

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats in the European Parliament

**PRESS CONFERENCE with MARTIN SCHULZ
at 09.45 LOW N-1/201****WATCH THE ACTION LIVE
ON OUR WEBSITE****Situation in Libya**

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Wednesday, 9 - March 2011

The S&D Group expresses its solidarity with the Libyan people in their legitimate democratic aspirations and applauds their courage and determination in seeking freedom and democracy.



Martin Schulz

The Group calls for a UN inquiry into Colonel Gaddafi for crimes against humanity. The EU should immediately take the necessary steps to protect the Libyan people from Gaddafi's brutality and to help the democratic transformation of the country. Such action should be taken under UN authority and within the framework of the UN Charter and should be with the agreement of the Arab League.



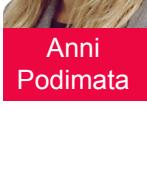
Anni Podimata

Innovative financing at a global and European level

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Monday, 7 - March 2011

The report is based on the principle that a fairer way to distribute the crisis should be put in place to stop EU citizens bearing most of the burden. Innovative financing instruments could both guarantee the transfer of the burden from sectors such as employment and business towards activities and products that cause important distortions to the real economy and the environment. At the same time they could generate "fresh" and significant additional revenues for financing growth and employment goals at national and EU level, as well as the EU's contribution to global policy goals such as the fight against climate change, reduction of poverty and development aid policies.



Bernd Lange

Industrial policy for the globalised era

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Tuesday, 8 - March 2011

The impact on industry of environment, structural and trade policies must always be taken into account so that these policies don't block one another. The report calls for an Industrial Policy task force within the Commission to improve coordination between all these policies. Above all, we have to improve our use of resources. Innovation and resource efficiency is more fruitful than the neo-liberal idea of cutting employment costs.

The Parliament asks the Commission to increase funding for research and to improve technology transfer, as well as for binding proposals to implement all these goals and give European industry planning reliability. Social partners and trade unions have a very active and important role to play.



Richard Howitt

2010 progress report on Turkey

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The S&D Group believes that Turkey's accession to the EU is in the strategic interests of both the EU and Turkey. This is why the Group calls on the EU to honour the commitments already unanimously made by the European Council to consider Turkey as a candidate for accession country. Simultaneously it calls on Turkey to continue to make progress towards fulfilling the Copenhagen criteria and to meet its obligations to all EU Member States.

Amendment of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union with regard to a stability mechanism for Member States

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Roberto
Gualtieri

The European Parliament supports the establishment of a permanent European Stability Mechanism but is concerned by the intention of the European Council to put it outside the EU institutional framework. That is why we want EP support to be on the condition that there is a simplified revision procedure, a redrafting of the proposed Treaty change and an operational arrangement which would guarantee the involvement of the EU Institutions, notably the Commission, in the management of the new ESM.

EU strategy towards Iran

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Maria Muniz
De Urquiza

The S&D Group believes that the Iranian government should respect the legitimate demands of Iranian people for basic freedoms and improvement of their social and economic conditions, as well as cooperate fully with the international community on the issue of its nuclear programme.

Socialists and Democrats express their deep concerns about the illegal detention of Iranian opposition leaders Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi, and call on Iranian government for their unconditional release.

EU strategy on Roma inclusion

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Hannes
Swoboda

Up to now, many Roma integration strategies have been implemented, but without much success. It is now time to measure the results, for people need not only words but action. The priority is greater efforts to fight poverty and social deprivation.

For a successful approach, the Roma should be involved as active partners instead of simple beneficiaries of the policies and the strategies implemented to fight the vulnerability and social isolation of this community.

Reducing health inequalities in the EU

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Edite
Estrela

The report stresses that healthcare is not and should not be regarded as a any other good or service. Consequently, it urges the Member States to stop the current cuts in public spending on health services and encourages all Member States to invest in social, educational, environmental and health service infrastructures in line with the principle of "health in all policies".

The rapporteur calls on the Member States to ensure that the most vulnerable groups, including undocumented migrants, are entitled to and are provided with equitable access to healthcare. Moreover, the rapporteur calls on the Member States to ensure all pregnant women and children, irrespective of their status, are entitled to and effectively benefit from social protection as defined in their national legislation.

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