

WEDNESDAY APRIL 17

UK withdrawal from the EU

We welcome the EU leaders' decision to grant a longer extension. It safeguards the EU's interests, reduces the risk of a no deal Brexit in June, and gives time for the UK to come forward with new proposals for a closer EU-UK relationship or give the decision back to the British people. EU leaders have also again showed responsibility where the UK government has failed. They recognised that even though the elections add some small complications, these pale into insignificance compared to getting the future EU-UK relationship right.



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MONDAY 15 APRIL

Protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law

From exposing dodgy tax deals between governments and multinational companies to showing how political campaigns manipulated voters using data driven profiling, whistleblowers have played a vital role in holding the powerful to account in recent years. However, far too often they have faced criminal prosecution and serious professional consequences for doing the right thing. Next week for the first time we will back laws to ensure that whistleblowers are protected wherever they are in the EU. We fought so that whistleblowers will be able to decide whether they report wrongdoing through internal channels or directly to an external body. This was a vital point for us as clearly in many circumstances it is not appropriate for a whistleblower to report wrongdoing within their own organisation."



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MONDAY 15 APRIL

Promoting fairness and transparency for business users of online intermediation services

This legislation is an important step towards achieving a fairer and more transparent digital internal market. Online platforms are playing an ever increasing role in European consumers' lives. We have managed to introduce key improvements to the Commission's proposal that prohibit unfair practices, remove loopholes and safeguard fairness in the relationships between business users and online platforms. Unfair platform-to-business trading practices have no place in Europe."



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TUESDAY 16 APRIL

Transparent and predictable working conditions in the EU

We S&Ds have fought tooth and nail for these new rules that will improve working conditions and set new rights for millions of workers across the EU, especially the ones on the most precarious short-term or on-demand contracts and workers of platform economy. From now on, workers on these on-demand style contracts will have to be compensated whenever an employer cancels work at the last minute. Companies will be allowed to ask people to work within flexible jobs only within a predetermined set of hours and will have to give workers enough notice when giving them new shifts. Member states will also have to take action against abusive training practices - such as companies who force workers to pay for their own training.



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TUESDAY 16 APRIL

European Labour Authority

With over 20 million mobile workers in the EU, protecting labour and social rights and ensuring fair mobility are more crucial than ever. The agreement achieved on ELA enables it to provide critical added value at EU level for the strict application and enforcement of Union labour law in order to counter exploitation, tackle undeclared work and eradicate cases of present-day slavery. As the S&D Group, we succeeded in including European level social partners as members of the Management Board and in providing national social partners direct access to ELA, thus contributing their direct experience and knowledge of labour relations for the effectiveness of the Authority. Having strongly insisted for many years for the creation of such a body, we consider the establishment of the ELA a major achievement of our Group.



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THURSDAY 18 APRIL

Disclosure on sustainable investment and sustainability risks

The financial sector has to look beyond profits and consider the consequences for people and the planet. We want the investments of banks, insurance companies and pension funds to be put in the service of a more just and sustainable society. This is an essential part of the progressive efforts to connect finance with the EU's sustainable development agenda.



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TUESDAY 16

Horizon Europe

The next research programme, Horizon Europe (2021-2027) is crucial for the future of the EU. It will cover important areas such as climate mainstreaming, the partnerships and mission areas and the role of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) within the new European Innovation Council (EIC) instrument. Through science, innovation, and ground-breaking research, Europe can become more competitive, address the key challenges that our world is facing and stay at the forefront of knowledge and development.



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TUESDAY 16 APRIL

European system of financial supervision

We promoted a reinforced role of the European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs) in shaping safe financial markets and a consistent approach by the EU on anti-money laundering with a real coordination role for the European Banking Authority (EBA). To do this, we had to improve their governance by giving the ESAs' chairpersons more leeway while ensuring that they are selected through a democratic appointment process, under strict principles including an assessment based on a gender balanced list of candidates. We made significant progress in adding Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors in the mandate of the ESAs, as well as in protection of consumers and whistle-blowers. Good news also in the area of consumer protection, where we provided all the ESAs with a regime to prohibit toxic financial products and, in the field of insurance, the setting up of platforms to combat misselling.



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