

PRESS CONFERENCE WITH MARTIN SCHULZ
TUESDAY AT 09h45 LOW N-1/201

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**Roberto
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Joint debate - European External Action Service

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Tuesday, 19 - October 2010

We are in favour of the setting up of the European External Action Service in the time frame set out in the Lisbon Treaty (1 December 2010). We want this service to be efficient and powerful and to be able to work for community interest and not national interest. We approve of the results of the negotiations on the whole, and we will vote in favour of the existing compromise because if it is not adopted it will no longer be possible to have the service up and running for 1 December 2010.



**Bernhard
Rapkay**

Although the Union is not the sum of 27 states but rather an entity in itself, we would like to see a geographical balance as well as a male/female balance in the selection of staff for the service. We also believe that merit and competence should be determining factors in the selection. We must guarantee the loyalty of the personnel of the external action service to the EU as reinforcing of the community method is primordial.

Combating late payment in commercial transactions

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Tuesday, 19 - October 2010



**Barbara
Weiler**

S&D Group fully supports the compromise agreed between the European Parliament and the Council: This legislation will bring about a new ethics of payment in Europe by improving effectiveness and efficiency in remedies for late payment and setting positive incentives for good payers. Therefore it would contribute to more competitiveness and liquidity of companies in the EU. This legislation would also ensure fair treatment between businesses and public authorities in commercial transactions ensuring equal treatment between them and taking into account their specific structures and missions.

Revision of the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission

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Monday, 18 - October 2010



David Martin

The new agreement represents a clear and significant improvement on the relations with the Commission. This final compromise presents the results of negotiations of the working group nominated by the Conference of Presidents, where the AFCO rapporteur took part as observer. The most relevant items are exposed in the report, such as parliamentary scrutiny, access to confidential documents, etc. Concerning the interinstitutional dimension of EU international relations, it must be remembered that this matter became the most difficult negotiation item. The aim of Parliament is to be fully informed in order to serve the purpose of facilitating Parliament's consent, to give more predictability to the procedure and to avoid non-conclusion of international agreements when the negotiation has already been completed.

Role of minimum income in combating poverty and promoting an inclusive society in Europe

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Tuesday, 19 - October 2010



**Frédéric
Daerden**

2010 has been declared the "European Year for Combating Poverty". Furthermore, removing the risk of poverty for 20 million people is one of the EU 2020 headline targets, and the EU has committed to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals. Concrete measures are needed to reach these targets. Social protection systems and especially the guarantee of a certain level of minimum income play an important role in ensuring social cohesion and social inclusion. All countries in the EU should have a minimum income system in order to include in society those who are not able to find jobs and make a living. It is urgent that a European legislative initiative ensures that those furthest from the labour market all over Europe are not let down.

Financial, economic and social crisis: Recommendations concerning the measures and initiatives to be taken (mid-term report)



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Wednesday, 20 - October 2010

The report on the financial, economic and social crisis, meant to fulfil the mandate of the special committee to investigate the causes and give clear indications for the way out of the crisis, is the outcome of successful negotiations among the main political groups. Since the very beginning the aim was to deliver a strong and meaningful report based on a large consensus to allow the European Parliament to speak with one strong voice about measures, initiatives and policies to be taken to overcome the crisis, re-launch the real economy in Europe, and design a European governance model capable of meeting the challenge of a sustainable, inclusive and competitive economy and to give substance to the concept of a European social market economy. The S&D Group favours the introduction of a tax on financial transactions, the revenue from which would improve the functioning of the market by reducing speculation and help to finance global public goods and reduce public deficits; considers that such a tax ought to be as broadly based as possible or, failing that, that the financial transaction tax should be introduced as a first step at EU level; calls on the Commission swiftly to produce a feasibility study taking into account the global level playing field and to come forward with concrete legislative proposals.

Development aspects of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty



Thijs Berman

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Tuesday, 19 - October 2010

This day has been observed on October 17 every year since 1993 when it was designated by the General Assembly of the United Nations as the day to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries, particularly in developing countries - a need that has become a development priority. S&D acknowledges the struggle and efforts of those people who are living in poverty. Poverty eradication, the promotion of world wide efficient and equitable social and economic conditions and the support of green jobs strategies are our main priorities. The development perspective can not be left aside.

Improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding



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Monday, 18 - October 2010

The Commission proposal amending Directive 92/85/EEC intending to guarantee better safety and health for pregnant workers and those who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding, better known as the maternity leave directive, was put forward by the Commission in 2008 revising existing legislation in this field. The goal was to improve the work/life balance for both women and men. The addition of article 141 in the EC Treaty to the legal basis made it possible not only to talk about health and safety but also about equal opportunities and the inclusion of paternity leave. The original proposal by the Commission extended the minimum maternity leave from 14 to 18 weeks, six of which should be taken after child birth. Currently, under the 1992 directive, the duration of the maternity leave is 14 weeks, of which two weeks are compulsory.

Statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods and passengers by sea



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Tuesday, 19 - October 2010

The aim of the proposal is to make the collection of data by type of goods mandatory for maritime transport statistics, which is already case for the European road, rail, and inland waterways transport statistics. For the most part, the collection of the relevant data will not impose any additional burden on respondents as the Member States concerned should be able to compile the data by using existing data sources. The report was adopted by 33 in favour, no against and no abstentions.

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