

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

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Martin Schulz

Media law in Hungary

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Wednesday, 16 - February 2011

We expect from the Commission to proceed in a swift and timely manner with its thorough investigations regarding bringing the Hungarian media laws into conformity with European legislation, particularly with the Charter on Fundamental Rights

Also we call on the Hungarian authorities, in the event that the laws are found to be incompatible with the letter or spirit of the Treaties or EU law, in particular the Charter of Fundamental Rights, to repeal and not to apply the laws or those elements thereof that are found to be incompatible.



Hannes Swoboda

2010 progress report on Croatia

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Wednesday, 16 - February 2011

The main message of this report is that Croatia can conclude accession negotiations in the first half of 2011, "provided that the necessary reforms continue to be pursued resolutely". Zagreb now needs to mobilise all efforts at this last stage to strengthen public administration and the judiciary, step up the fight against corruption, ensure full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), continue the privatisation process and adopt restructuring plans for the country's shipyards in difficulty.

The report also welcomes the entry into force of the border arbitration agreement between Croatia and Slovenia last year and calls for progress in the resolution of other bilateral disputes, such as the border issues with Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina.



Dagmar Roth-Behrendt

Falsified medicinal products (amendment of Directive 2001/83/EC)

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Tuesday, 15 - February 2011

There is an alarming increase in the EU of medicinal products which are falsified with regard to their identity, history or source. The directive introduces obligatory safety features for all prescriptive medicinal products and a rapid alert system. The S&D strongly supports the directive as it puts patient safety first and seeks to fight the entry of falsified medicines into the legal supply chain.



Matthias Groote

Emission performance standards for new light commercial vehicles

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Tuesday, 15 - February 2011

The EC proposal is a follow-up of the Community Strategy to reduce CO2 emissions from Light duty vehicles and complements the Regulation on the emission reductions for passenger cars (Sacconi-report).

S&D Group play a key role in achieving a balance between environmental, social and industrial aspects of this legislation.

Helping manufactures to develop green technology for vans will be beneficial both for companies and job creations. This will give the EU a competitive advantage over cheaper and more contaminating vehicles made outside of Europe.



Stephen Hughes

Europe 2020

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Wednesday, 16 - February 2011

S&D Group believes that a realistic strategy for growth and employment at the EU level must strike a balance between ensuring fiscal discipline and fostering growth. In this respect the Group stresses the need to make a formal link between the economic governance package being currently negotiated and the EU 2020 strategy. S&D Group calls on the Commission to propose a broad-based and ambitious system of Eurobonds, in order to create an effective shield for the protection of the euro and the euro area countries as a whole, to achieve a highly liquid public bond market and attain the lowest possible levels of interest rates.

The Group recalls that the EU 2020 strategy and cohesion policy are fundamentally linked and that the need to appropriately fund the flagship initiatives should not result in less resources for cohesion policy.



Adrian Severin

Situation in Egypt

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Wednesday, 16 - February 20

S&D Group expresses its solidarity with peaceful demonstrators and applauds their courage and determination. The Group expresses also its support for the demand for President Hosni Mubarak to resign and is of the opinion that his retirement in due time should facilitate the political transition. It calls on the Egyptian authorities to ensure a peaceful transition to genuine democracy.

Socialists and Democrats call on Egyptian authorities to immediately release all peaceful demonstrators held in custody as well as to fully and immediately restore all communication networks, including the Internet.



Evelyne Gebhardt

The implementation of the Services Directive 2006/123/EC

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S&D group considers that the implementation of the services directive should respect the compromise finally agreed to improve the internal market for services while respecting social rights and labour law. The evaluation process should be the opportunity for the European Parliament to ensure that the achievements of the compromise are fully respected, notably concerning the exclusion of social services and healthcare services.



Frédéric Daerden

Towards adequate, sustainable and safe European pension systems

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Decent and sustainable pensions in Europe can only be ensured by fighting precarious, low-paid, grey economy, low-quality jobs and not by working longer in these types of jobs! State financed pensions based on solidarity should remain the norm in all EU countries.



Debora Serracchiani

Rights of passengers in bus and coach transport

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Tuesday, 15 - February 2011

The Council's approach that the Regulation should apply only to passengers using buses or coaches for a distance over 500 km is for the Parliament unacceptable as it would have excluded a considerable number of bus connections and even whole Member States territories. The Regulation shall apply to all regular bus or coach services of a scheduled distance longer than 250 km. In the event of an accident or a cancelled or a delayed departure for more than two hours passengers shall have the right, if necessary, to hotel accommodation for a total cost of EUR 80 and for a maximum of two nights.

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