



Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats in the European Parliament

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

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Martin Schulz

Week's activity at the UN General Assembly: the situation in Palestine

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Tuesday, 27 - September 2011

The S&D Group expresses its support for the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people to have their own state and to be represented as a state at the UN General Assembly. We have repeatedly expressed our support for the two-state solution based on the 1967 borders and Jerusalem as capital of both states, with the state of Israel living side-by-side with an independent, democratic and viable state of Palestine in peace and security. The right of Israel to exist is unquestionable and the strong commitment of the international community to the security of Israel must be reaffirmed.



Maria Eleni Koppa

Trade in agricultural and fishery products between the EU and Palestine

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Monday, 26 - September 2011

The Palestinian Authority is the EU's smallest trading partner: exports from the two territories to the EU totalled €6.1 million in 2009. The proposed agreement would allow Palestinian agricultural and fish products, as well as processed goods, duty-free access to the European market. The proposed agreement is more a political statement than a trade deal. The rapporteur believes that it would help the region to develop economically, reduce its poverty and contribute to political stability. Trade can serve as a vehicle of economic and social development for the Palestinian territories (the Gaza Strip and the West Bank)



Paolo De Castro

Debate on the "Food For Free" programme

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Wednesday, 28 - September 2011

An EU programme distributing food for free, partly coming from surplus stock that otherwise would be wasted, to 18 millions of EU citizens at risk of food poverty may soon come to an end due to the opposition by six EU countries. On initiative of the S&D Group, on Wednesday there will be a plenary debate to call on the Council to ensure the regular running of the "Food For Free" programme.



Elisa Ferreira

New trade policy for Europe under the Europe 2020 strategy - Macro economic imbalances procedure

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Wednesday, 28 - September 2011

The compromise finally agreed preserves our main achievements on this report:

- Safeguard clause on social rights: Monti clause is inserted to article 1 stating clearly that it shall not affect the exercise of fundamental rights nor affect the right to negotiate, conclude and enforce collective agreements. Moreover, the recommendation issued under this regulation shall respect national practices and institutions for wage formation.
- Definition of the scoreboard including social indicators: the scoreboard shall contain a list of indicators defined in the regulation including indicators on unemployment and elements related to the development of the real economy.
- Symmetric approach: the scoreboard shall set a list of indicators with lower and upper thresholds to be applied both for deficit and surplus countries.



Saïd El Khadraoui

European road safety

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Monday, 26 - September 2011

Improving road safety is a pressing challenge. 35,000 people died in road accidents in 2009 and 1,500,000 were injured. Against this background, the committee called for a broad set of measures and better coordination at all political levels to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries significantly. The rapporteur's 20 proposed compromises were supported by the S&D Group and were all adopted. Our members supported the main objectives and the integrated approach of the Commission's "Policy Orientations on Road Safety 2011-2020". However, they deplored the lack of ambition and have therefore called for more specific measures and targets.



David
Martin

New trade policy for Europe under the Europe 2020 strategy

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Monday, 26 - September 2011

This report is a strategic assessment of all major aspects of the EU's external trade policy: trade in goods and services; trade defence instruments; investment; intellectual property rights; trade as a tool for humanitarian assistance and development, etc. It is a reaction to the Commission's 'Trade, Growth and World Affairs' paper of November 2010. This is a follow up to the well-known 'Global Europe Strategy' outlining the EU's trade strategy for the next 20 years as a key part of the general EU 2020 strategy.



Pervenche
Berès

The future of the European Globalisation Fund

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Thursday, 29 - September 2011

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) was established in 2006 by Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006 with the objective of showing solidarity with and providing support to workers affected by redundancies resulting from changes in world trade patterns. This motion is for a resolution supporting the Commission's proposal to continue the EGF beyond the current multiannual financial framework and to establish an own budget line for the EGF. It also calls for improved intervention procedures to make them more efficient and timely, the provision of effective support for training workers to reintegrate them into employment and a more complementary relationship between the EGF and the European Social Fund (ESF). This is a response to difficult labour market situations caused by the restructuring of enterprises and sectors. The S&D Group strongly supports the EGF as a tool for showing the EU's solidarity with workers affected by the negative effects of restructuring resulting from globalisation and as an employment policy instrument for co-financing active labour market measures.



Michael
Cashman

Sexual orientation and gender identity at the UN Human Rights Council

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Tuesday, 27 - September 2011

In June 2011 the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) adopted the first UN resolution on 'Human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity'. MEPs in several groups would like the European Parliament to mark this historic development by:

- endorsing this resolution and welcoming the recent positive developments in the field of sexual orientation and gender identity at the UN
- encouraging the High Representative and member states to push for LGBT rights at the UN and bilaterally
- calling on the EU and member states to better safeguard LGBT people's fundamental rights



Edite
Estrela

European disaster response: the role of civil protection and humanitarian assistance

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Tuesday, 27 - September 2011

The S&D Group calls for more transparency and simplification to enhance efficiency. EU humanitarian aid is not a crisis-management tool and should be provided irrespective of all political considerations, while adhering to internationally agreed humanitarian principles. Seven compromise amendments were negotiated between the groups to give clarity and coherence on the respective institutional roles of the European Commission, the High Representative and the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the responsibilities of the member states



Vittorio
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Common EU position ahead of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

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Wednesday, 28 - September

In view of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), to be held in 2012, the Commission published a communication as the basis for discussions with the other EU institutions in order to reach an agreed EU position. The three main objectives of the Rio+20 summit will be to secure renewed political commitment to sustainable development, to assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of past commitments, and to address new and emerging challenges. Fair and equitable access to natural resources for present and future generations is a crucial precondition for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

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