



## 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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**Francesca  
Balzani**

### Parliament's position on the 2012 draft budget as modified by the Council

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Wednesday, 26 - October 2011

For the S&D Group the final text constitutes a positive compromise. The European parliament makes clear that investments agreed in the EU 2020 strategy should not be delayed because of the current economic and social crisis. On the contrary they should be boosted since they are part of the solution to the crisis - an important political commitment for the S&D Group.



**Edite  
Estrela**

### State of play of the maternity leave directive

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Given the stalemate in Council concerning maternity leave, the FEMM Committee has decided to raise the issue in form of an oral question to the Council. This comes after a consultation with the Polish Presidency which has agreed to try to push this issue in Council at its informal meeting of ministers for family and gender equality, taking place 20-21 October in Krakow. The oral question points out that Parliament is aware of the financial crisis and that this might cause problems in certain member states but says that it is important to unblock the situation in Council and to reach a formal position so that discussions and compromises between Council and Parliament can begin. The oral question has been adopted with some amendments from the EPP and the GUE, with 27 in favour, 5 against and 1 abstention. No resolution is foreseen.



**Hannes  
Swoboda**

### Ukraine

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We are against any kind of politically motivated justice. Changes in the Ukrainian judicial system are essential. The S&D Group welcomes the start of talks between the leaders of the ruling party and opposition in the next few days to reach a common solution. The Group looks forward to positive and rapid results from these talks.



**Rovana  
Plumb**

### Agenda for new skills and jobs

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The S&D Group supports this initiative but we are against some aspects of the agenda :

- implementing flexibility without strengthening social protection systems and negotiations with social partners.
- tackling labour market segregation via decentralization of collective bargaining and new forms of labour contracts without social, labour and legal right.
- the lack of investment in public education and strengthening pension systems.-the reduction in unemployment benefits and privatisation of pension systems.
- the lack of measures to guarantee equal treatment for migrant and mobile workers.
- the lack of measures focusing on the green economy



**Pervenche  
Berès**

### European semester 2011: first lessons

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Tuesday, 25 - October 2011

The first European semester exercise led to the release of country-specific recommendations adopted by the Commission in June and had the aim of providing ex-ante guidance to member states on both fiscal and structural objectives. These recommendations were endorsed by the Council in July after modification. The oral question aims to foster a debate on these recommendations as well as more generally on the outcome of the first European semester as a whole.



**Carmen  
Romero Lopez**

### Qualification and status of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection

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Wednesday, 26 - October 2011

This directive forms a part of the 'asylum package' and is the first directive of the package to be put to the vote. The recast directive defines and modifies the minimum standards for the qualification and status of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection and the content of the protection granted. The main issues to be recast were the definitions of family members, the best interests of the child, acceptable actors of protection (internal and international), grounds of persecution (including gender identity and sexual orientation),



**Birgit Sippel**

### Sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography

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This directive aims to establish minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and sanctions in the area of sexual abuse, exploitation and pornography and solicitation of children. It defines offences concerning sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and solicitation of children for sexual purposes, as well as aggravating circumstances. It also proposes minimum and maximum levels of penalties for these offences. The directive also defines the rules on seizure and confiscation of instrumentalities and proceeds of such crimes, as well as assistance and support for the victims, and preventive intervention programmes and measures. The directive also defines measures to tackle child pornography websites.



**Pavel Poc**

### Engines placed on the market under the flexibility scheme

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The non-road mobile machinery (NRMM) directive aims to control non-CO2 emissions (carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons and particulate emissions) from a variety of engines used in construction machinery, rail and inland water transport. The S&D Group believes that environmental legislation should always focus on medium- and long-term environmental goals and the Group supports this regulation as part of environmental and public health protection, particularly as workers and people living in the cities are often exposed to NRMM emissions.



**Inés Ayala  
Sender**

### 2009 EU general budget discharge - Council

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Tuesday, 25 - October 2011

As 'guardian' of the Parliament's budget scrutiny role, the Budget Control Committee seeks to satisfy itself that budget implementation has been done correctly. It can only do this with adequate detailed information and this has not been forthcoming from the Council. Consequently, the committee voted to refuse to discharge the Council's 2009 budget. Parliament, with its responsibility for 'budget discharge' has to be satisfied that EU funds have been correctly used by all institutions, including the Council. In this context, we are still exploring ways to achieve better co-operation in future and will keep the channels open for more discussion.



**Malinova  
Iliana Iotova**

### Ombudsman's annual report 2010

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Thursday, 27 - October 2011

The rapporteur commended the work of the European Ombudsman and highlighted the remarkable changes from one year to the next. The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty extends the role of the Ombudsman and Nikiforos Diamandouros, who is completing his second term of office, is praised for the wider scope of work he has taken on. The Petitions Committee now has the responsibility for receiving the Ombudsman's 'special reports' when the institutions do not give a satisfactory response to a complaint.



**Bernadette  
Vergnaud**

### Modernisation of public procurement

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Monday, 24 - October 2011

Public procurement should be a driver to promote growth, quality jobs, wages and working conditions and sound environmental policies. It can also provide incentives for research and innovation. The S&D Group amendments on key issues have made it possible to achieve good compromise amendments incorporating our social objectives.

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