



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

**PRESS CONFERENCE with Hannes Swoboda**  
**Tuesday 11 September at 10.10 LOW N-1/201**

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**Hannes Swoboda**

### State of the Union

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Wednesday, 12 - September 2012

In his state of the union address, José Manuel Barroso will have to find answers to the current heated debates about more or less European economic integration and more or less solidarity between European member states. We hope for clear words and a clear roadmap towards more European economic integration, with progress towards a fully fledged banking union and a stronger political union to bring Europe closer together instead of driving it further apart. This must include an unambiguous affirmation that Greece is to stay in the European Union as well as the eurozone. The state of the union speech is also the moment to elaborate on ideas and the S&Ds call on the Commission President to outline comprehensive and detailed plans on a range of issues: how Europe can return to sustainable economic growth and create quality employment to overcome the crisis; how the next multi-annual financial framework will reflect the policy priorities and include long-overdue measures like a financial transactions tax and reform of the own-resources system and VAT; how tangible progress can be made on greater equality and fighting discrimination, be it on grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or civil status.



**David Martin**

### ACP countries need more time to negotiate trade deals with the EU

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The Commission has proposed ending duty free, quota free market access for ACP countries which have not signed up to an Economic Partnership Agreement by 1st January 2014. This deadline is too short and is not development-friendly. Although the preferences cannot go on forever, the Commission timetable is in danger of harming some ACP economies and creating a negative atmosphere for further negotiations. Our Group supports extending this deadline to 2016 to give ACP countries adequate time to complete negotiations, at least for interim EPAs.



**Mary Honeyball**

### Education, training and Europe 2020

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This own-initiative report is in response to the Commission communication 'Draft 2012 joint report of the Council and the Commission on the implementation of the strategic framework for European co-operation in education and training (ET2020)' and it aims to evaluate, update and propose new working priorities for the period 2012-2014. It also seeks to adjust the governance of ET2020 to ensure that it contributes to the Europe 2020 strategy. Among other things, the report makes an urgent call for investment in reforming education and training. The report focuses on several key themes: preventing early school-leaving and promoting childhood education and care; improving the quality and efficiency of education and training, including basic skills and languages; modernising higher education and increasing tertiary education attainment levels; enhancing the relevance of vocational education and training; developing comprehensive national life-long learning strategies; and promoting learning mobility at all levels.



**Enrique Guerrero Salom**

### Preparation of the Commission Work Programme 2013

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The S&D group aims at emphasising the need to promote the social market economy ensuring sustainable growth in order to provide the next generation with jobs, as well as the integration of our financial policy and economic governance and the next MFF as a crucial element for a revitalised future for the EU. The EU budget is part of the alternative growth strategy. S&D resolution focuses on the following main priorities:

- Restoring Growth for Jobs, including financial market regulation, smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;
- Pursuing the Citizens' Agenda: Freedom, Security and Justice;
- Europe in the World: Pulling our Weight on the global stage.

In line with the adopted June European Council Conclusions, emphasis will be put on the social market economy ensuring sustainable growth in order to provide the next generation with jobs, as well as on integration of our financial policy and economic governance and on MFF, as a crucial element for a revitalised future for the EU. The EU budget is part of the alternative growth strategy.



Ivailo Kalfin

### Budget 2013 and the MFF

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The budget of the European Union is a powerful tool to achieve the political goals of Europe. If the EU is to be consistent and credible, the political commitments made by heads of state and government need to be supported with adequate resources. The S&D Group rejects the approach where promises to stimulate growth and create jobs in the European economy are jeopardised by a reluctance to preserve the stability of the European budget. Therefore we cannot accept the Council's proposal for a budget that cannot finance the commitments already made. This is the reason we do not agree with the Council's position on financing the outstanding payments at a much lower level than the Commission's proposal for 2013. This approach would lead to the EU failing to honour the engagements it has already made, thus putting additional pressure on both public and corporate budgets. The same argument applies to the current discussions on the next multi-annual financial framework (2014-2020). The inevitable consolidation of national budgets does not conflict with ensuring that European public finances are sufficient to guarantee the EU's political goals. We have to remember that 94% of the EU budget returns to the member states and is used as a major – often unique – investment tool, generating additional financing. Europe will not exit the crisis if this is not a collective effort. No individual member state can make it alone. Therefore we insist on adequate financing for growth and job creation in the member states with the help of the EU budget. This can be done only on the basis of the proposal of the European Parliament, increasing the 2013 budget by at least 5%. The S&D Group will do its utmost to maintain the current unity on the issue, with a very large majority of MEPs supporting the increase to provide the proper tools for ending the crisis and stimulating the European economy until 2020.



Britta Thomsen

### Energy efficiency

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If we use our energy more wisely, renovate our old buildings and make sure our industries use the most energy efficient technologies the benefits will far exceed the investments. Improving energy efficiency in the EU will not only save great amounts of energy and money, it will also stimulate growth and create local jobs. The Energy Efficiency Directive is an important step towards a sustainable future - both for the economy and the climate.



Ioan Mircea Pascu

### Annual report from the Council to the European Parliament on the common foreign and security policy

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The CFSP report encompasses all the major thematic and geographical areas of the EU's foreign policy and is a product of a compromise that broadly reflects the views of the S&D Group. Via this report, we call on Cathy Ashton, the high representative for foreign affairs, to strengthen the systematic co-operation between all member states under the CFSP while fully exploring the possibilities provided by the Lisbon Treaty for enhanced co-operation between a 'core group' of EU states on specific foreign policy issues. We also call for a start to the process that will lead to permanent structured co-operation on security and defence and on the implementation of the mutual defence clause. We support the prospective enlargement of the EU with the countries of the Western Balkans, provided they fulfil the relevant criteria. Thanks to the efforts of the S&Ds, the report adopts a constructive tone on Russia: while criticising Moscow's crackdown on dissent, it also emphasises that there are a number of areas where the EU's values and interests are best served by dialogue with Russia, not confrontation. Also thanks to S&D input, the report recognises the potential synergies that co-operation with Turkey could provide for EU policy in the Arab world, but stresses that these can only be achieved if Turkey relaunches the stalled reform process.



Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg

### Permitted uses of orphan works

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The purpose of this directive is to allow museums, libraries, public broadcasters and other beneficiaries with a public interest mission (those referred to in Article 5(2) (c) of Directive 2001/29/EC as well as film or audio heritage institutions which operate on a non-profit-making basis) to digitise and disseminate their collections or collections commissioned for their exclusive use, where the author of is not known or, if known, cannot be traced. After more than 9 months of negotiations, the Rapporteur has successfully agreed an exception for this particular category of works. The directive provides a legal status and framework for the search, validation and dissemination to the public of the material in Europe's archives without a known author.

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