



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

**PRESS CONFERENCE with Hannes Swoboda**  
**Tuesday 15 April at 10.10 LOW N-1/201**

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**Elisa  
Ferreira**

### Single Resolution Mechanism / Rapporteur

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**Tuesday 15 April 2014**

After a difficult negotiation with the Council, we finally managed to come to a sensible agreement for a credible and efficient Single Resolution Mechanism (SRM) which will be an integral part of a functioning banking union. The crisis has shown that we need efficient, fast and comprehensive structures to avoid another crisis, act in case of need, and alleviate European taxpayers. This agreement brings us one more step closer to that aim. The European Parliament has achieved substantial improvements in the process and structure of the SRM and the credibility of the Fund for resolution. In particular, through community-rules based efficient decision-making throughout the several steps of a resolution process which is free from political member state interference. And a faster mutualisation period for a risk based common resolution Fund and a strong political compromise of the member states to enhance the borrowing capacity of the Fund before 1 January 2016, to increase its power in its initial phase. We will now be able to have a common-sense resolution mechanism, protect the savings of European citizens and avoid panic on the markets. The SRM is a decisive step to avoid taxpayers from ever having to pay for bankers' bad decisions again.



**David  
Martin**

### European Parliament's right of inquiry / Rapporteur

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**Wednesday 16 April 2014**

The European Parliament is empowered to establish a Committee of Inquiry to investigate alleged maladministration of EU law. Only 3 Committees have ever been established and the more recent, on Equitable Life, concluded it did not have the powers to properly investigate the issues. In order to improve the Parliament's ability to summon witnesses and have access to documents, the Parliament proposed a reform to this Regulation in 2012, calling for more transparency and powers similar to those in national parliaments. After 2 years of negotiations we have still not reached agreement with the Council and Commission, although some progress has been made. In order to carry on with negotiations in the next mandate and keep the progress we have made, Parliament will vote on the legislative resolution of this report.



**Vilija  
Blinkeviciute**

### Conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer

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**Wednesday 16 April 2014**

This report reflects the European Parliament's first-reading position on the directive proposed by the Commission on intra-corporate transferees (ICTs), which aims to establish harmonised conditions for non-EU nationals to enter and live in the EU under an intra-corporate transfer (a transfer within the same enterprise or groups of enterprises). It forms part of a package on legal migration alongside the Directive on Seasonal Workers and the revision of the Directive on Students and Researchers.

The results of the negotiations are satisfactory and the text now includes a unique autonomous mobility scheme to allow transferees to move within the EU once they have been admitted. It also includes positive provisions on family reunification and sanctions, while all references to quotas have been removed. However, for the S&D Group, there is a major issue as regards the provisions on equal treatment. The Council insists that the employment rights for transferees should be based on the Directive on Posted Workers, but this is unacceptable to us as we believe they should get the same treatment as nationals of the member state they are transferred to.



**Peter  
Simon**

### Deposit Guarantee Schemes / Rapporteur

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**Tuesday 15 April 2014**

Deposits are guaranteed up to €100.000 per depositor in each bank in the EU in case a credit institution goes bankrupt. With the recast of the deposit guarantee schemes (DGS) directive, there are some significant improvements to this important pillar of the banking union. There will be for the first time EU rules on financing the deposit guarantee scheme: deposits under €100.000 should reach 0.8% of deposits covered in 10 years and should be funded by 70% of contributions in cash and according to the risk profile of the bank. Other improvements are inter alia that depositors will receive their money within seven working days instead of the current period of 20 working days in case of insolvency. Member states need to allow for cover beyond the level of €100.000 for temporary high balances as a result of the sale of residential property or insurance payment for a certain period.



**Kerstin  
Westphal**

### European Union Solidarity Fund / Shadow Rapporteur

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**Tuesday 15 April 2014**

A flood in Germany, an earthquake in Italy, a fire in Greece: whenever there is a natural disaster, Europe helps through its Solidarity Fund (EUSF). Parliament will agree in the April Strasbourg plenary on new rules for this Fund, in order to simplify procedures, and to shorten the time between applying for help and actual payments to the beneficiaries. EP was able to convince Member States of granting advance payments, and also to set a deadline for the Commission to deal with applications. Kerstin Westphal, S&D shadow rapporteur, managed to render the rules as simple as possible, which allows to fully concentrate on actually helping people in need instead of wasting time with complicated procedures and application forms. Under the new regulation, a quick, non-bureaucratic help for the affected regions will be guaranteed.



**Edit  
Herczog**

**Measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks / Rapporteur**

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**Tuesday 15 April 2014**

All our rural development initiatives in the EU will be wasted if we don't manage to bring high-speed internet to all our towns and villages. Without it, rural Europeans become second-class citizens without access to jobs, to information, to services or even to education. Nowadays, if you are out of the web you are out of society. This decision today aims to reduce the cost of deployment by reducing inefficiencies and exploiting synergies across networks. In these times of austerity, this is not costly, but just a smart way to build new infrastructure by sharing the cost between several sectors. Electronic providers will share the cost with any owners of physical infrastructure suitable for hosting electronic communications network elements, such as electricity, gas, water, sewage, heating and transport services. It would simply mean putting particular focus on increased coordination, transparency and harmonising minimum tools. Broadband firms would have the right to access "promptly", via a single information point, at least information on the location, route, size, type and current use, name of owner and a contact point for existing infrastructure, says the text. Similar information would be available about infrastructure work that is planned and under way. Another novelty of the Directive is that all newly-constructed public buildings and public multi-dwelling buildings, including social housing, should be equipped with in-house infrastructure ready for broadband connection. The same rules would apply for buildings that undergo major renovation works.



**David  
Martin**

**Financial responsibility linked to investor-state dispute settlement tribunals established by international agreements to which the EU is party / Shadow Rapporteur**

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**Wednesday 16 April 2014**

This Regulation creates a system for managing investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) cases by establishing when the Union, represented by the Commission, should defend an ISDS case and be financially liable, and when it should be the role of a Member State national government. ISDS is a controversial provision which allows foreign investors to sue the EU or a Member State for alleged violation of the terms of the investment agreement. The shadow rapporteur made it clear during trilogues that participation in the negotiations was without prejudice to the S&D position on the inclusion of ISDS in investment agreements. This Regulation involved highly politically sensitive negotiations over the interpretation of Union and Member State competences in the area of trade policy. The final deal mostly reflects the robust position of the Council in defending the Member State role, although Parliament gained some important concessions. However crucially for our Group it also includes text on defending the right to regulate in the EU and for foreign investors to have no greater rights than domestic investors in access to justice.



**Olle  
Ludvigsson**

**Payment accounts / Shadow Rapporteur**

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**Tuesday 15 April 2014**

Nobody shall be denied access to a bank account. In Europe today, many consumers are being refused by the banks. There are around 25 million consumers who would like to have an account but still do not have one. The new directive on payment accounts aims to take care of that problem by establishing a right for all consumers to open and use a payment account with basic features. This account will cover the standard transactions of everyday life and will be provided free of charge or for a reasonable fee. It will be granted regardless of factors such as financial situation, employment status or credit history. This strong counter-measure against financial exclusion is something that the S&D group has very actively been pushing for for several years.



**Giovanni  
Barbagallo**

**Animal Health / Shadow Rapporteur**

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**Monday 14 April 2014**

The report aims to establish a single European framework on prevention, monitoring and control on animal diseases which are transmissible to animals or to humans. It is also highly important for public health, as approximately 70% of infectious diseases are common to both animals and humans. It was adopted by a large majority in the Agri Committee but some sensitive issues, such as cloning, duration of animal transport and density of livestock holdings, might be raised during the Plenary. The Agri committee managed to create a clear link between animal welfare and animal health, to simplify rules on notification of animal diseases, as well as to reinforce provisions on vocational training by professional organizations and to keep sensitive issues, such as beef labelling and non-commercial movement of pets under the ordinary legislative procedure. We also introduced mandatory registration and database for stray dogs and stray animals, which are often responsible for transmitting animal diseases.

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