

PRESS CONFERENCE with MARTIN SCHULZ
at 09.45 LOW N-1/201

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**Vilija
Blinkeviciute**

Single application procedure for residence and work

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Monday, 13 - December 2010

We firmly believe that all workers, regardless of their place of origin, once they start working on EU soil must be put on an equal footing. We don't want unfair competition for EU workers from foreign workers and we don't want foreign workers to be exploited or receive unfair treatment. This should apply to any migrant moving to the EU to work with an indefinite, short term or seasonal contract. The Group will be tabling amendments for plenary aimed at re-establishing equal treatment for all these categories of migrant workers.



**Pino
Arlacchi**

A new strategy for Afghanistan

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Wednesday, 15 - December 2010

The report aims to offer a new strategy for Afghanistan by focusing on four key areas: international aid and coordination, the peace process, police and the rule of law, and narcotics. The text calls for a more civilian approach in the policy towards Afghanistan, in parallel with the military withdrawal from the country, while it also welcomes the new counter-insurgency strategy aimed at protecting the local population and rebuilding areas where security has been ensured. In the context of efforts aimed at supporting the reconstruction of the Afghan state, it calls for improved cooperation and coordination between the various international actors as well as for increased Afghan ownership. The report underlines that the only possible solution is a political one which should include negotiations with those Taliban and other combatant groups that are ready to participate in government of national unity capable of putting an end to the civil war and ensuring respect for the rule of law and human rights which are the foundations for a stable and prosperous Afghanistan.



**Chrysoula
Paliadeli**

European Heritage Label

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Thursday, 16 - December 2010

The report seeks to improve and clarify the Commission's proposal for a European Heritage Label, which evolves from the original concept of an intergovernmental label dating from 2006. Its purpose is to highlight 'sites', such as monuments, natural, archaeological, urban or cultural sites, that have played a significant role in European history and culture, and in the building of the European Union. Placing the European Heritage Label within the framework of the EU will not only increase its visibility, prestige and credibility, but will enhance its role as a vehicle for promoting European Union cohesion, bringing citizens, especially young people, closer to the EU and for fostering cultural tourism.



**Claude
Moraes**

Extension of the scope of Directive 2003/109/EC to beneficiaries of international protection

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Tuesday, 14 - December 2010

This is a proposal which would bring direct benefit to all the beneficiaries of international protection who have been residing legally on the territory of the EU for more than 5 years, but currently have no entitlement to long-term resident status. It will bring an end to their differential treatment vis-à-vis other third country nationals, and will give them greater certainty about their situation in the EU. Notably, it would enable beneficiaries of international protection who become long-term residents to take up residence in a Member State other than the one in which they were recognised.

European Protection Order



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Tuesday, 14 - December 2010

We have managed to get the right of the victim to be informed on how to apply to the European Protection Order (EPO) right at the beginning of the legal procedure in his or her home country. The right to free legal advice and interpretation is recognised for victims. This really contributes to building a true common space of freedom, security and justice.

Annual Report on Human Rights in the World 2009 and the European Union's policy



**Richard
Howitt**

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Wednesday, 15 - December 2010

We have been crystal clear as Socialist and Democrats in this report that the financial crisis cannot be used to justify the violation of universal human rights. We have stood forthright as a Group in stating that the EU must use all the tools at its disposal to support human rights and protect human rights defenders, from trade mechanisms such as the GSP and human-rights benchmarks in our trade deals to ensuring the ongoing funding of the European Instrument on Democracy and Human Rights and positive action through democracy support. We have spoken out clearly against the death penalty, against child labour and violence against women and in favour of religious freedom and protection for threatened minorities such as the Roma.

Citizens' initiative



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Wednesday, 15 - December 2010

The Report deals with one of the most important provisions of Lisbon Treaty: the right of the European citizens to participate in the democratic life of the Union by way of a European Citizens' initiative. We are very satisfied with the modifications that have been adopted by AFCO Committee to the Commission proposal because they contribute to making it easier for citizens to use this new democratic tool. This will show our citizens that we have a reliable tool in our hands and will help to clarify how the ECI can work in practice and what citizens and organisers can expect from this new democratic instrument. All this will - in the long run - contribute to creating less frustration, disappointment and more enthusiasm towards the ECI and also towards the European institutions.

Energy Efficiency Action Plan



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Thomsen**

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Monday, 13 - December 2010

The amended by S&D report urges the Commission to adopt an action plan, which should contain the following main elements:

- the EU to adopt a binding target on energy efficiency by at least 20% by 2020;
- the Commission to tackle energy poverty in all energy policies;
- the Member States to include a set of annual refurbishments targets in their National Action Plans;
- the Commission to propose policy how to achieve a nearly zero level of building stock by 2050;
- the Commission to look into innovative financing models such as revolving funds to satisfy the increasing needs of the sector.

Outcome of the NATO Summit in Lisbon



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Gualtieri**

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Wednesday, 15 - December 2010

The EU and NATO share common values and strategic interests and therefore this resolution should call on both sides to improve the EU-NATO strategic partnerships taking into account the initiatives and guidelines provided by the new Strategic Concept.

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