



25-28 NOVEMBER 2019

PLENARY SESSION PRIORITIES

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**PRESS BRIEFING**

TUE 26 Nov 11h30

Daphne Caruana

Galizia Room

(LOW N-1/201)

**GUE/NGL PRESS BRIEFING**

Key topics: Vote on the Commission; Climate crisis / COP 25.

Journalists are welcome to question the GUE/NGL Co-presidents on issues they are covering.

**Manon Aubry** (France Insoumise, GUE/NGL Co-president)

**Martin Schirdewan** (DIE LINKE, GUE/NGL Co-president)

Interpretation: EN, FR, DE, ES, IT & PL



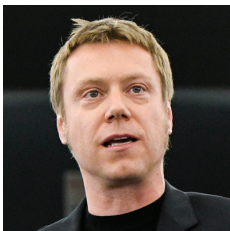
**Manon Aubry - New commission, old agenda**

**Debate and vote: Wednesday**

The European Parliament will be voting on the new Commissioners just two days before the next global climate strike and is likely to give carte blanche to von der Leyen's neoliberal agenda. European citizens demand concrete actions to tackle the two main challenges of our time : climate change and inequalities. But none of that will happen with this new Commission!

Instead, it's the same old backdoor agreements between the socialists and the conservatives, with some highly unethical candidates like the French Commissioner who will have daily conflicts of interest with his former company.

GUE/NGL will not support this Commission - one that will neither work for the planet nor the people. It does not offer the solutions we need to stop the race to the bottom in the EU on social, ecological and economic issues. Instead, our group will present an alternative plan with a real Green & Social New Deal, the fight against tax havens and social dumping, and the end of austerity.



**Martin Schirdewan – A commission for people and planet?**

**Debate and vote: Wednesday**

Beset by conflicts of interests, lack of suitable candidates, cuts to portfolios and some with inappropriate job titles, the new batch of candidates that we will be voting on looks set to make the incoming Commission somewhat chaotic.

Despite all the fanfare, no proper financial plan has been put in place for digital, social and ecological transformation. The plans for climate protection are unambitious, and the proposed military rearmament and defence against migration will take the EU in the wrong direction.

Left MEPs' commitment is to fight for the interests of European citizens, for social and climate justice, and for a peaceful EU.





## Mick Wallace - COP25, no time for mediocrity

**Debate: Monday, Vote: Thursday**

COP25 is a chance for the EU to signal its willingness to finally start taking radical action to tackle the climate crisis. We cannot be overambitious when it comes to stopping planetary destruction, so we should not settle for mediocre 2030 targets for emissions reduction. The EU needs to recognise its climate debt and act. Time is running out.



## Idoia Villanueva - Climate crisis committment

**Debate: Monday, Vote: Thursday**

Climate action must be the number one priority in all our countries, our parties and our political group. Europe must demand a commitment to a substantial increase in short-term climate action with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to almost zero and improving the CO2 absorption capacity of natural sinks within the next two decades. Society is ahead of institutions and young people are giving the world a lesson in decency. We hope that the COP 25 becomes a turning point but let's not forget: it takes much more than a summit to fight climate change. Nor can we fight against climate change and make promises to mitigate emissions while signing free trade agreements that go in the opposite direction to food sovereignty and a diversified and local economy. The battle for the climate is political and puts two worldviews at odds.



## Eugenia Rodriguez Palop - Violence Against Women, a daily horror for too many

**Debate: Monday, Vote: Thursday**

Restrictions on sexual and reproductive rights are also violence against women. Not enough progress has been made to tackle this problem. The EU must take tough action against worrying developments in some member states and attempts by the far right to curb the achievements of women and to roll back on sexual and reproductive rights.



**GUE/NGL**

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