



PARLIAMENTARY HIGHLIGHTS

November Plenary Session

KEY ISSUES

Stockholm Programme for more citizens' rights

The Stockholm Programme sets forth the EU priorities in the field of justice and home affairs for the next 5 years. Juan Fernando López Aguilar, S&D Chairman of the Civil Liberties Committee stressed that 'in their luggage, EU citizens must be entitled to carry across Europe, without barriers, all their rights and liberties in the same way they carry goods or capital'. Luigi Berlinguer, S&D co-author of the resolution added: 'This is Citizen's Europe'.

Claude Moraes, S&D Spokesperson on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, said that the Council's draft programme lacked ambition and that the 'S&D Group wants the Member States to embrace antidiscrimination (we want a horizontal directive), asylum solidarity, rights in criminal and civil law for all citizens and progressive migration policies, including a single residence permit'.

The Resolution was adopted by 487 votes to 122, with 49 abstentions. [Read the text.](#)

Climate Change - Key messages to Copenhagen

S&D Chair of the Environment Committee, Jo Leinen, stressed that 'Europe needs to take up the leadership during the negotiations and aim for an ambitious agreement'. Marita Ulvskog who will lead the S&D Members taking part in the Copenhagen talks said: 'The time for an agreement is now'. 'The two degree limit is something we cannot compromise on', reminded S&D co-author Dan Jørgensen. This does not mean that living standards, both in developed and developing countries will go down, he added. The S&D Group believe that climate change and financing is a matter of social justice.

'Copenhagen will just be the beginning. We have got to keep investing in energy efficiency, in renewables and in low-carbon technology', said the S&D Coordinator of the Environment Committee, Linda McAvan. The resolution was adopted by 516 votes to 92, with 70 abstentions. [Read it in full.](#)

World's first Internet freedom provision - EU telecom package

'This is the first time that a legal text refers to the use of internet as the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms', said Catherine Trautmann, EP and S&D Rapporteur. Under the new EU rules, a user's internet access may only be cut off if 'appropriate, proportionate and necessary within a democratic society' and only after 'a prior, fair and impartial procedure', giving users the opportunity to state their case, respecting the principles of presumption of innocence and the right to privacy. Member States will have to comply with these safeguards by May 2011. Apart from safeguarding internet access, the new rules will enhance consumer rights, protect data, boost competition and modernise radio spectrum use. The revised EU telecoms framework directive was adopted at the third and final reading by 510 votes to 40, with 24 abstentions.

IN SHORT

SWIFT - Parliament wants full say

S&D Leader Martin Schulz led a call for the Council to take the SWIFT deal off the agenda and involve the European Parliament on this EU-US deal involving the personal data of millions of people. Ministers planned to deal with the issue on the eve of the Lisbon Treaty taking effect, thus denying the Parliament a full say.

EU Vision of a lifestyle change in a decade

The EU's 2020 vision of the S&D Group sets out a wide range of proposals for social and economic advances stressing measures to prevent future financial crises. S&D Vice-President Stephen Hughes said: 'We need to

do things differently in order to meet serious challenges for society. Changing our lifestyle will make our economy more competitive, allow us to spread prosperity across society and bring us all benefits. Our proposals flesh out the objective of improving people's quality of life with simple, practical policy ideas'. More specific action will be put forward next year. [Read the document](#).

Question time to the President of the Commission

S&D Leader Martin Schulz asked for the Commission's view on the Bulgarian Prime Minister's comment on whether the Bulgarian Socialist Party should be banned. He had already reacted at the end of October, expressing support for the party and urging European political families 'to make it clear to the government of Bulgaria that it must stick to and promote European values', including the right to difference of opinion and political pluralism.

Workers' rights

MEPs approved the aid payments of €14.8 million from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund to Ireland's Mid-West region, where 2,840 workers lost their jobs when Dell closed its factory in Limerick. Stephen Hughes, S&D Vice-President for the Economic and Social Model, said that 'we cannot accept this way of setting EU workers against one another'; 'Dell cannot close a plant relying on EU funds to help the workers who lose their jobs, then reopen another in another Member State with subsidies from public funds'. Pervenche Berès, S&D Chairwoman of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee stressed that 'the Dell case must never happen again. The Commission should be more careful in the future'.

Under pressure from the S&D Group, the European Parliament also called on the 27 EU Member States to ratify and apply all ILO Conventions. Alejandro Cercas, Group Spokesman on Employment and Social Affairs, said that 'in a globalised world in which half of the population is without social protection, it is crucial to promote international standards of decent work'. ILO and the S&D Group work for a 'social model that dignifies people'. [Read the resolution](#).

LUX film prize

'Welcome', by French film maker Philippe Loiret, on a would-be Kurdish immigrant to Britain, won the annual LUX film prize. The director told the Chamber that 'Europe cannot be separated from the issue of migration. The impact the film had on French society made me change. We started as filmmakers and then turned into citizens'. S&D Group 'welcomed' the choice by a right-wing Parliament of an excellent film for a Europe of solidarity, integration and respect of human rights.

Since 2007, the EP has supported the European film industry by awarding this prize.

Enlargement Strategy - S&D Group reaffirmed in this framework its commitment to a fair, rational and inclusive approach to EU enlargement. [Read the text](#).

Parliament is ready for the Lisbon Treaty - MEPs adopted changes to the EP's internal rules to reflect the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and the new powers of this Parliament as a result.

Discharge granted to the Council - After a change in the Council's behaviour and a willingness to cooperate with Parliament, the discharge was granted during this session. For the next discharge, Parliament will check that the Council makes the changes needed.

APPROACHING

- 1-2 December: S&D Group Bureau meets the incoming EU Presidency in Madrid
- 11-19 January: Hearings of the Commissioners-designate.
- 26 January 2010 - Extraordinary plenary in Brussels to vote on the Commission

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For subscriptions, comments or any questions please e-mail: S-D.ParliamentaryHighlights@europarl.europa.eu or call + 32 4 95 70 59 94