



Plenary Update

11-14 March 2019

Our Priorities

- ▶ Preparation of the European Council meeting of 21 and 22 March 2019 and Brexit

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"The European Council meeting will be dominated by the UK's departure from the EU, which is supposed to take place on March 29th. Theresa May is playing a reckless game holding the vote on the agreement just two weeks before the UK's departure. This is leaving millions of EU and UK citizens with their lives on hold. If the UK Parliament again rejects the deal next week then the Prime Minister must work with Labour for a closer EU-UK relationship or must put the question back to the British people. We have always seen Brexit as an historic mistake and would welcome it if the UK were to change its mind."



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- ▶ Situation in Turkey

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"The rapid decline of the rule of law in Turkey is also reflected in the European Parliament's position on the accession process. With all the flagrant human rights violations, the lack of judicial independence and the implementation of a new constitution missing crucial checks and balances, it makes no sense to continue talks on EU membership with the current government. That is why we are calling for talks to be suspended. When a candidate country crosses key red lines, there should also be political consequences. This does not mean we want to close all doors to Turkey. The EU must do its utmost to support civil society, journalists and human rights defenders."



PIRI Kati

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- ▶ Climate change resolution

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"Our Group is strongly committed to gearing the transition towards a net-zero greenhouse gas economy by 2050, and it is feasible if we set the right strategy now. So we will propose an ambitious resolution next week. The decarbonisation of our economy is urgently needed to save our planet and to protect human health and well-being against extreme weather conditions. At the same time it presents an opportunity to change our economic model and create new enterprises and quality jobs, as long as we ensure a just transition."



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- ▶ Import of cultural goods

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"For the first time, the EU will establish common rules for the import of cultural goods from third countries. The new rules will finally put an end to divergent requirements across member states that allowed for different treatments in the trading of antiquities and artefacts. Illegal trade of arts is one of the most lucrative businesses next to those of drugs, weapons and counterfeit goods. Traffickers have exploited gaps between member state rules to bring cultural goods into the EU. These new rules will help crack down on this illegal behaviour. The S&D Group is committed to fighting to protect cultural heritage and promoting a value-based trade policy."



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► Establishing the Asylum and Migration Fund

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"Next week Parliament will vote on the creation of a fund of over 10 billion Euros to help member states deal with migration and asylum. This instrument should be used to help frontline member states, who have had to deal with the vast majority of new arrivals. We insisted that 95% of this funding should be used within EU countries, as separate mechanisms already exist to help third countries. We are disappointed that the centre-right EPP Group opposed this. It is essential that in the next long-term EU budget, enough money be devoted to managing migration, asylum and integration in an effective and humane way."



DALLI
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► Gender balance in EU economic and monetary affairs' nominations

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"With the nomination of Philip Lane as a member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank (ECB) and José Manuel Campa as Chair of the European Banking Authority (EBA), the gender balance has once again not been respected. Women continue to be underrepresented in executive positions in the field of banking and financial services. We cannot accept this ongoing discrimination and call therefore, in a resolution next week, for a radical shift in mind set and procedure for gender equal nominations in all EU and national institutions and bodies for the future. We also expect a clear answer from the Council to the letter of the European Parliament, where we raised our concerns this week. In the future, we will not take any list of candidates that is not gender balanced into consideration."



BRESSO
Mercedes



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The Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (the S&D Group) is the second largest political group in the European Parliament with 189 members from all 28 EU member states.

We stand for an inclusive European society based on principles of solidarity, equality, diversity, freedom and fairness. We promote social justice, jobs and growth, consumer rights, sustainable development, financial market reforms and human rights to create a stronger and more democratic Europe and a better future for all citizens.

About the S&D Group

