



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

**PRESS CONFERENCE with MARTIN SCHULZ**  
Tuesday at 09.45 LOW N-1/201

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**Jörg  
Leichtfried**

### Ongoing Doha negotiations

+ 33 3 88 17 54 36 [jorg.leichtfried@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:jorg.leichtfried@europarl.europa.eu)

Monday, 12 - September 2011

Looking ahead to the Eighth Session of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference, taking place in Geneva 15-17th December 2011, and following the latest developments on the Doha negotiations, the Committee on International Trade decided to ask the Commission for a statement and to draft a resolution. The resolution reiterates the Commission's full commitment to the multilateral trading system and to the WTO as the guarantor of a rules-based trade system. It reaffirms its full commitment to a balanced and fair conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). It also recognises the deadlock in the original architecture and objectives of the DDA and insists on the necessity of resuming the debate on the future functioning of the WTO, with a possible reform of the new multilateral trading system.



**Sylvie  
Guillaume**

### FRONTEX (the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union)

+ 33 3 88 17 54 33 [sylvie.guillaume@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:sylvie.guillaume@europarl.europa.eu)

Tuesday, 13 - September 2011

A first reading agreement was reached on 22 June after six trilogue meetings under the Hungarian Presidency and the operational capacities of the agency will be strengthened. This result was unexpected as Member States tend to be reluctant to strengthen rules on respect for human rights and on the operational capacity of the agency. The fundamental rights we obtained include: the obligation to respect fundamental rights as set out in the Charter, the obligation to respect international conventions including the Geneva Convention and obligations related to access to international protection in particular the principle of non-refoulement (expelling a refugee to face further persecution), the establishment of a consultative forum to assist the director and management board in fundamental rights matters, and the designation of a fundamental rights officer.



**Hannes  
Swoboda**

### Energy market integrity and transparency

+ 33 3 88 17 57 16 [hannes.swoboda@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:hannes.swoboda@europarl.europa.eu)

Wednesday, 14 - September 2011

The regulation aims to define and prohibit market manipulation and insider trading in the EU's energy markets, as well as putting in place monitoring mechanisms and penalties to dissuade such forms of market abuse. During the negotiations, the S&D Group successfully fought for a strong role for ACER (the EU's Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators) to help monitor and enforce the regulation alongside national regulatory authorities. Provisions include: a registration scheme for market participants (with the possibility for a licensing scheme if this proves insufficient); penalties which take into account the potential damage to consumers; sufficient funds for ACER to allow for the extra tasks assigned to it; and strict exemptions from the prohibition on insider trading to avoid loopholes.



**Pervenche  
Berès**

### EU homelessness strategy

+ 33 3 88 17 57 77 [pervenche.beres@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:pervenche.beres@europarl.europa.eu)

Tuesday, 13 - September 2011

This oral question and the subsequent resolution seek to press the Commission to come up with an overarching EU homelessness strategy underpinned by national and regional strategies. The long-term aim is to end homelessness within the broader context of social inclusion. The resolution demands among other things that the strategy should: offer clear targets and an integrated approach covering all relevant policy fields, ensure the collection of EU homelessness data, encourage proper governance with a strong housing dimension, take account of changing profiles in the homeless population and of the impact of migration.



**David  
Martin**

### New trade policy for Europe under the Europe 2020 Strategy

+ 33 3 88 17 55 39 [david.martin@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:david.martin@europarl.europa.eu)

Monday, 12 September 2011

This report is a strategic assessment of all major aspects of the EU's external trade policy: trade in goods and services; trade defence instruments; investment; intellectual property rights; trade as a tool for humanitarian assistance and development, etc. It is a reaction to the Commission's "Trade, Growth and World Affairs" paper of November 2010. This is a follow up to the well-known "Global Europe Strategy" outlining the EU's trade strategy for the next 20 years as a key part of the general EU 2020 strategy.



Véronique  
De Keyser

### State of play of the Middle East peace process

+ 33 3 88 17 57 74

veronique.dekeyser@europarl.europa.eu

Wednesday, 14 - September 2011

At the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), President Abbas is expected to officially request the recognition of the Palestinian state by the UN and/or submit Palestine's application for UN membership. UN membership is granted when two-thirds of UNGA members vote in favour of a recommendation made by the Security Council (the five permanent members have the right to veto). In case these requirements cannot be met, it is possible to obtain 'non-member state' status through an UNGA resolution adopted by a simple majority, which does not require a Security Council recommendation. The Occupied Palestinian Territories currently have the status of an observer 'entity' while the Holy See is the only 'non-member state' observer in the UN. The S&D Group supports the two-state solution based on the 1967 borders with an Israeli and a Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security. Recognizing the state of Palestine is not incompatible with peace process.



Antonio  
Masip  
Hidalgo

### Audit policy - lessons from the crisis

+ 33 3 88 17 54 74

antonio.masiphidalgo@europarl.europa.eu

Monday, 12 - September 2011

The measures adopted in the direct aftermath of the financial crisis have focussed on the urgent need to stabilise the financial system. While the role played by banks, hedge funds, rating agencies, supervisors and central banks has been analysed in depth, limited attention has been given to how the audit function could be improved to help increase financial stability. The fact that many banks revealed huge losses on the positions they had held from 2007 to 2009, both on and off balance sheet, raised not only the question of how auditors could have given clean audit reports to their clients for those periods, but also about the suitability and adequacy of the current legislative framework. The report also suggests measures to strengthen audit companies that are not amongst the so-called "Big Four" in order to break up the current oligopoly in the auditing market.



Marita  
Ulvskog

### An effective raw materials strategy for Europe

+ 33 3 88 17 54 43

marita.ulvskog@europarl.europa.eu

Monday, 12 - September 2011

The report supports raw materials diplomacy using the European External Action Service (EEAS) to ensure Europe's industry can maintain access to vital raw materials such as those used in the hi-tech sector. A strong focus is also placed on reducing our reliance on imports by stepping up exploration and production within the EU (including research into better technologies) where possible, and also recycling, reusing and reopening old landfill sites to extract valuable scrap metal and raw materials. The EU's raw materials strategy must be efficient and fair, respecting the right of developing countries to benefit from their natural resources.



Marek  
Siwiec

### Eastern partnership summit

+ 33 3 88 17 56 53

marek.siwiec@europarl.europa.eu

Wednesday, 14 - September 2011

The upcoming Eastern Partnership ministerial meeting (Warsaw, 29 and 30 September) will provide an opportunity to take stock of the implementation of the Eastern Partnership since it began in May 2009. It will also allow the EU and the partner countries to discuss future steps with a view to supporting further reforms and strengthening and deepening relations between the EU and its partner countries on the basis of common values and interests. The S&D's main ideas would be to ensure that the current focus on the countries of the southern neighbourhood does not lead to the neglect of the eastern partners, including in financial terms, and that the possibility of future EU membership should be open for the partner countries as an incentive for reform.



Anna  
Hedh

### EU counter-terrorism policy: main achievements and future challenges

+ 33 3 88 17 55 27

anna.hedh@europarl.europa.eu

Monday, 12 - September 2011

The report evaluates EU counter terrorism policies and suggests directions to be taken and priorities to be selected. Our Group succeeded in amending the report to include a specific focus on our priorities: reasserting the need for judicial and police cooperation through legislative measures such as the confiscation and freezing of assets, their social re-use, the specific protection and compensation of victims of terrorism and witnesses. Reinforcing democratic scrutiny of the European Parliament and of national parliaments, including greater transparency and access to documents about the EU's counter-terrorism policies. Highlighting the need for a comprehensive EU legal framework ensuring a high level of data protection in police and judicial cooperation, in place of the current minimal protection provided by the former third pillar. Obliging all EU institutions to apply the EU charter in this sensitive field and ensure proportionality and democratic accountability of all measures at both EU and national level.

## MEDIA CONTACT

Paolo Alberti  
+ 32 476 955 144

Solange Hélin-Villes  
+ 32 476 510 172

Dimitris Komodromos  
+ 32 474 622 884

President Spokesman  
**Armin Machmer**  
+ 32 479 971 198

Victoria Martin De La Torre  
+ 32 473 23 41 73

Silvia Pelz  
+ 32 478 750 712

Pamela Stewart  
+ 33 3 88 16 42 99

Françoise Thomas  
+ 33 3 88 17 36 92