



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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**Frédéric
Daerden**

European platform against poverty and social exclusion

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Tuesday, 15 - November 2011

The report adopted all of the S&D priorities, including an improved budget for tackling poverty, stronger European action on minimum incomes, better care and pensions for older citizens, and legislative initiatives on social services and food distribution to the most deprived. The S&D Group continues to fight for solidarity in the EU, despite the austerity measures pursued by the right. The objective of lifting 20 million people out of poverty in the EU by 2020 must remain a top priority and has to be coupled with the budget necessary.



**Bernadette
Vergnaud**

Implementation of Professional Qualifications Directive

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Monday, 14 - November 2011

The Report examines the implementation of Directive 2005/35/EC, which concern the recognition of professional qualifications within the Single Market. The Directive came into force in 2007. The Commission is expected to present a proposal for the review of the Directive this December. The Report outlines the problems which have arisen in the process of the implementation and makes suggestions for the modernisation of the Directive. The Report focuses on how to develop recognition of professional qualifications and thus enhance mobility of the European citizens and how to improve confidence in the recognition system. Special attention is paid to professionals in the health care sector. From an S&D point of view the only problematic issue concerns the introduction of a professional card. We would have wished for a stronger call concerning the introduction of such a system in the framework of the upcoming review of the Directive.



**Hannes
Swoboda**

EU-US summit of 28 November 2011

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Wednesday, 16 - November 2011

The S&D Group makes several recommendations for launching a joint transatlantic initiative for jobs and growth, including a roadmap for promoting trade and investment. The Group welcomes the EU's determination to go ahead with a financial transaction tax and urges G20 leaders to take up "a framework for global financial market regulation". The S&Ds strongly support the development of free and open democracies promoting peace and stability, and call on the EU and the US to further promote peace, in particular in the Middle East. On the question of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, It reiterates its full support for a two-state solution, on the basis of the 1967 borders.



**Monika
Flasikova
Benova**

Situation of the Roma in Member States

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Wednesday, 16 - November 2011

The Commission's EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies brings forward a broad range of measures to be taken by Member States - and monitored by the Commission - in order to ensure a better integration of the Roma. The deadline for Member States to present their updated national strategies is December 2011. Although the Commission gave clear guidelines regarding Roma integration, not only has little progress been made, but in some Member States the situation got even worst during the past year. The Oral Question aims to draw attention to the responsibility that Member States and the Commission have to tackle and prevent racist events happening in the EU and to make progress in implementing the Framework for Roma Integration.



**Dan
Jorgensen**

Climate change conference in Durban

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Tuesday, 15 - November 2011

In view of this Conference, a motion for resolution establishing the EP's position was adopted in ENVI. It contains inter alia the following points:

- recognition of the key objectives for COP 17, including agreement on a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol and comparable progress under the Convention track to secure a post-2012 international legally-binding agreement that meets the 2°C objective.
- further implementation of the Cancún Agreements, including the establishment of a peak date for global emissions and global emissions reduction goal for 2050, and bringing into operation the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Committee and development of the Technology Mechanism.



Chrysoula Paliadeli

European Heritage Label

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Tuesday, 15 - November 2011

Broad agreement was reached in Parliament on first reading. There were a number of issues which the S&D Rapporteur wanted to focus on, namely, the frequency of selection of 'sites'; the geographical scope of the action; the concept of transnational sites and quotas; the panel which should decide on awarding the Label; keeping Parliament properly informed; withdrawal from the Label; transitional arrangements in respect of sites granted a label under the existing intergovernmental initiative, and whether such provisions were necessary. Following negotiations with the Council on those points, compromises favourable to the position adopted by Parliament - selection of sites only every two years, geographical scope initially restricted to the 27 Member States, simplification and clarification of the transitional provisions - were reached and an early second reading agreement is now in place.



Peter Simon

State aid rules on services of general economic interest

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Monday, 14 - November 2011

This report is the Parliament's contribution to the current discussions on revising the state aid package on services of general economic interest (also known as the post-Altmark package) which expires in November. The Commission has now drafted its proposals and they should be definitively adopted by the end of the year. The report welcomes the simpler, clearer, more proportional approach proposed by the Commission, insisting on the need to respect the subsidiary principle. On social services, the report points out the need to take into account the diversity of services and therefore the need for further exemptions from notification. On local services, the report supports the introduction of the 'de minimis' rule and calls for appropriate thresholds for this rule.



Catherine Trautmann

The open Internet and net neutrality in Europe

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Wednesday, 16 - November 2011

Consumers need to be able to make informed choices and to be effectively able to switch to a new provider that can best suit their needs and preferences including the speed and volume of downloads and services. They must be given clear, effective, meaningful and comparable information on all concerned commercial practices with equivalent effect in particular on mobile internet.



Robert Goebbels

Short selling and certain aspects of credit default swaps

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Tuesday, 15 - November 2011

After four months of trilogue meetings in which extensive and difficult negotiations took place, we have reached an agreement with the Polish Presidency. Although this Regulation could have been stronger in certain areas, the overall compromise is clearly a success for the European Parliament, and notably for the S&D Group, as it introduces a de-facto ban on sovereign credit default swaps (CDS)- a proposal long opposed by the Member States. For the first time since the beginning of the financial crisis, a speculative and damaging practice is forbidden at the EU level. More broadly, the Regulation will impose notification and disclosure of short positions, shedding light on a so-far poorly known market practice.



Tanja Fajon

Negotiations of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement

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Georgia has achieved remarkable progress in its pro-European path, but it needs to accelerate reforms in the judiciary system, ensure better protection of the freedom of media, improve labour and women rights, as well as the integration of ethnic and religious minorities.

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