


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

PRESS CONFERENCE with MARTIN SCHULZ
 Tuesday at 11.30 LOW N-1/201

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Silvia Costa
European protection order

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Monday, 12 - December 2011

In the EU, around one woman in four is a victim of violence during her lifetime. In order to guarantee legal protection if a victim needs to move from one country to another, the Spanish Presidency launched a proposal for a directive on a European Protection Order on 5 January 2010. As this issue concerns both the LIBE and FEMM committees (civil liberties and women's rights) it was decided that this report should have two equal rapporteurs according to rule 51.


Birgit Sippel
Detention condition in the EU

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Wednesday, 14 - December 2011

The total prison population of the EU in 2009-2010 was estimated to be 633,909 people, of which a large number were in pre-trial detention. A large proportion of prisons in the EU face overcrowding problems and increasing suicide rates. When suspected or accused of a crime anywhere in the EU, everyone will have the right to receive the same prompt, detailed information about their rights, creating a European area where all persons share the same defence rights.


Paolo De Castro
Provisions relating to financial management for certain Members States experiencing or threatened with serious difficulties with respect to their financial stability

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Tuesday, 13 - December 2011

As the global financial crisis is seriously damaging economic growth and the availability of public finances, the EU Commission proposes to increase the co-financing rates of the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) for rural development projects in several EU countries. The temporary increase in EU co-financing of development projects in Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Latvia and Romania will help to accelerate investments in their economies and boost their competitiveness. These higher co-financing rates - which will not increase the total amount earmarked for rural development - will only be applied temporarily, until the end of 2013.


Marek Siwiec
Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy

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Tuesday, 13 - December 2011

The report is the Parliament's input into the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and a reaction to the Commission's communication on this policy area. The co-rapporteurs from the S&D and EPP worked in a consensual way and were able to find a common ground on most issues. The report embraces the 'more for more' policy espoused by the Commission and makes some practical proposals in this spirit. For example insisting on the need for clear benchmarks to assess the ENP countries' records on democratic reform, respect for human rights and the rule of law. It also calls for a policy of 'less for less' for those countries which fail to make reforms.


Jens Geier
Budgetary control of EU financial assistance to Afghanistan

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Monday, 12 - December 2011

The S&D Group considers the continuation of financial support to Afghanistan essential for further stabilization and development in Afghanistan and it calls on the Commission to develop a strategy on how to ensure security and stimulate a sustainable economy in Afghanistan. The rapporteur reminds us that the government of Afghanistan does not currently receive any direct budget support from the EU general budget. He calls on the Commission to consider introducing such budgetary assistance in certain sectors under rigorous and well-defined conditions as soon as the necessary macroeconomic stability and sufficiently reliable financial management have been shown to exist. The main issues addressed by the rapporteur are: accountability and oversight of EU funds in Afghanistan (including the need for more accountability for aid from multi-donor trust funds that are managed by UN agencies and World Bank); co-ordination of aid efforts by the donor community; and improvements in reporting.



Michael
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Public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents

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Wednesday, 14 - December 2011

The positions of the Parliament, Commission and Council are very divergent. The 2008 proposal was a limited revision of Regulation 1049/2001 which did not deal with the issue of the extension of access rights to documents foreseen by the Lisbon Treaty, whose ratification was under way. Therefore, the European Parliament voted several substantial amendments in 2009 to prepare the transition to the new Treaty regime but postponed its first reading vote on the draft legislative proposal in order to enable the Commission to modify its proposal. Without any preparatory dialogue with the Council and the European Parliament, the Commission submitted a second legislative proposal, in March 2011, which simply extends the scope of Regulation 1049/2001 to all EU institutions, agencies, offices and bodies, but didn't make any modifications to the 2008 proposal. Therefore, the Parliament was presented with two co-existing proposals on a single text. Following consultation with the legal service, the rapporteur, supported by a majority of the groups, decided to incorporate the second proposal into the first one as the second one was considered 'unnecessary' given the direct applicability of the Lisbon Treaty changes. The rapporteur updated his initial May 2010 draft report by proposing changes in line with the new legal treaty framework. This approach was supported by the legal affairs committee (JURI) but greeted with caution by the constitutional affairs committee (AFCD).



Ulrike
Rodulst

EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement

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Monday, 12 - December 2011

The report addresses the one-year extension of the expired protocol of the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA), expired on 27 February 2011. The agreement provided for the EU to pay Morocco a financial contribution of 36.1 million € (out of which 13.5 million € was dedicated to the support of the fisheries policy of Morocco) in return for giving European vessels opportunities to fish in Morocco's territorial waters



Olga
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Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area

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Tuesday, 13 - December 2011

In the final compromise that was reached in the committee, our Group has sent a strong message to the Commission that sustainable modes of transport have to be promoted for all distances, including short and medium ones. We urgently call on the Commission to include the EU 2020 principle of territorial cohesion (balanced development taking into account geographical factors) in the white paper, to review the current status of the liberalisation process in all the member states and to analyse social and working conditions in transport by 2013.



Georges
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Extension of the provisions of the EC-Uzbekistan agreement

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The European Parliament is asked to agree to a protocol amending a partnership and co-operation agreement. The rapporteur proposes an interim report in order to work towards a positive outcome with the Council and Commission. The rapporteur believes it would be inappropriate, in view of the current human rights situation for the Parliament to consent without seeking changes in Uzbekistan. The rapporteur wants to enter into dialogue with the Council and the Commission to obtain these changes. The Parliament can reconsider, at a later stage, whether or not to consent to the protocol amending the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA).



Cătălin Sorin
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The European dimension in sport

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Monday, 12 - December 2011

The report touches on the key areas where the EU is hoping to bring added value in the sports sector, namely the social role of sport, enhancing health through sport, its economic role, the organisation of sports, and fostering a sense of European identity through sport. The S&D Group successfully fought for the adoption of amendments on sport as a compulsory subject in school curricula, highlighting the need to encourage women and girls from disadvantaged backgrounds to take up sport. The sports programme for 2014-2020 must focus on supporting actions in the sports sector which improve social integration, undermine racist, xenophobic or nationalistic prejudices, and encourage all members of society to participate.

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