



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

PRESS CONFERENCE FOR NEW S&D GROUP LEADER - Tuesday, 17th January at 15.30



The next European Parliament plenary session in Strasbourg on 17th and 18th January 2012 will be of crucial importance for the Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament. On Tuesday 17th, the Parliament will elect its new President and S&D MEP Martin Schulz is among the candidates. The vote will take place in the morning. In the light of his candidacy, the S&D Group will elect a new Group Leader for the next 2 1/2 year mandate. The vote will be secret and take place during the S&D Group meeting on Tuesday afternoon.



Three MEPs have applied for the position:

Catherine Trautmann (France), Hannes Swoboda (Austria), Stephen Hughes (UK)



Once elected, the new S&D Group Leader will be very happy to meet with you and explain his/her priorities to you.

Watch the action LIVE on www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu



**Kathleen
Van Brempt**

Waste electrical and electronic equipment

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Wednesday, 18 - January 2012

The agreement between the Council and the European Parliament sets very ambitious goals for member states and it is a change in the European approach to recycling. We succeeded in getting a directive with a wide scope, so that it applies to all kinds of electric and electronic equipment, including solar panels. We also improved the categories for collecting material, in particular we added a new category for small IT and telephone equipment so that some rare earth materials used for smartphones and other devices can be recycled more effectively.



**Salvatore
Carrona**

Avoiding food wastage

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Thursday, 19 - January 2012

The question of the food safety at the world level, as within the European Union, will be one of priorities strategic of the 21th century. In this frame, one of the important control levers to insure the food safety concerns the reduction of the food wasting. By adopting Mr Caronna's report, Agriculture committee asks to define a strategy for a more effective food chain with urgent measures to reduce of 50 % the food wasting before 2025. The reduction of said wasting has to be made throughout the food chain, throughout the field (or of the sea) in the plate of the consumer and concerns at the same time the products of the agriculture and the products of the sea.



**Dan
Jorgensen**

Placing on the market and use of biocidal products

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Wednesday, 18 - January 2012

The institutions agreed on a compromise package, which reconciles environmental and health concerns with innovation and research and with the needs of internal market. The new biocide regulation will: facilitate enterprises marketing their products across the EU by introducing union-wide authorisations for products, bring in strict criteria to ensure that substances hazardous to the environment or human health are not authorized, introduce labelling requirements for many articles treated with biocides. From within the EU budget. Otherwise the future of this programme is seriously at risk. Regarding the relations between European Union and European Space Agency, the S&D Group asks for clear task-sharing and a strong political role for the Commission.



Hannes Swoboda

Recent political developments in Hungary

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Wednesday 18 - January 2012

In the light of recent worrying decisions taken by the Hungarian government and the adoption of a controversial constitution, the S&D Group calls for a debate with European Commission President Barroso on the situation in Hungary. Following the debate and the Commission's assessments the S&D Group will prepare a resolution to be voted at the next plenary session. The S&D Group underlines the need for the Hungarian government to fully respect European law and the *acquis communautaire* in its actions and legislation



Spyros Danellis

Farm input supply chain: structure and implications

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Thursday, 19 - January 2012

S&D shadow-rapporteur Spyros Danellis stresses the importance of transparency in the farm input supply chain and of implementing and enforcing competition rules throughout the food market chain. He also promotes the establishment of a European bank for seeds to preserve the genetic variety of plants and link it to the cultural heritage of the member states. Furthermore he underlines the importance of striking a balance between fostering innovation and improving the livelihoods of small and medium scale farmers.



Norbert Glante

Space strategy for the European Union

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Thursday, 19 - January 2012

This report is the Parliament's reaction to the Commission communication 'Towards a space strategy for the European Union that benefits its citizens'. It points out that further implementation is needed on the EU's flagship programmes for satellite navigation and earth monitoring, Galileo/EGNOS and GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security). The EU has to develop a common vision and a long-term strategic plan for space exploration. In order to strengthen European competitiveness, adequate investment in research and development is crucial and at the same time international co-operation needs to be strengthened. The Parliament strongly supports the space strategy but urges the Commission to ensure the financing of the GMES programme comes



Brian Simpson

Memorandum of Cooperation

between the European Union and the International Civil Aviation Organisation

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Thursday, 19 - January 2012

The overall goal of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) is to ensure greater harmonisation of standards and closer coordination of the parties' respective activities as well as a better use of resources by avoiding duplication of effort. Cooperation will also include sharing of confidential data and the participation of EU observers in ICAO audit missions. Relevant provisions for actions in the field of aviation safety and security, traffic management and environmental protection are integral part of the MOC. The main body for the implementation of the MOC is a Joint Committee. The Rapport underlined the importance of the MOC in view of a strengthened cooperation in the above mentioned four areas of ICAO activities in which the EU takes a strong interest, not least for the competitiveness of its own civil aviation industry.

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