **Permanent residency can be applied for after 5 years of consecutive stay.** The government provides certain opportunities to Third Country Nationals seeking to begin a business, giving **specialised work permits**. Another targeted category is “Highly Skilled Migrants”, who may receive a residence permit if they are **recognised by a sponsor** and meet minimum income requirements. The current situation, however, is the product of added requirements for migrants in May of 2024, and a language proficiency of B1 became a requirement to acquire a long-term stay permit. The naturalisation waiting period was also increased from 5 to 10 years. This change in Dutch policy came about due to a coalition agreement titled **“Hoop, lef en trots”**, which proved to be one of the strictest in the country’s history.

<https://business.gov.nl/regulations/residence-permit/>

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/netherlands-government-presents-new-asylum-and-migration-rules-2024-09-16_en

<https://ind.nl/en/residence-permits/long-term-eu-residency>

Poland

Poland is one of the countries that has historically been opposed to strict climate regulation in the EU. The country **ranked last** in the Sustainable Governance Indicators Index in 2024. It maintains initiatives to lower emissions by 2040; however, it lacks significant efforts in other areas. This can be explained by cost concerns, high dependence on coal for energy, and waste management issues.



Polish environmental matters fall under the 2030 National Environmental Policy (PEP2030), which mainly focuses on improving air quality and increasing renewable energy sources, specifically from its current 21% to 23%. These goals are largely funded by the European Commission's programme REPowerEU, which has been providing resources regarding transitioning to clean energy after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. Although governmental objectives are focused elsewhere, Polish companies themselves report a high interest in increasing their sustainable practices. A survey revealed that about 74% of companies have taken some sort of action to lessen their environmental impact. Poland excels in conservation of wildlife, both through policy and private action; in fact, 40% of Polish territory is protected, exceeding EU averages.

https://www.sgi-network.org/2024/Poland/Environmental_Sustainability

<https://www.gov.pl/web/climate/what-we-do1>

<https://www.trade.gov.pl/en/news/sustainable-development-in-polish-companies/>

In comparison to other countries in the EU, Poland maintains secure and strict migration policies. The "labour market test" was a now-abolished programme that forced companies to ensure that no Polish candidate was available before hiring a Third Country National (TCN) or even an EU resident from a different state. As of recently, however, partly because of increased migration from Ukraine and administration changes, Poland has launched multiple programmes to aid the employment of foreigners and the protection of schools mainly attended by non-Polish students. Residency requirements remain aligned with the rest of the EU, requiring TCNs to live in Poland for 5 years at a minimum before being able to request a long-term stay permit. This number is reduced for spouses (3 years) and special cases such as refugees (2 years). These permits are also subject to extra requirements, most notably a stable source of income and certified B1 knowledge of Polish. Generally, the Polish government has also been welcoming to foreign investment, as it strengthens the local economy and makes good use of the country's highly skilled workforce.

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/new-employment-law-and-integration-programmes-migrants-poland-2025-10-29_en

https://migrant.info.pl/en/Control_of_legality_of_foreigners_stay_in_Poland



Portugal

Portuguese companies have practical experience working with their global value and supply chains, incorporating due diligence policies and corporate social responsibility voluntarily. However, they will need clear guidance to comply with these new obligations. Therefore, CIP (Confederação Empresarial de Portugal) will work to ensure that support measures and guidelines are complete, clear, and made available promptly. Portugal ranked **16th globally** in the 2024 Sustainable Development Report, promoting green innovation and a circular economy. The Portuguese Ministry of Economy launched a programme known as **“Acelerar a Economia”**, which centers itself on meeting Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) standards. Additionally, a variety of private entities, such as **BCSD Portugal**, help companies in reaching sustainability goals through training, advocacy, and a focus on biodiversity, a circular economy, and sustainable financial practices. Another relevant initiative is Portugal 2030, a project which targets multiple areas of the economy. The project has an environmental branch, **Sustentável 2030**, specifically aiming at the decarbonisation of the economy and improving waste management, which directly contributes to the A Greener Portugal objective. It also invests in the transport sector by improving green urban mobility, linking itself to the A More Connected Portugal objective. Sustentável 2030 relies on €3.1 billion in financing from the Cohesion Fund, showing the country's commitment to taking advantage of the resources available to improve its ecological initiatives.

<https://portugalglobal.pt/en/trade/sustainability>

<https://cip.org.pt/a-nova-diretiva-csddd/>

<https://portugal2030.pt/en/programmes/>

<https://www.compete2030.gov.pt/en/structure-and-objectives/strategic-objective-2/>

While Portugal maintains a standard migratory procedure for workers requiring 5 years of stay and an A2 level of Portuguese, it stands out within the EU as one of the only countries to offer investment-based visas and specific programmes for retired individuals and digital nomads. This creates diverse opportunities for possible long-term residencies for Third Country Nationals. Portugal's golden visa initiative requires an investment of €250,000 to €500,000, depending on the destination of the funds, and its benefits include the possibility to work, study, and live in Portugal unrestricted, as well as travelling in the Schengen Area. Any TCN with a residence permit is entitled to equal treatment to Portuguese nationals in social security, labour, education, and healthcare.



Portugal's nature in abiding by EU requirements on migration caused a large bureaucratic backlog, with over 400,000 cases pending at the relevant agency, the **Agency for Integration, Migration, and Asylum** (AIMA). The AIMA was established in 2023 as a replacement for the Immigration and Borders Service (SEF), and is currently the entity managing residency permits and applications, as well as refugee reception. The main party responsible for pushing anti-migratory policies is **Chega** (in English, "Enough"), a far-right movement which represents the main opposition in the Portuguese parliament, holding 60 of 230 seats.

<https://www2.gov.pt/en-GB/noticias/agencia-para-a-integracao-migracoes-e-asilo-aima-inicia-funcoes>

<https://www.npr.org/2025/05/29/g-s1-69504/portugal-chega-main-opposition-election>

Romania

The Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive was transposed into Romanian local law in 2024 as **Ministry of Finance Order No. 85/2024**. The transposition into local terms mainly offered a change in definition regarding the size of SMEs to better accommodate the Romanian industry, while abiding by the regulations proposed. A large proportion of Romania's climate initiatives are based on the natural disasters that the nation is prone to, as well as a focus on improving air quality due to public health concerns. **RO-ADAPT** is the main platform containing research, projects, and strategies specifically targeted towards improving environmental circumstances. Romania is quickly moving up the ranking in the Climate Change Performance Index, going from #48 in 2025 to #32 in 2026. This is largely due to the adoption of the **Long Term Strategy of Romania**, which aims for carbon neutrality by 2050 and a 99% reduction in net greenhouse gases as compared to 1990s levels. The Strategy also spotlights manufacturing, emphasising challenges such as the large amounts of emissions produced by the construction sector while switching sources of fuel to cleaner alternatives.

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/europe-environment-2025/countries/romania>

https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/lts/lts_ro_en.pdf



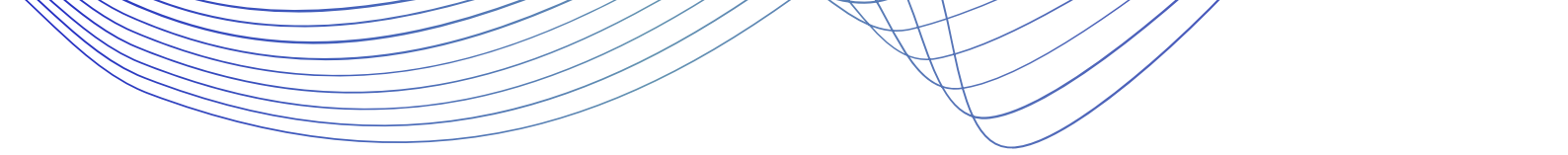
Romania offers a variety of visas that can lead to the continuous 5 years of stay necessary for requesting a residence permit, including work, study, family reunification, and investment. Generally, Romanian systems favour high skilled workers' migration as a way to manage workforce shortages, specifically targeting Third Country Nationals (TCN). It is important to note that the workforce deficiency in Romania itself is caused by outward migration to the EU to countries like Italy, Germany, and Spain, which leads to more welcoming policy for TCNs. The main demographic that immigrates to Romania is mainly conformed of people from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Türkiye, which creates humanitarian concerns regarding integration and exploitation from employers due to language barriers and economic necessity. Additionally, Romania has taken in over three million Ukrainian refugees since 2022 creating complex policy adaptations. Anti immigration sentiments in local politics have been growing in popularity as of recently, with the Alliance for the Union of Romanians being the main party maintaining mostly nationalist ideas.

https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/oecd-reviews-of-labour-market-and-social-policies-romania-2025_f0532908-en/full-report/increasing-return-and-improving-management-of-labour-migration_3d6201e2.html

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/whats-new/publications/romania-exploratory-study-labour-immigration_en

Slovakia

Slovakia's environmental policy is anchored by **Greener Slovakia**, the main strategy to reach sustainability goals by 2030. The main application of the strategy concerning industry is the stricter enforcement of environmental policies originally put in place by the EU, since one issue the country has faced is a lack of process in ensuring the regulations are followed properly. Additionally, Slovakia has implemented a system of **increased taxation** on polluting materials as well as a planned removal of subsidies for coal and gasoline. The strategy also entails the development of transparency frameworks that create the grounds for analysing how companies can reduce their environmental harm. Another important part of the economic sector that the strategy targets involves discussing the reshaping and restructuring of jobs, once green policies come into action, which could mean **reskilling workers**. While Slovakia has performed somewhat poorly in the Sustainable Governance Indicators' ranking, placing 23rd, it is reported that its total fossil fuel consumption has decreased significantly.



The main persisting issue for the country is carbon emissions, specifically from transport, in response to which the Slovakian government has implemented green public transport. Examples of this include the introduction of hydrogen buses in 2023 and the possibility of renting bikes, especially in highly urban areas in Bratislava.

https://climate-laws.org/documents/greener-slovakia-strategy-of-the-environmental-policy-of-the-slovak-republic-until-2030_f1ce

https://www.sgi-network.org/2024/Slovakia/Environmental_Sustainability

Slovak requirements for long term stay for Third Country Nationals include the standard 5 years of continuous residence, as well as an added requirement of a minimum salary of €284.13/month (as of July 2025). Slovakia struggles with labour shortages due to immigration of Slovaks to neighbouring countries, mainly Czechia, Germany, and Austria. This results in welcoming migratory policy for Third Country Nationals, of which the majority are Serbian, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese. These policies are deeply comprehensive, including a large scope of aspects within migration such as successful inclusion into welfare programmes, integration, language, amongst others. The entity that carries out related processes is the **National Strategy for Asylum and Migration Management** (2025-2029) which was adopted in 2025. Also included in the strategy is a promise for dialogue with international organisations and NGOs, placing emphasis on creating a positive relation between TCN immigrants and the state.

<https://www.welcometoslovakia.sk/en/residence-permit-types/>

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/slovakia-adopts-new-strategy-governance-asylum-and-migration-2025-06-13_en

Slovenia

The CSDDD was transposed into local law in the form of the **Slovenian Companies Act** (Zakon o gospodarskih družbah or ZGD-1M). The transposition also involves other key humanitarian initiatives such as gender-balanced representation, tax transparency, and adjusted parameters for what classifies as an SME. Slovenia's environmental focus is largely shaped by its large forest areas (59% of the territory of the country) and by maintaining its biodiversity. Some priorities include forwarding organic and sustainable agriculture, as well as responsible tree felling.



The main environmental project in Slovenia is the **Slovenian Development Strategy 2030**, which encompasses improving the quality of life, skills and education systems, and effective energy usage. What presents itself as particularly relevant regarding the CSDDD is the Strategy's plan to shift Slovenia to a knowledge-based economy featuring digitalisation as a green alternative and prioritising high-skilled jobs.

https://www.sgi-network.org/2024/Slovenia/Environmental_Sustainability

<https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MKRR/Strategija-razvoja-Slovenije2030/Slovenian-Development-Strategy-2030.pdf>

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/europe-environment-2025/countries/slovenia>

Slovenia maintains strict entry regulations for Third Country Nationals, however it's more lax with residents of ex-Yugoslavia countries and welcomes them to work in the manufacturing and construction sectors. The typical **five years** of continuous legal residency are required for long-term stay permits and benefits, with citizenship taking up to 10 years. Once TCNs migrate to Slovenia, they become entitled to integration support, including courses on Slovenian language, history, and basic law, as well as programmes designed to aid socialisation between locals and TCNs. Slovenia's status as a transit country in the Balkan route creates political complexities based around politicians' willingness to accept immigration. The Slovenian Democratic Party, which was previously in power, has pushed strict **anti-migratory policies** somewhat supported by Slovenians, mainly on the basis of discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities. An important factor to take into account is that, like many countries in the region, Slovenia faces a labour shortage, in its case because of an aging population.

<https://www.gov.si/en/policies/state-and-society/immigration-to-slovenia>

https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/international-migration-outlook-2024_50b0353e-en/full-report/slovenia_cdba316d.html

Spain

Spain has proved to be particularly quick in implementing environmental directives as soon as they're approved in the EU, having transposed the CSDDR into local law via the **Ley de Información Empresarial sobre Sostenibilidad (LEIS)**, which began reports for large public entities in early 2025. It features fines upon non compliance depending on severity.



Another relevant legality that enforces environmental awareness for companies is the **Royal Decree 214/2025** which involves an obligation for specific companies and public bodies to calculate their carbon footprint and draw up a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The relevant authority regarding the decree is the **Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge**. The decree has a wide scope, involving all entities that report non-financial matters under **Article 49(5) of the Code of Commerce and Article 262(5) of the Companies** (Recast). Beyond existing EU and local regulations, Spain has an extremely comprehensive plan to make its economy greener. The country reduced its net carbon emissions by 39.3% between 2005 and 2023, currently only accounting for 8.2% of all EU emissions despite being one of its most populated countries. The nation also aims to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. Initiatives are also shaped by climate change, with recent flash floods in Valencia killing over 200 people due to extreme rain.

https://ga-p.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Real_Decreto_214_2025_eng-1.pdf
[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/767171/EPRS_BRI\(2024\)767171_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/767171/EPRS_BRI(2024)767171_EN.pdf)

Spanish immigration policy for Third Country Nationals is compliant with the EU standard of five years of continuous and legal stay before the possibility of permanent residency, with the exception of residents from Ibero-American countries. People from Latin America, the Philippines, Andorra, Equatorial Guinea, and Portugal may apply for Spanish citizenship after only two years of residency, however the requirement of passing **CCSE** (civic knowledge) and **DELE** (Spanish proficiency) exams remains. Migrants have become key in developing the Spanish economy, making up between 16% and 23% of the working population and filling over 90% of new jobs between 2024 and 2025. Foreign-born workers face unique challenges, including poor working conditions and high unemployment despite being such a large part of the workforce. One particular set of processes to take into account is **Arraigo** (in English "Rooting"), which targets people immigrating from irregular situations including familial relationships with Spanish citizens, social integration, amongst others. The main political opposition for immigration is ultra-nationalist ultra-conservative party Vox. The party proposes policies including mass deportation, revoking residence permits and citizenships if irregularities are found, and citing migration as the main cause for insecurity in Spain.

https://administracion.gob.es/pag_Home/en/Tu-espacio-europeo/derechos-obligaciones/ciudadanos/residencia/obtencion-nacionalidad.html



Sweden

Sweden has historically presented strong policies and priorities in ecological responsibility, being the first in the world to establish a branch of government dedicated to the protection of wildlife and Swedish forests as the **Environmental Protection Agency**, created in 1967. This entity remains responsible for all things related to clean energy, protection of biodiversity, amongst other responsibilities. It was also the first country to introduce a carbon tax (1991), initially taxing 250 Swedish krona per tonne of CO₂. Sweden ranked **#1** in the Sustainable Governance Indicators' index, however the SGI criticises the current government's reduced taxing of gas and diesel and lax regulations regarding emissions. The Swedish Climate Act, presented in 2017, is the main legal framework used to achieve the goal of having net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, as compared to the current measure of 60% of Sweden's energy being renewable. The country is also targeting a reduction of food waste and improved water health, as these factors are connected to the fragile nature of the environment within the Baltic Sea.

<https://sweden.se/climate/sustainability/sweden-and-sustainability>

<https://www.naturvardsverket.se/en/topics/climate-transition/sveriges-klimatarbete/swedens-climate-act-and-climate-policy-framework/>

Sweden stands out from the rest of the EU as **one of the only countries** planning to increase residence permit requirements from 5 years of legal continuous residence to 8 years. **Stricter language and cultural knowledge tests** for Third Country Nationals immigrating to Sweden have also been introduced. An outstanding example of the strict migration policy in the country is the **increasing value of repatriation grants** of up to €32,000, allowing TCN immigrants to return to their country of origin with the support of the Swedish Government. According to migration minister Johan Forssell, the grant aims to give individuals who do not feel sufficiently integrated into Swedish society the chance to return to their country of origin.

Additionally, **“social misconduct”** has been added as grounds for deportation, which may include failing to pay fines, working illegally, providing false information to authorities, associating with criminal groups, and, in some cases, minor infractions like littering and playing loud music. The shift in policy from Sweden being one of the most humanitarian countries in Europe to the establishment of the aforementioned firm policies is due to pressure from the **Swedish Democrats**, a right-wing party that currently holds the second most seats in parliament. Asylum seekers have also faced repercussions from these changes, being designated to live in specific centres.

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/sweden-sees-new-integration-pact-and-changes-migrant-residence-2026-01-06_en

https://crd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Analysis-of-the-Tido-Agreement_Civil-Rights-Defenders_221024.pdf

<https://www.migrationsverket.se/en/news-archive/news/2025-10-31-repatriation-grant-to-be-increased-on-1-january-2026.html>



Meet the *EU-Now!* Editors



Rebecca
Basso

Editor in Chief



Laura
Ricciardi

Vice Editor in Chief



Hello everyone! My name is Rebecca Basso, and I will be this year's *EUNow!* Editor in Chief.

To tell you a bit more about myself, I am a 21-year-old third-year bachelor's student in Philosophy, International and Economic Studies at Ca' Foscari University. Throughout my academic journey, I have been fortunate to explore a wide range of subjects that have broadened my understanding of global issues. Studying in such a multidisciplinary program has not only enriched my academic experience but has also fostered a holistic perspective on the complex dynamics that shape our world. It has strengthened my critical thinking skills and enhanced my ability to analyse and synthesise diverse viewpoints, leading me to develop a strong interest in the social sciences and a deep passion for interdisciplinary learning.

Building on this foundation, I have developed a particular interest in journalism as a way to engage critically with reality and contribute to informed public discourse. I see journalism not only as a profession, but as a responsibility: a commitment to seek truth, to question dominant narratives, and to give voice to perspectives that might otherwise remain unheard.



My motivation to take on the role of Editor-in-Chief stems from these beliefs. I aim to contribute to creating a space where ideas can be exchanged freely, where rigorous analysis meets clarity of communication, and where curiosity drives meaningful storytelling. I believe that a strong editorial team should not only inform, but also encourage reflection among its readers.

My goal is to foster a collaborative, intellectually stimulating environment where each contributor feels empowered to express their voice while maintaining high standards of accuracy and integrity. I am excited to work together to produce content that is both engaging and insightful, and that reflects the diversity of perspectives within our community.

Rebecca Basso

EUNow! Editor in Chief



Hello everyone!

My name is Laura, I am a third year Languages and International Politics student at Ca' Foscari University and I will be this year's Vice-Editor in Chief for *EUNow!*.

During my academic experience, I have had the opportunity to engage not only with the study of international relations disciplines, but also with international communities that have brought me closer to multiculturalism, a valuable source for this event, and to the respective social issues that are the focus of current innovative policies.

I firmly believe that in an era in which the dissemination of fake news can easily take root in the reader's discernment, journalism built on solid foundations of research and fact-checking can help society to construct a community of broad opinions and authentic information.

My goal is to foster an environment that promotes exhaustive journalism, as well as to create a collaborative framework open to debates, cooperation and inclusivity.



I am looking forward to being part of the creative process behind the scenes of VeUMEU, and providing the public and the representatives of this year's edition with captivating news and curiosities about the event!

Laura Ricciardi
EUNow! Vice-Editor in Chief



Meet the *EU-Now!* Coordinators



Sophie Marie
Lindemann

**Council Press
Coordinator**



Giulio
Pasianotto

**Parliament
Press Coordinator**



Hello everyone!

My name is Sophie Lindemann, and I will serve as the Press Coordinator of the Council.

I'm a first-year student in Environmental Humanities with an academic background in Science Communication. During my previous studies, I have had the opportunity to work in journalism as well as in a Public Relations department: in both of those opportunities, I was able to earn a lot of experience in writing and information gathering. During my Bachelor's degree, I also had the chance to study in an interdisciplinary field, which helped me understand that the world is shaped by a complex and dynamic network of effects. I was especially intrigued by the multifaceted relationship between the media and the public.

We, as the Press team, are a crucial part of this network, since we have the task to inform and the ability to shape public opinion. However, this power has to be used wisely, since political journalism connects critical thinking abilities with the ability to understand the global view of a topic. The press is one of the most important actors in the democratic decision-making process. There is no democracy without a free press.



For VeUMEU, I wish to provide reliable information together with a strong team. I hope that we all gain experience and learn from each other, not only regarding our journalistic work but also from our different academic and cultural backgrounds. We have the opportunity to build something amazing, to connect with like-minded people, all in a safe environment.

I am convinced that we will have a great time and a lot of fun. I can't wait to work with you all!

Sophie Lindemann
Council Press Coordinator



Hi, my name is Giulio Pasianotto, and I will be the Press Coordinator for the Parliament at VeUMEU 2026.

I am a journalist and policy-oriented student, deeply interested in the relationship between public communication, governance, and democratic accountability. I recently graduated in Humanities at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, and my academic path, combined with international experiences in Paris and London, has shaped my commitment to pluralism, critical thinking, and intercultural dialogue.

"Lies are the foundations of power, and the uninformed are the bricks of slavery," writes Domenico Adonini. In a similar spirit, President Sergio Mattarella reminded that journalism must serve as a watchdog against the excesses and temptations of power, a function vital to democracy. These reflections guide my approach to journalism: I believe that communication is not just about informing, but about enabling citizens to understand, question, and engage.

Through my experience as a political reporter at *Il Gazzettino* and my work within the Veneto Region on policy and equality issues, I have learned how crucial it is to connect facts, analysis, and responsibility.



Whether reporting from the field or contributing to policy research, my goal has always been to make complex political processes accessible and meaningful.

Being part of VeUMEU is an opportunity to put this approach into practice in a fast-paced and international environment, where communication shapes how politics is understood. I'm excited to contribute to a team that values accuracy, clarity, and responsibility. Because how we communicate politics is not secondary, but it is part of how democracy itself works.

Giulio Pasianotto

Parliament Press Coordinator



The role of the Journalists



Journalists serve as key observers, uncovering inconsistencies in the participants' work to ensure accountability and enhance the overall efficiency of proceedings. They are omnipresent, monitoring every step of the simulation and transforming their findings into articles for **EUNow!**. A new edition is published each morning, providing participants with valuable insights and updates. By doing so, the press helps MEPs and ministers stay informed without having to track every single detail themselves, allowing them to focus on their roles.

Journalists assume, therefore, a crucial responsibility to keep all participants updated on every development, whether breakthroughs or setbacks. To be the true eyes and ears of the event, they must be present at all sessions and remain engaged—even during coffee breaks—to capture the most elusive details. They have the right to interview any participant they consider relevant, including coordinators and experts. Journalists are expected to relentlessly track the general performance, not speaking about the actions of their more specific “victims.”

However, **three essential rules** must be followed:

- 1. Accuracy and Integrity** – Journalists must never put words in participants' mouths. All material should be collected voluntarily and on the record. While opinions and assumptions are allowed, they must be clearly identified as subjective.
- 2. Respect for the Simulation** – The enthusiasm of a journalist should not come at the cost of the successful completion of the simulation. The press assists the work rather than disrupts it.
- 3. Professional Conduct** – Offensive language, whether direct insults or indirect insinuations, is not acceptable.

All articles must be submitted to the Editor-in-Chief and Vice Editor-in-Chief. Therefore, any discrepancy will be detected, leading to and drafts may be sent back for revision.

The press team consists of **twelve journalists**, divided equally between the Council and the European Parliament. Each morning, they will meet with their respective Coordinators, who, along with the Editor-in-Chief and Vice Editor-in-Chief, will provide guidance and support when needed.



Press Conference

One of the most thrilling parts of the press work revolves around the press conference held at the very end of each day of the event. While eagerly awaited by journalists, the briefing looms over the MEPs and ministers, becoming a **memorable conclusion of the simulation**.

After releasing an *EuNow* edition in the morning, journalists start collecting materials for a 30-minute session. They will have **full discretion to summon any participant to the stage**, where they will be required to answer questions about their statements, actions, or lack thereof, during the simulation. The participants will have to publicly defend themselves or a bigger political force they represent.

But to make the last revelations possible, journalists should keep their attention till the very last moment. Carefully following the simulation, they are expected to take frequent notes and use gathered details to challenge the interviewees. Incorporating quotations, photos, and video clips will be particularly helpful in reinforcing their arguments.

EUNow!

EUNow! is the **official newspaper of the VeUMEU**, prepared entirely by the press team. Journalists should regularly consult their Coordinators to pitch article ideas. Once a draft is completed, it must be **submitted to the Editor-in-Chief for review**. While writing time is allocated after daily proceedings, journalists are strongly encouraged to take notes and begin drafting articles during sessions.

Each issue is divided into **three sections**:

- 1. Feature Article & Editorial** – A 1,000-1,200-word analysis of the most significant event of the day, accompanied by a 350-400-word editorial from the Editor-in-Chief or Vice Editor-in-Chief.
- 2. Parliament Section** – Covering key discussions and developments in the European Parliament (600-800 words).
- 3. Council Section** – Reporting on the progress and debates within the Council (600-800 words).

Every edition will contain **at least one article per journalist**.



Publication Timeline

Three editions will be released:

- **Pre-Event Edition** – Prepared before the start of VeUMEU. Journalists will have several weeks to study the proposals, research assigned countries and/or parliamentary groups, interview participants, and submit their drafts by **May 6 (20:00)**.
- **Second Edition** – Submission deadline: **May 9 (20:00)**.
- **Final Edition** – Submission deadline: **May 10 (20:00)**.

How to Structure an Article

1. Headline

The headline should be concise, informative, and engaging. It must reflect the article's core message without being misleading. Avoid sensationalism—your goal is accuracy and clarity, not clickbait. A subheadline can be included.

Use direct **quotes** from experts, officials, or witnesses to strengthen your reporting. Keep them brief—long-winded quotes can break fluency.

2. Introduction

The first paragraph should hook the reader while providing the key facts. Avoid overly complex sentences: keep it clear and to the point.

You are encouraged to take **pictures** during the sessions to include them in articles.

3. Body

Each paragraph should develop one idea or aspect. Avoid long, dense blocks of text. Use short and varied sentence structures for a natural flow. Transitions between paragraphs should be smooth to guide the reader effortlessly. Avoid jargon unless necessary—explain to them if used.



4. Conclusion

Podcast

After last years' success, the complementing podcast of *EUnow!* comes back on Spotify for its second edition. At the preparatory stage, **3 informative episodes** will be released by the Press coordinators. **Three more episodes** will be produced by the journalists and published alongside the journal editions on **May 9, 10, and 11**.

The two press teams—those following the Council and the Parliament—will prepare **3-5 minute audio segments** and refer them to the coordinators for the final polishing. The submission **deadlines** align with those of the articles.

Our goal is to keep the podcast **light** and engaging, focusing on participants' emotions, expectations, and opinions about the proceedings. Given the tense nature of the articles, the participants may be hesitant to discuss sensitive topics. Therefore, be careful and make it clear you are here not to highlight the failures but to capture the brightest moments of the event.

Individual initiatives are highly encouraged. If you are willing to conduct a separate interview with experts or coordinators or have a specific topic to explore, don't hesitate to propose it to the Press coordinators.

For a high-quality production, record in a **quiet space** and ensure a smooth flow of discussion. Ask for **permission** before recording interviews and encourage guests to share **personal insights** and anecdotes to make the podcast more relatable. The goal is to create an informative, engaging, and interactive experience that captivates listeners throughout the event.





Final Advice by the Staff

Being a journalist is no easy task. It requires speed, creativity, attention to detail, and endurance to capture the most striking moments. Conducting interviews will often mean stepping out of your comfort zone and engaging with a variety of perspectives.

However, in all this, don't forget to enjoy the process. We are not deciding the fate of the real EU citizens (at least not yet... who knows?). The simulation will expose your brightest skills and enrich you professionally, but let this experience become an adventure – something you would like to go through once again.

Now, dear journalists and deputies, let's get to work!

Contacts

Google Drive and Google Docs are the main platforms for sharing and editing articles. There will be different folders for pictures and articles on the Parliament and the Council. **WhatsApp** will be used for one-to-one communication with the staff members and other participants. After the workshop, the group chats will be created accordingly.



CASE STUDY:

Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive

Global value chains have long been the invisible backbone of the European economy. Yet, behind efficiency and competitiveness often lie fragmented responsibilities, opaque production processes, and externalised social and environmental costs. The Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) emerges in this context as a turning point: an attempt to transform sustainability from a voluntary commitment into a legally enforceable obligation. This shift is not merely regulatory, but structural. It seeks to harmonise a fragmented legal landscape across Member States, where divergent national laws have created uncertainty and uneven competition. At the same time, it introduces a delicate balance: imposing binding obligations on large companies while attempting to shield SMEs from disproportionate burdens, even though they remain indirectly affected through contractual relationships.

At its core, the Directive brings to the table one of the most politically charged debates of this simulation: how far should companies be held responsible for what happens beyond their direct operations. However, while the Directive aims to introduce binding obligations on human rights and environmental impacts across global value chains, its real significance at San Servolo lies in how these tensions will unfold within the Parliament and the Council. This proposal is inherently conflictual. It touches upon economic competitiveness, regulatory burden, and ethical responsibility, creating a clear divide between actors prioritising market efficiency and those advocating for stronger accountability. As delegates negotiate thresholds, liability regimes, and the extent of due diligence obligations, the Directive becomes less a technical instrument and more a battlefield of political priorities.

It is precisely within these tensions that the role of journalists becomes central in the simulation. The CSDDD offers fertile ground for reporting: shifting alliances, strategic amendments, unexpected voting outcomes, and the framing of sustainability either as an opportunity or as a constraint. →



Journalists should pay close attention to how delegates justify their positions. Are arguments framed in economic terms, legal coherence, or moral responsibility? Do Member States align along predictable lines, or do new coalitions emerge? The debate on due diligence is likely to expose contradictions, like strong rhetorical support for sustainability paired with resistance to binding obligations.

Ultimately, within the simulation, the CSDDD is not just about corporate behaviour, but it is about how policy is shaped under pressure. Journalists are tasked with capturing this process in real time: turning procedural developments, speeches, and votes into a coherent narrative that reflects both the substance of the proposal and the dynamics of decision-making at San Servolo.

Giulio Pasianotto

CASE STUDY:

Third-country nationals who are long-term residents Directive

Approximately 23 million third-country nationals live legally within the European Union, of whom more than 10 million hold permanent residency. Yet the system governing their status struggles to keep pace with modern life. The European Commission has proposed a reform of existing legislation in order to strengthen the legal basis for third-country nationals seeking to settle in the EU on a long-term basis – and to move within the EU without risking their status. The aim of the new directive is to facilitate access to the permanent residence permit in order to recruit qualified specialists for the domestic labor market. Legal clarity and economic competitiveness are intended to make the EU as a whole more appealing to talents from outside its borders. The idea itself isn't new. Since 2003, the EU has offered a permanent residence status to third-country nationals who have lived legally in the same member state for at least five consecutive years. However, this status only applies to this single country.



Anyone seeking to move to another EU country for study or work purposes must apply for a new residence permit in that country. The second country can impose its own conditions, thus refuse the application and deny residence. Intra-EU mobility remains limited. It was additionally limited by the fact that it was not valid for all EU member states. Denmark and Ireland (as well as the former member of the United Kingdom) opted out, the rules were unevenly implemented across the Union. In 2011, this directive was extended for the last time so far. Professionals with this permit gained access to various European labor laws, including laws regulating working hours.

But in a modern, dynamic world, these rigid regulations no longer fit today's reality. People are more flexible, they commute from their place of birth to the city where they studied, and later work in a third, building careers across borders. They crisscross the EU to take advantage of their best opportunities, jumping from country to country. According to the new proposal, the required period of residence would no longer need to be accumulated in one single country, but also periods of work or training and studying in another member state can be counted towards the permanent residence permit. In this way, the required five years can be collected in different countries. Moving no longer means resetting the clock. Instead, the third-country national receives a similar right enjoyed by EU citizens, who are allowed to move freely between countries without fearing negative consequences.

The existing directive laid the foundation. There are clear eligibility criteria for determining status, it offers protection against expulsion, grants access to the labor market and some of its benefits, and makes it possible to move to another E

The reform proposal seeks to address the problems of bureaucracy and limited mobility. Whether the recast will turn legal mobility into a lived reality remains to be seen. But for millions of third-country nationals, it may mark the difference between staying and belonging, between rigid regulations and freedom.

Sophie Lindemann



Meet the Social Media Team



Alesia
Kovacevic

**Social Media
Manager**



Francesca
Kurti

**Social Media
Manager**



Margherita
Dalla Pria

Photographer



Hello everyone!

I'm Francesca, and I am glad to be one of the Social Media Managers for this year's VeUMEU. I am a first-year Master student in Tourism Management and Sustainability and it's my first time taking part in this event.

I'm very interested in event planning and digital communication, and this has been a wonderful playground to sharpen my skills. I'm excited to play a role in an international and valuable event such as VeUMEU and I'm grateful to have been chosen.

Congratulations to all the participants and I can't wait to meet you all!

Francesca Kurti
Social Media Manager

Hello everyone!

I'm Alesia one of the Social Media Managers for this year's VeUMEU.

I am a Master student in Comparative International Relations specializing in European Studies.

Being involved in this event is an exciting opportunity for me to help showcase the incredible work behind VeUMEU.

I'm really looking forward to seeing everything come together and to supporting each of you in making this event both impactful and memorable.

Alesia Kovacevic
Social Media Manager



Hi! I'm Margherita, I'm 22 and I study Communication at the University of Padua.

Photography has always been one of my greatest interests, and I feel incredibly proud whenever I can capture the details that bring a picture to life.

The day I came across the call for applications for VeUMEU 2026, I searched for further information about it, and I thought that it would have been a great opportunity to take part in something very unique. The idea of being immersed in a multicultural environment, filled with young people who are willing to put themselves out there and try something new, thrilled me, so I signed up immediately.



I am so grateful for the opportunity I was given, and can't wait to take part in such an inspiring experience!

Margherita Dalla Pria
Photographer



Find us on Social Media!

A way to enjoy the simulation is to live and share it through social media platforms! Strictly speaking, the participants - but also the staff - are warmly invited to be not shy, **tag the account of VeUMEU and its partners in the posts**, interact with the contents of the VeUMEU pages, and **participate in the process of content making** whenever there will be the chance.

The social media team won't stop stressing the fact that **sharing the experience** through these means is a adjuvant in creating **unforgettable memories**, good elements to repost in more formal accounts such as **LinkedIn**, create good quality bonds with the other participants, and having the chance to develop a concrete awareness of the simulation and the matters that will be discussed.

We suggest you some **specific hashtags** to spread your posts, ideas, and to be reshared through our platforms and our partners' ones:

#VeUMEU2026

#LearnHowtoMaketheDifference

#VeniceDiplomaticSociety

#Diplomacy

#Education

#EU

#SanServolo

#EUNow

#EUsimulation

#VIUopportunity

#LearnByDoing

#Environment





Instagram account: @veumeuve
(<https://www.instagram.com/veumeuve/>)

Instagram will be the principal platform where we will share the content, the platform where we have already engaged with the participants, and we will answer their various general questions. Therefore, in case of generic or logistical doubts, you can also DM us. We ask the participants, when they create any content related to the VeUMEU, to also tag both the account of the event and our partners' accounts to be reposted and to help us spread the event.

Partner accounts:

Venice Diplomatic Society: @venicediplomaticsociety

Venice International University: @univiu

Ca' Foscari University of Venice: @cafoscari

Europe Direct Venezia: @europe_direct_venezia

ESU Venezia: @esu.venezia.official

Facebook: Venice Universities' Model European Union,
@VeUMEU (<https://www.facebook.com/VeUMEU>).

You can also find us on **Facebook** and tag us in the posts you will publish. Furthermore, we will use our Facebook account to post the photos taken during the simulation that will be available some days after the end of the event.



Partners' accounts:

Venice Diplomatic Society : @venicediplomaticsociety

Venice International University: @VeniceInternationalUniversity

Europe Direct Venezia: @EuropeDirectVenezia

Ca' Foscari University of Venice: @cafoscari

San Servolo Servizi: @sanservolovenezia





Twitter:

Even if we are not personally present on Twitter, our partners are, and if you are a person who is more active on this social, we suggest you to follow them in order to stay updated with all their events and support their activities:

Europe Direct Venezia: @EuropeDirectVe

Venice International University: @univiu

Ca' Foscari University of Venice: @CaFoscari

European Parliamentary Research Service: @EP_ThinkTank

EUNow!:

The *EUNow!* will be the newspaper of the event written by the journalists of the press department. We advise you to follow the accounts of the newspaper because the Editor in Chief changes every year, so the editorial line, therefore there might be extra posts, articles and contents published even before the beginning of the simulation. Last but not least, is a chance to know the style of the journalists and choose the best one for your declarations.

Facebook: EUnow, @EUnoweditors
(<https://www.facebook.com/EUnoweditors>)

Instagram @eunoweditors
(<https://www.instagram.com/eunoweditors/>)



Information on how to reach the venue

The venue of VeUMEU 2025 is the Venice International University, which is located on the **Island of San Servolo**. It is extremely important that you arrive on the island at the scheduled time. **Notice that this may differ between Parliament, Council, and Press, therefore make sure that you consult the correct schedule!**

Recommended path if you arrive from Santa Lucia Train Station or Piazzale Roma:

1. Take the vaporetto of Linea 2 towards S. Marco/S. Zaccaria, Linea 4.1 towards Murano, or Linea 5.1 towards Lido. Get off at the pier of San Zaccaria.
2. From the pier San Zaccaria B, take the vaporetto Linea 20, which will take you to San Servolo in 10 minutes. Below you can find the times of departure of Linea 20:

06:55, 07:15, 08:10, 08:40, 09:00, 09:20, 09:50, 10:30, 11:10, 11:50, 12:30, 13:10, 13:50, 14:30, 15:10, 15:40, 16:30, 17:10, 17:50, 18:10, 19:10, 19:50, 20:30, 21:30, 22:30, 23:30, and 00:30.

Recommended path if you arrive from Giudecca:

1. Take the vaporetto of Linea 2 towards S. Marco/S. Zaccaria or Linea 4.1 towards Murano. Get off at the pier of San Zaccaria.
2. From the pier San Zaccaria B, take the vaporetto Linea 20, which will take you to San Servolo in 10 minutes.

At this link, you can find the schedules of the different lines of vaporetti:

<https://actv.avmspa.it/it/content/orari-servizio-di-navigazione-0>

Notice that some of them are marked by a red triangle with an exclamation mark. This means that the schedule of the line was recently modified; therefore, you will find the updated times by clicking on the red triangle.

To find your way around Venice more easily, we recommend you download the **app Che Bateo**, which is available in many languages and includes information on the various vaporetto lines and their schedules.

This is the link to the Che Bateo website:

<https://chebateo.it/scarica-chebateo.html>

