



Plenary Update

Socialists & Democrats Group
in the European Parliament
Strasbourg Plenary Session | March 2018

PRESS
CONFERENCE
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Our Priorities

► **New Group Leader and farewell message**

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Following my election to the Italian Senate last week, I have resigned from the role of President of the Socialists and Democrats Group, opening up the process to elect a new leader. MEPs have until Monday 12 March to announce their candidacy, with the vote for the new leader taking place on 20 March.

Overall, the outcome of the Italian election was a very worrying setback, not only for the future stability of Italy but for the future of the whole of Europe. I am sure that the new Group President will stand for a more social, just and effective Europe. This is our political and moral duty. The more we hesitate, the more extremisms will spread in Europe, putting in danger the existence of our European Union.



PITTELLA
Gianni

► *Wed 14* **Future of Europe - Debate with PM of Portugal António Costa**

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We are delighted to welcome Portuguese Prime Minister António Costa. Portugal's socialist-led government has proved that there is an alternative to blind austerity. The Portuguese government is relaunching the economy while fighting inequalities. We should use the Portuguese experience to reshape the EU and put an end to austerity. In face of xenophobic and populist movements, Social Democrats and Socialists have to show that we are the ones who have the conditions to protect people and prepare them for the future. This is now at stake in many fronts with key decisions to be taken until the end of the legislature: social dimension, reform of the Eurozone, trade, climate, migration and security. Another Europe is possible.



RODRIGUES
MARIA JOÃO

► *Tues, 13* **Mul** -Annual Financial Framework

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Europe is facing huge challenges - millions of young people still can't find work; the effects of climate change are ever more present; and the refugee crisis is far from over. If we want to address all these issues, then we need an EU budget that is both well-funded and flexible. We need to see the amount of money in the EU budget rise. We want to see the amount spent on the EU budget increase from 1% of EU Gross National Income (GNI) to 1.3%. This will give us the billions of Euros necessary to provide what our citizens want - money for Erasmus, the Child Guarantee, and money to face the refugee challenge.



THOMAS
Isabelle

► *Tues, 13* **Own resources**

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The S&D Group will not vote in favour of a new long term EU budget that does not radically overhaul how it is financed. We need to scrap the current rebates and replace them with a fair and transparent system for all member states. We also need to find new ways of funding the EU budget, to ease pressure on member state's finances and ensure the EU budget is funded in a sustainable way. At least 40% of the EU budget should come from own resources rather than through national budgets. These should come from ideas such as a tax on multinational companies, a financial transaction tax and new forms of green taxation.



VIOTTI
Daniele

- *Wed, 14* Protection of journalists at EU level, the case of the murder of journalist Ján Kuciak and his partner Martina Kušnírová

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MORAES
Claude

The whole Parliament was shocked to hear of the horrific murder of investigative journalist Ján Kuciak and his partner Martina Kušnírová. The EU must do everything it can to support the ongoing investigation. Investigative journalists play an essential role in shining a light on shady dealings and we must ensure they can do so in safety and without fear of repercussions. This week I was part of a Parliament fact finding mission to meet with NGOs, journalists and government officials in Bratislava and in Strasbourg we will hold a debate on what more can be done to protect journalists wherever they are in Europe.

- *Wed, 14* Tax Justice

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BAYET
Hugues

Next week Parliament will vote on proposals approved for a common tax base and a common consolidated tax base are setting new standards for corporate taxation to resolve the issue of tax shifting, worth €200 billion in tax losses for the EU member states. This is an important step forward in our fight against tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning. It is crucial to establish a common corporate tax system that is fair in Europe. Member states should not engage in a negative tax race to the bottom. Nor should big multinationals be able to do their tax shopping across Europe.



TANG Paul

- *Wed, 14* US trade tariffs

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MOSCA
Alessia

The EU has to be clear: the United States need to play by the rules. Duties on steel and aluminium are not only triggering a trade war: they will cost Trump's America a lot of jobs. Today, more than ever, we stand together to defend the role of the WTO: global issues require global solutions. We should now focus on providing safeguard measures to our workers and businesses to protect them from the threat of lower exports and increased imports as a result of trade diversion.

Reckless protectionism and nationalism will only isolate and hurt the US. The EU will respond swiftly and adequately and make clear that it does not pay to blindly lash out at one's allies.



LANGE
Bernd

- *Mon, 12* Appointment of Martin Selmayr

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**AYALA
SENDER Inés**

The Group was as surprised as everyone else to learn of the appointment of Martin Selmayr as Secretary-General of the European Commission. There are clear concerns about the transparency and speed of the process.

We have very important challenges ahead - such as Brexit negotiations, the EU budget after 2020, and social pillar and migration policies-, and citizens deserve transparent institutions to deliver on them. To rebuild citizen's trust in the EU institutions it is essential that appointments to all positions are made in a fair and transparent manner.

- *Tues, 13* Situation in Syria

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BOȘTINARU
Victor

As the bombs of the regime forces, supported by Russia and Iran backed militias', continue to rain down on the Eastern Ghouta, the humanitarian situation is worsening. Unfortunately, neither the United Nations resolution nor a daily five-hour ceasefire ordered by Russia has reduced the violence. We have to reiterate our demand for an immediate ceasefire to prevent further escalation of this humanitarian catastrophe.

► *Tues, 13* **Brexit**

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We support a close partnership with the UK, but any agreement requires an appropriate balance of rights and obligations, and needs to meet a number fundamental principles. A third country cannot not have the same benefits as a member state, the EU must keep autonomy of decision making, the integrity of the single market and financial stability should be protected, and a level playing field between the UK and EU must be ensured.



GUALTIERI
Roberto

► *Mon, 12* **Parcel delivery**

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This report is an important element of the Commission's Digital Single Market strategy in supporting e-commerce growth as part of a modern and fair social Europe. The new rules will help ensure greater transparency of tariffs and employment practices and a better deal for consumers and small businesses ordering and sending cross-border parcels.



ANDERSON
Lucy

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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.

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.

About the S&D Group

