



## Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists &amp; Democrats in the European Parliament

**PRESS CONFERENCE with Hannes Swoboda**  
**Tuesday 4 February at 10.10 LOW N-1/201**

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**Claude Moraes**

**Conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of seasonal employment / Rapporteur**

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**Wednesday 5 February 2014**

The proposed directive forms part of a package of measures on legal migration (alongside rules on intra-corporate transferees and students, researchers and au-pairs, yet to be agreed). The S&D Group welcomes the fact that our negotiator, Claude Moraes, has been able to reach agreement on the first legal migration instrument directed at low-skilled/low-paid employment and that this will be the first part of the legal migration package to be adopted. The first-reading agreement is, as always, a compromise text but it includes many significant gains for the European Parliament in general and for the S&D Group in particular.



**David Martin**

**Authorising member states to ratify, in the interests of the European Union, the Arms Trade Treaty / Rapporteur**

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**Wednesday 5 February 2014**

The Arms Trade Treaty has taken 10 years to negotiate and is a significant step forward in regulating the global arms trade. The trade in arms often has a devastating impact on human rights, security and peace, and can contribute to chronic poverty. This new treaty will begin to shed some light on the arms trade and bring transparency to the industry. Governments must assess arms transfers and block them if they suspect the weapons will be used in genocide. The EU is already a world leader in reforming the arms trade and we must now implement this treaty fully and encourage other key countries in the arms trade to ratify the agreement as quickly as possible. While the EU cannot sign the UN agreement, it must authorise EU member states to take action in the exclusive field of trade policy.



**Marita Ulvskog**

**A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies / Shadows**

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**Tuesday 4 February 2014**

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This report sets out the European Parliament's vision for a new 2030 climate and energy framework. The S&D Group's two negotiators worked together with the EPP (European People's Party) lead negotiator, Anne Delvaux, and the ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe) and Green negotiators to propose joint compromise amendments calling for three binding targets (greenhouse-gas emissions, renewables and energy efficiency). The S&D Group calls on member states to adopt an ambitious package with three binding targets at the forthcoming March summit.



**Britta Thomsen**

**Situation in Egypt and Syria - Statement by the VPC/HR**

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**Wednesday 5 February 2014**

**Situation in Egypt:**

The Egyptians recently adopted a new constitution with an overwhelming majority but a relatively low turnout. This constitution may be an important step forward in Egypt's troubled transition to democracy, especially regarding fundamental freedoms and human rights. However we have concerns about the privileged status of the armed forces in the new constitution, the recently adopted law on public meetings, processions and peaceful protests, and the continued arrests of political and civil society activists. Violent clashes continue and the high political tension reveals a deeply polarised society. Holding free and fair parliamentary and presidential elections will be another milestone and a major test in Egypt's democratic transition. The country should not backslide into military autocracy but should continue on its path to deep and sustainable democracy. This requires the constructive participation of all segments of Egyptian society, including supporters of former President Morsi.



**Véronique De Keyser**

**Situation in Syria:**

More than 130,000 people have been killed since March 2011 in the violent crisis in Syria, while more than 2,370,000 refugees from Syria – including more than a million children – have been registered by the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) and more than 9 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance within the country. Delivering humanitarian aid to those in need of basic goods and services in Syria and its neighbouring countries must be a priority for the EU and the international community. On the political level, keeping the Geneva II process alive is of utmost importance. Confidence-building measures such as ceasefires, prisoner exchanges or humanitarian assistance, are crucial elements of this process, in which all key international actors should be involved. Recently published evidence suggesting the torturing and deliberate killing of thousands of detainees by the regime must be seriously examined.



**Arlene  
McCarthy**

**Criminal sanctions for insider dealing and market manipulation / Rapporteur**

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**Tuesday 4 February 2014**

An agreement has now been reached on this regulation (subject to final approval by the plenary and the Council), including the following elements:

- harmonisation of minimum/maximum levels for sanctions as requested by the European Parliament – four years for insider dealing and market manipulation, and two years for improper disclosure
- the concept of serious offences, with appropriate criteria
- sanctions for legal persons – including a list of criminal and non-criminal sanctions.



**Libor  
Rouček**

**Situation in Ukraine - Libor Rouček**

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**Thursday 6 February 2014**

After almost two weeks of violence that has claimed the lives of several protesters, we are encouraged by signs of progress towards genuine dialogue and political compromise that meets aspirations of the Ukrainian people. The Ukrainian parliament's recent decision to revoke the anti-demonstration legislation passed on 16 January is a positive step towards a peaceful resolution of the crisis. But negotiations must continue, including an amnesty for detained protesters, investigation into human rights abuses committed against protesters and journalists, and work on constitutional reform. At the same time, it is vital that opposition leaders exercise prudence and responsibility, and distance themselves from violent and extremist forces. At this critical juncture in Ukrainian history, all political forces must demonstrate restraint and statesmanship. Dialogue and political consensus are the only way forward.



**Bernadette  
Vergnaud**

**Compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long delays to flights / Shadow**

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**Wednesday 5 February 2014**

The Bach report deals with compensation for passengers, including for delayed and cancelled flights. After extensive negotiations, a balance was reached between strengthened rights for passengers and applicable rules for air companies. The S&D Group's main concern was to ensure a coherent approach by providing citizens with a clear understanding of their rights and effective remedies, so that the new regulation can be properly enforced.



**Lidia Joanna  
Geringer De  
Oedenberg**

**EU regulatory fitness and subsidiarity and proportionality - better law-making / Shadow**

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**Monday 3 February 2014**

The Karim report makes some essential points on the general principles of compliance with subsidiarity, proportionality and the revision of the inter-institutional agreement on better law-making. However, we oppose the new proposals on increasing the powers of national parliaments – aiming to reinforce national prerogatives against the current treaty provisions – by establishing a stronger 'red card' procedure.

The Commission's commitment to simplify obligations on data protection, product safety and public procurement for small businesses could have a negative social impact and lead to double standards detrimental to civil liberties and workers' rights. We are deeply concerned about the overall reduction of social standards and the postponement of the legislative implementation of social partners' agreements at EU level and we will file new amendments before the upcoming plenary session.



**Michael  
Cashman**

**EU roadmap against homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity / Shadow**

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**Tuesday 4 February 2014**

The report builds on ten previous requests by the Parliament in the last three years to roll out an EU equality roadmap for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people. Similar EU equality strategies already exist in the field of Roma integration, discrimination on the basis of disability, and gender equality.

The report respects the principle of subsidiarity but calls on the European Commission to make proposals to end discrimination in employment, education, health and access to goods and services; in the field of citizenship, families and free movement; freedom of assembly and expression; hate speech and hate crime; asylum and migration; and foreign affairs.

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