



Our Priorities

- *Tues 12* Preparation of the European Council meeting of 28 and 29 June 2018

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“When the European leaders meet at the end of this month, they have the chance to really make a difference for the future of Europe. We Socialists and Democrats are pushing hard for a reform of the Economic and Monetary Union. We fight for more democratic rights for the Parliament, and a budget for the Eurozone. Now it’s time for member states to answer this call: Do they want to keep an outdated version of the European Union or build an EU that works for the people? As Socialists and Democrats, we will request that the Council takes the side of the people, too.”



BULLMANN
UDO

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- *Tues 12* **Iran nuclear agreement**

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“US President Trump’s reckless decision to pull out of the Iran Nuclear Deal clearly shows that he has no will to maintain a common policy with his allies. The deal has been serving its purpose: to ensure Tehran doesn’t develop nuclear weapons in exchange for the sanctions relief. By withdrawing from the deal, President Trump not only undermined the whole international regime against nuclear proliferation, but also put transatlantic relations under additional strain. This requires a bold European answer: We will protect European companies dealing with Iran from the US sanctions by activating the Blocking Statute and removing obstacles for the European Investment Bank to finance activities in Iran. Additionally, we will work on a credible European strategy towards Iran in the long term.”



FLECKENSTEIN
Knut

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- *Wed 13* Independence of the judiciary in Poland

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“For us Socialists and Democrats there cannot be a compromise on democracy. This is why we are against closing the article 7 procedure for as long as Poland continues not to comply with European values and the rule of law. Democracy, media freedom and independence of the judiciary must be respected in practice. This is not against Poland or Polish citizens. But we do criticise the current Polish government. We want to make sure that the rights of all Polish citizens to live in a free, open and democratic society are protected. That’s why the EU must not back down now to Kaczyński. Instead, the European Commission and the European Council must intensify pressure on the Polish authorities to introduce more substantial changes to guarantee the independence of judiciary before the controversial law on the Supreme Court takes effect on July 3.”



SIPPEL,
Birgit

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- *Wed 13* The EMU Package

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“The European Summit in June must deliver concrete steps towards deepening the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and completing the Banking Union. The Socialists and Democrats are calling for an ambitious reform. The EMU package should increase the economic convergence and stabilisation between members of the Eurozone; the Banking Union should be completed with a true fiscal backstop and a European Deposit Insurance Scheme. Lessons from the 2008 financial crisis must be drawn. The Eurozone needs a specific budget to help its members cope with macroeconomic shocks. We believe that, in the long-term, the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) should be further developed and turned into a European Stabilisation Fund (ESF) with adequate lending and borrowing capacities and a clearly defined mandate. Moreover, any further step towards a deepening of the EMU will have to go hand-in-hand with stronger democratic controls. To this end, the role of the European Parliament and national parliaments will have to be strengthened.”



GUALTIERI
Roberto

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► **Mon 11** Monitoring and reporting of CO₂ emissions

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“The European register for the CO₂ emissions and fuel consumption of heavy duty vehicles is coming. With it, we will have more transparency on emissions and the consumption of fuel by lorries, buses and coaches. In particular, for small and medium transport enterprises in Europe, more than 500,000 of them, that could save thousands of euros from fuel consumption, and for our cities’ majors, when they will have to buy cleaner buses for their cities. Now it’s possible to fix CO₂ standards for heavy duty vehicles.”



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► **Wed 13** Composition of the European Parliament

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“The final approval of the new composition of the European Parliament is a happy end to a very challenging process. We have reasons to be satisfied with the final outcome : a fairer allocation of the seats, finally complying with the Lisbon Treaty and the Principle of Digressive Proportionality; no-loss of seats for any member state and a reduction in the size of the Parliament that leaves a number of seats available to accommodate potential future enlargement.”



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► **Tues 12** Georgian occupied territories ten years after the Russian invasion

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“On Tuesday, the European Parliament will debate the status of the Georgian occupied territories, ten years after the Russian invasion. This way we want to demonstrate our solidarity with the people of occupied Georgia and show that the EU has not forgotten what took place in 2008. The S&D Group firmly supports the principle of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders. We will reiterate that sovereignty; independence and the peaceful settlement of disputes are key principles of the European security order and must be respected.”



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The Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (the S&D Group) is the second largest political group in the European Parliament with 189 members from all 28 EU member states.

About the S&D Group

We stand for an inclusive European society based on principles of solidarity, equality, diversity, freedom and fairness. We promote social justice, jobs and growth, consumer rights, sustainable development, financial market reforms and human rights to create a stronger and more democratic Europe and a better future for all citizens.

