

COMMITTEE ISSUES ZANTE 26

1. Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)

The question of protecting commercial shipping and strategic maritime trade routes in times of regional instability

Recent tensions in the Gulf have shown how easily regional conflict can disrupt commercial shipping. Threats to merchant vessels and instability around key maritime routes, such as the Strait of Hormuz, have raised concerns over rising transport costs, supply chain disruptions, and the flow of goods to and from Europe. For the European Union, secure maritime trade routes are essential for economic stability and smooth trade. As developments in neighbouring regions continue to affect global shipping, the EU must consider how to respond effectively without increasing tensions further.

To what extent should the EU play a stronger role in protecting commercial shipping and strategic maritime routes? How can the EU strengthen its transport networks and supply chains in times of regional instability?

2. Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)

The question of the impact of demographic change on the EU's workforce and social systems

Across Europe, demographic change is creating new social and economic challenges. Lower birth rates, an ageing population, and a shrinking working-age population are increasing pressure on labour markets, pensions, healthcare, and other public services. These changes are not affecting all Member States and regions equally, making it harder to find common solutions across the Union. As the EU looks for ways to remain competitive and protect quality of life, it must come up with ways to respond to labour shortages while supporting fair and sustainable social systems.

How can the EU support Member States in responding to labour shortages and social pressures caused by demographic change? To what extent should the Union play a stronger coordinating role in protecting social cohesion and access to essential services?

3. Committee on Security and Defence (SEDE)

The question of strengthening the EU's preparedness for hybrid and cyber threats

Across Europe, growing geopolitical instability and new forms of conflict are raising concerns over the Union's preparedness for hybrid and cyber threats. Cyberattacks, foreign interference, disinformation, and attacks on critical infrastructure have shown that European security can no longer be understood only in traditional military terms. The EU must therefore consider how it can better support preparedness and resilience while respecting the primary responsibility of Member States in defence and national security matters.

How can the EU support Member States in strengthening preparedness for hybrid and cyber threats? To what extent should the Union play a stronger coordinating role in improving resilience and protecting critical infrastructure across Europe?

4. Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)

The question of strengthening EU-Mediterranean cooperation on energy, clean technologies and strategic supply chains

The European Union's Pact for the Mediterranean aims to strengthen cooperation with its Southern Mediterranean partners in areas such as energy, clean technologies, strategic supply chains, digital infrastructure, and the blue economy. As the EU seeks to improve its competitiveness, energy resilience, and economic security, the Mediterranean is becoming an increasingly important region for investment and strategic cooperation. At the same time, closer cooperation also raises questions about which sectors should be prioritised and how the Union can deepen these partnerships without creating new dependencies or unequal relationships.

How can the EU strengthen cooperation with its Mediterranean partners on energy, clean technologies and strategic supply chains? To what extent should the Union prioritise resilience and diversification while promoting sustainable growth in the region?

5. Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

The question of ensuring a sustainable blue economy while protecting marine ecosystems in the European Union

The blue economy includes a wide range of sectors linked to Europe's seas and coasts, such as maritime transport, coastal tourism, marine renewable energy, shipbuilding, and marine resources. These sectors play an important role in employment and economic growth across the European Union. At the same time, pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss, and the overuse of marine resources are placing increasing pressure on marine ecosystems. This raises the question of how economic activity at sea can continue to grow without

undermining marine biodiversity and the long-term health of Europe's seas.

How can the EU support a sustainable blue economy while protecting marine ecosystems? Which measures should the Union prioritise in order to balance economic activity at sea with the long-term protection of marine biodiversity and resources?

6. Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice, and Home Affairs (LIBE)

The question of balancing migration management and fundamental rights in the European Union

In recent years, the European Union has faced continued migratory pressure through different routes and for different reasons, including conflict, instability, persecution, and economic hardship. This has increased pressure on asylum systems, border management, and reception capacities across the Union. At the same time, concerns remain over the treatment of asylum seekers and migrants, access to international protection, and the respect of fundamental rights at Europe's external borders. This has fuelled debate over how the EU can respond effectively to migration pressures while upholding its legal and humanitarian obligations.

How can the EU strengthen migration management while protecting the fundamental rights of asylum seekers and migrants? Which measures should the Union prioritise in order to balance border management, solidarity, and access to international protection?