

PRESS CONFERENCE WITH MARTIN SCHULZ
TUESDAY AT 09H45 GTM LOW N-1/201

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WEDNESDAY, 19 - MAY 2010

S&D Group reiterates its earlier calls for a single and integrated development strategy for Europe, clearly defining a long term orientation for economic growth, and how growth can help build a better, fairer and more sustainable economy with more shared prosperity for all, and protect against financial sector greed and excess; reiterates its demand to integrating the overlapping strategies which Europe is currently supposed to follow, notably the Europe 2020 strategy, the Sustainable Development strategy and the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP).



Liam Ngoc Hoang

LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF PUBLIC FINANCES FOR A RECOVERING ECONOMY

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MONDAY, 17 - MAY 2010

This Report aims to find answers and solutions to the crisis in the context of the grave public finances situation EU-27 currently finds itself in, and probably will remain in for the next coming generations. The main point of our Rapporteur was to ensure a socially acceptable way back on track for public finances, i.e. reduction of the public debt not compromising the quality of our citizen's lives. Overall message should be that where public finances clearly have to be urgently managed and turned into long-term sustainable ones, the S&D group, on the contrary to the right, is not willing to put at risk social society and gamble with our citizen's wellbeing.



Vincent Peillon

UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

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MONDAY, 17 - MAY 2010

In a difficult context, and despite mounting tensions in the Middle East, the report from the European Parliament calls on the heads of state and of government of UfM member countries to grasp the full extent of their historic responsibility. Persistent regional conflicts make their task difficult, but this is no excuse for failure at the Barcelona summit.

Finally, the Peillon report reiterates the need to guarantee the UfM's democratic legitimacy, emphasising the new role which the UfM's institutional structure recognises for the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA) – destined to become the UfM Parliamentary Assembly (PA-UfM) – in relation to project monitoring and budget control.



Ramon Atondo Jauregui

INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF ACCESSION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

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TUESDAY, 18 - MAY 2010

A broad consensus was reached in the Constitutional affairs committee (AFCO). By accession to the European Convention for Human Rights (ECHR), the Union will be joining one of the world's most advanced regional Human Rights' protection systems. As such, the Union's system for the protection of fundamental rights will be supplemented and enhanced by the incorporation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights into its primary law, its accession to the ECHR will send a strong signal concerning the coherence between the Union and 'wider Europe', constituted by the Council of Europe and its pan-European human rights system; this accession will also enhance the credibility of the Union in the eyes of third countries.



Maria Badia
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KEY COMPETENCES FOR A CHANGING WORLD: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2010 WORK PROGRAMME

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MONDAY, 17 - MAY 2010

This report identifies new challenges related to the 'New Skills for New Jobs' initiative and proposes a series of measures designed to make renewed progress in this field.

The rapporteur acknowledges that progress has been made in these areas in the member states but notes that more has to be done. High quality education from early childhood is very important for the early acquisition of key competences.

Especially important is to reinforce attitudes towards further learning, critical thinking and creativity. Transversal key competences such as digital competence, a sense of initiative, entrepreneurship and cultural awareness, as well as the opportunity to learn and communicate in foreign languages are all very important aspects.



Ioan Enciu

MIGRATION FROM THE SCHENGEN INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIS 1+) TO THE SECOND GENERATION SCHENGEN INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIS II)

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WEDNESDAY, 19 - MAY 2010

The Commission needs to put things right rapidly and deliver in the implementation of the Schengen Information System (SIS II), while fully involving the EP at all stages. This delay of three years is unacceptable; security and free movement in the Schengen area are dependent on the SIS II and cannot be compromised by inadequate management of implementation or lack of political will.

In the amendments tabled, we support: 1. the need for the EP to be consulted beforehand for approval 2. any new solution to be cost effective, technologically sound, data protection-proof, feasible in a timely calendar and legally sound, 3. the idea that national experts from member states be included again in the management board of the project, as we believe their absence is one of the reasons for the problems encountered.



Louis Grech

DELIVERING A SINGLE MARKET TO CONSUMERS AND CITIZENS

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WEDNESDAY, 19 - MAY 2010

S-D Group calls for new vision of the Single market based on more holistic approach, fully integrating citizens concerns through initiatives to reinforce the social dimension and consumer rights within the Single market. We consider that it is urgent for the Commission to take concrete initiatives in that direction. That's why the report calls for a Single market Act which would cover legislative and non-legislative proposals to put social policies and consumer protection at the heart of the Single Market. This Single Market Act should also include a legislative proposal to protect the services of general economic interest.



Anni Podimata

LABELLING AND STANDARD PRODUCT INFORMATION OF THE CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY AND OTHER RESOURCES BY ENERGY-RELATED PRODUCTS

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WEDNESDAY, 19 - MAY 2010

The recast of Energy Labelling Directive envisages the improvement and modernisation of the labelling and standard product information indicating the consumption of energy and other resources by energy-related products. Together with the proposals on the energy performance of buildings and on the labelling of tyres, this Directive forms the Energy Efficiency Package, targeted on the fight against climate change, the transition of EU to an efficient, sustainable and competitive economy, and the strengthening of Europe's energy security.

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