

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

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Martin Schulz

NEW SWIFT DEAL

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WEDNESDAY, 7 - JULY 2010

S&D Group welcomed the decision last week by the US and the EU to reopen negotiations and to take on board a number of proposals made by our Group to strengthen safeguards for EU citizens. The Council's decision to reopen the talks is the result of the S&D Group and European parliament pressure. Citizens have the right to be protected against excessive state intrusion into their lives and potential mistakes. The agreement now seems more balanced but we expect the Commission to regularly report to the EP on its precise implementation and on the respect of safeguards provided therein. The Group decided to vote for the SWIFT Agreement as re-negotiated.



Hannes Swoboda

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WEDNESDAY, 7 - JULY 2010

S&D Group considers that the Madrid agreement is a good compromise and calls on other political groups to speed up parliamentary procedures so that the new service can be on its feet by December. The Group secured the agreement that the new service will be politically accountable to the European Parliament as the only directly-elected EU institution. S&D Group made sure that the budget of the common foreign and security policy will now be more transparent by identifying specific spending on major missions abroad. The new budgetary procedure set out in the Lisbon Treaty will apply, so Parliament's powers as the budgetary authority will be fully safeguarded. The Group successfully defended the community method and prevented member states from taking control over development cooperation and its budget.



Sylvana Rapti

PROMOTING YOUTH ACCESS TO THE LABOUR MARKET, STRENGTHENING TRAIN-EE, INTERNSHIP AND APPRENTICESHIP STATUS

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MONDAY, 5 - JULY 2010

S&D group welcomes the prospect of Iceland joining the EU and underlines country's strong democratic culture. The accession negotiations will be based on Iceland's own merits. A key S&D amendment as regards concerns over independence of judiciary, notably the predominance given to the Minister of Justice and Human Rights in the appointment of judges, prosecutors and supreme judicial authorities, have been carried as part of the compromise amendment. Another key S&D amendment dealing with the public opinion has also been included in the compromise amendment and adopted in AFET committee.



Pier Antonio Panzeri

THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS OF KOSOVO

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WEDNESDAY, 7 - JULY 2010

The Group reiterates the importance for the EU to engage with Kosovo, notwithstanding the differences among Member States as regards its status. It also considers this commitment vital for preserving stability and security in the EU's immediate neighbourhood. More efforts are needed by Kosovo to make progress on key reforms such as the fight against corruption and organized crime, decentralisation and public administration reform.



Libor Roucek

THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS OF ALBANIA

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WEDNESDAY, 7 - JULY 2010

We are looking forward to Albania finding grounds for dialogue between all political parties. And that, together with the positive vote in AFET committee on the report as a whole shall help Albania in its process to move efficiently towards the integration on the EU. Need for a new electoral law, which would guarantee full transparency of the electoral process in the future.



Gianni Pittella

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TUESDAY, 6 - JULY 2010

The creation of a new European authority falls within the framework of Commission proposals following the recommendations made in the Larosière report of February 2009. It is based on the observation, underlined so bitterly during the crisis, that simple coordination between national surveillance authorities, whose jurisdiction stops at the borders of their respective Member States, is not enough to control financial institutions who view the internal market as a true area without borders. A Europe-wide authority must be created to oversee national market supervisory authorities and introduce an effective tool for establishing harmonised technical standards on financial services, in order to guarantee the existence of a framework and adequate protection for investors and consumers in the EU. The creation of the ESMA represents a European response to the need for Europe-wide prudential supervision and is the counterpart of the internal market in financial services.



David Maria Sassoli

ICELAND'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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WEDNESDAY, 7 - JULY 2010

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Françoise Castex

ENFORCEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN THE INTERNAL MARKET

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MONDAY, 5 - JULY

S&D want to protect authors' rights from anyone taking illegally profit out of them but are alarmed by potential threats to citizens' fundamental rights and freedom of the internet. The EU should mark a clear distinction between commercial and non commercial file sharing, which should not be criminalised.



Robert Goebbels

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TUESDAY, 6 - JULY 2010

This Directive lays the initial foundations for building a new regulatory and supervisory framework for financial markets in the EU – something for which the S&D Group has been hoping and praying for many years. This major step in the right direction should be supplemented by additional future legislative texts.



Udo Bullmann

MACRO-PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION OF THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN SYSTEMIC RISK BOARD

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TUESDAY, 6 - JULY 2010

Following the February 2009 report from the working group chaired by Jacques de Larosière, the European Commission has presented a regulation proposal aimed at creating a new body, to be known as the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB). Under the auspices of the European Central Bank, the ESRB will assume macro-economic supervisory functions. The creation of this European Systemic Risk Board comes in response to the financial, economic and social crisis which has swept through the European Union. Its aim will be to guarantee genuine macro-economic prudential supervision and avert any further crises.

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