



## Plenary Update

December 2015 Session

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Climate change is not an abstract concept – it's a reality which is living with us now



DALLI  
Miriam

### Our Priorities

This week we're heading to Strasbourg for the last plenary session of the year with many topics to cover before 2015 is out. The big priorities for the S&D Group will be the results of the **COP21 summit** - hopefully with an ambitious agenda for a sustainable future - progress on the **European Energy Union**, on the **#TaxJustice** agenda and **the future of EMU**. We will also be marking the 20th anniversary of the **Dayton peace agreement**, which brought peace to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Greetings from our MEPs who have been involved in the COP21 after a busy week fighting for a progressive climate agenda

► *Wed, 16* **Preparation of the European Council, 17-18/12/2015**

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We need Europe to be more effective in coordinating anti-terrorism policies and we also need a common and coordinated response to the refugee crisis. Europe must strengthen its solidarity by concrete commitments. The terrorist attacks call for more commitment from Europe, more solidarity. Without solidarity, there will be no viable solution on the duration. Europe and its member states must act as soon as possible against the radicalization, because the prevention is strategic. We need a more committed Europe to strengthen cooperation among national intelligence services and to reinforce control of our external borders while safeguarding Schengen, one of the most powerful symbols of EU integration. We need a more committed Europe through an effective PNR mechanism that goes hand in hand with right to data protection. We need a more committed Europe in allowing member states the flexibility to have extra spending on counter-terrorism exempted from EU fiscal rules, as proposed by president Juncker. And what is certain is that we need a more committed Europe in the fight against Daesh, cutting their funding channels.



PITTELLA  
Gianni

► *Tue, 15* **Decision adopted on European Border and Coast Guard package**

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The Border package has the aim to introduce common high standards of border management. The package will introduce more robust rules to keep a tighter control on who enters the EU and to further prevent unauthorised entry as well as preventing people from entering outside regular border crossing points. While our Group welcomes a more joined-up approach to external border management, parliamentary oversight and a robust fundamental rights compliance system is a key complementary instrument which should go hand in hand with this new package. However, the revision of the Schengen Border Code submitting all European Union citizens to systematic checks requires a serious and careful deliberation as it does not only raise a doubt of technical feasibility but also serious questions as to the fundamental rights of our citizens.



FAJON  
Tanja

► *Wed, 16* **20th anniversary of the Dayton Peace agreement** [knut.fleckenstein@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:knut.fleckenstein@europarl.europa.eu)  
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The S&Ds commemorate the conclusion of the Dayton Agreements that marked a great victory for diplomacy over war, putting an end to a conflict that fuelled atrocities that horrified the world and claimed over 100,000 lives and displaced millions of people. The agreement paved the way for a peaceful future for Bosnia and Herzegovina. In these two decades, a lot has been achieved and the country is now making progress in its European course. However, more efforts are needed in the fields of reconciliation, human rights, and consolidation of democracy. We urge the political leadership to move forward the reform agenda in order to bring the country closer to the EU, improve the functionality of the state institutions, and improve the living conditions for all BiH citizens. The S&D Group wants to reiterate Europe's commitment to peace and prosperity for Bosnia and Herzegovina and fully supports the European perspectives of this country.



**FLECKENSTEIN**  
Knut

► *Tue, 15* **Labour mobility** [jutta.steinruck@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:jutta.steinruck@europarl.europa.eu)  
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The right to free movement of citizens and workers is a core European value and a fundamental right of European citizens. It is also a pillar of the success of the European Union's single market. However, the lack of ambition and dedication on the part of the European Commission and some member states to defend the European social model is resulting in the spreading of social dumping, unfair competition and market distortions. We, the Social Democrats strongly deplore the European Commission's decision to postpone the adoption of the Labour Mobility Package which was meant to strengthen social rights in Europe. Among the proposals was the revision of the directive on the posting of workers in Europe. This comes not only at the expense of workers, irrespective of whether they are mobile, migrant or domestic workers, who are deprived of basic social and labour rights. It is also at the expense of companies, which abide by the rules. It is not acceptable that scrupulous companies increase their profit margins by exploiting workers as cheap labour and depriving them of their labour and social rights. We are firmly committed to fight social dumping, discrimination and the exploitation of workers, especially those who are posted. Therefore we must ensure that the principle of 'equal pay for equal work' expands across national borders.



**STEINRUCK**  
Jutta

► *Wed, 16* **The situation in Hungary** [peter.niedermueller@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:peter.niedermueller@europarl.europa.eu)  
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The S&D Group has repeatedly expressed its concerns regarding the constitutional, legal and political developments in Hungary for years. These developments clearly undermined the principles of the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights in the country over the past years. The reluctance of the European Union to react to such threats and breaches of its own founding values contributed to the occurrence of similar developments in other European countries and cracks those very same foundations themselves. The European Commission, as Guardian of the Treaties, declared time after time its readiness to use all the means at its disposal to ensure that the Hungarian government fulfils its obligation under the Treaties and the EU law. Last week, however, the Commission fell short of its promise and did not acknowledge the systematic nature of these threats and breaches in Hungary. Our political and moral imperative is to make clear that such non-compliance and disrespect of the fundamental values of the European Union is unacceptable and we will do what is necessary to protect and fight for them.



**NIEDERMÜLLER**  
Péter

► *Tue, 15* **Preparing for the World Humanitarian Summit: Challenges and opportunities for humanitarian assistance** [enrique.guerrerosalom@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:enrique.guerrerosalom@europarl.europa.eu)  
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The S&D Group underlines that today's huge humanitarian challenges require a more inclusive, diverse and truly global humanitarian system, to be strengthened at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) which will be held in Istanbul on the 23-24 May. The Group recognises the diversity in today's humanitarian response system and the complementary roles of all actors and calls on the EU to promote a 'Global Consensus on Humanitarian Action' that reaffirms the principles of humanitarian aid and the obligations and entitlements under international humanitarian law (IHL). The Group emphasises that all EU humanitarian actions should be guided by the humanitarian principles, including solidarity, responsibility and accountability, and should be designed to ensure that vulnerable people are protected, both physically and psychologically.



**GUERRERO SALOM**  
Enrique

► *Tue, 15* **Bringing transparency, coordination and convergence to Corporate Tax policies** [anneliese.dodds@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:anneliese.dodds@europarl.europa.eu)  
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The report on corporate tax avoidance aims to make multinational firms pay the billions and billions of pounds lost every year to tax evasion and aggressive tax avoidance. People across Europe are rightly furious that they face higher taxes or cuts to public services as a result of multinational companies with clever advisers reducing their own tax bill to almost nothing. This report sets out a clear plan for action at EU level that will stop these kinds of practices once and for all. The report also suggests mandatory, public country-by-country reporting, meaning that all companies that



**DODDS**  
Anneliese

operate across borders must publicly report on where they make their profits and where they pay their taxes. As part of efforts to bring more people forward as whistle-blowers – as happened in the lux leaks scandal – the report introduces better protection for those who report misconduct or illegal activity to the authorities or the public. By introducing laws at EU level, we can prevent companies jumping across borders to reduce their corporate tax bill to almost zero.

► *Tue, 15* **Completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union** [roberto.gualtieri@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:roberto.gualtieri@europarl.europa.eu)  
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The resolution adopted by the ECON committee on 1st of December takes stock of the recent Commission's proposals to strengthen the Economic and Monetary Union, following up on the proposals of the five Presidents report. While acknowledging that the proposals represent a first step in the right direction, the resolution asks for additional efforts to be made to successfully address the weak points of the current institutional framework of the Euro area. In fact, the package presented by the Commission does not leave enough room for parliamentary scrutiny at the European level of the implementation of the macroeconomic adjustment programme, which we deem of key importance to ensure the democratic accountability of the decisions taken as part of the EMU. Therefore, we aim to stress the need of a regular parliamentary oversight of the process, through a deeper involvement of the European Parliament in the European Semester, to ensure a higher degree of democratic accountability of the decisions taken and, as a consequence, of citizens' ownership of Euro area governance.



**GUALTIERI**  
Roberto

► *Thu, 17* **Situation in Burundi** [david.martin@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:david.martin@europarl.europa.eu)  
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This resolution, with the support of parliamentarians from across the EU and ACP countries, is needed to forcefully remind the Burundian government that it has a responsibility to ensure security within its territory and to protect and respect the human rights of all its citizens. Further violence, human rights violations and the ongoing refugee crisis could have serious consequences for the wider region. By working together the EU and ACP can be significant influences on the efforts to deescalate tensions and prevent further instability.



**MARTIN**  
David

► *Mon, 14* **Towards a European Energy Union** [flavio.zanonato@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:flavio.zanonato@europarl.europa.eu)  
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"With this initiative report, the Parliament moves at the forefront in the pursuit of the overarching objective of a European Energy Union. We want a fully integrated and secure energy system, able to address the climate challenge whilst taking into account the social dimension of the transition toward an ultimately decarbonized economy. We want competitive prices and a truly EU level playing field, with renewable energy sources and energy efficiency at its core."



**ZANONATO**  
Flavio

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## About the S&D Group

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 191 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.

