STRASBOURG FOCUS

13-16 JANUARY 2020

PLENARY SESSION PRIORITIES

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PRESS BRIEFING
European Parliament
Press Centre
Conference Room

11:30 CET

GUE/NGL PRESS BRIEFING

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

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

Manon Aubry - European Green Deal vote

Vote: Wednesday

The European Green Deal is nothing more than a PR stunt if the Commission won't radically transform the way we consume, produce and trade. Where are the binding targets for decarbonising our economy? Or our shift to sustainable agriculture? Tackling fuel poverty, or putting an end to biodiversity loss? Most important of all, where are the massive investments needed to finance this radical change? GUE/NGL will present its priorities to the Commission in a resolution for a real Green and Social New Deal based on tax justice and public investment, and an objective of 70% emissions cut by 2030.

Martin Schirdewan – Croatia's EU Presidency & Future of Europe conference

Debate on Croatian presidency: Tuesday;
Debate and vote on Conference on Future of Europe: Wednesday

With so many urgent priorities like the MFF, the Social Pillar, the climate crisis, EU security and eastern enlargement, the only impact the Croatian presidency will likely have is on security. The terrible situation around the Croatia-Bosnia border in Bihać leaves little to the imagination as to what Croatia intends to do with the EU's external borders.

Meanwhile, the proposed Future of Europe conference is another priority for the Croatian presidency. It gives a chance for trade unions, young people and civil society to genuinely participate and cast a critical eye over the democratic deficit in our EU. For our participation, we will propose alternatives for a fair, social and environmental Europe. However, such a conference is not the time to discuss transnational lists or Spitzenkandidaten but rather, about a genuine democratic set up of the EU.

Martina Anderson - Post-Brexit citizens' rights

Debate: Tuesday, Vote: Wednesday

I welcome this resolution on citizens' rights post-Brexit. Our group has ensured that this resolution acknowledges the right of all citizens born in the north of Ireland to identify as Irish and are therefore entitled to all EU rights where they reside. In the next stage of negotiations on the future relationship, the EU must hold firm - there cannot be a fudged deal. I call on the Commission and Council to ensure that the EU rights of Irish citizens living in the north of Ireland and the integrity of the Good Friday Agreement continue to be protected and strengthened.

Malin Björk - Breach of Article 7 by Hungary and Poland

Debate: Wednesday, Vote: Thursday

The rule of law and the respect for fundamental right must be the basis for European cooperation. The Council and the European Parliament have to come together on this issue. Article 7 has been an inefficient tool in upholding the rule of law in Hungary and Poland. In fact, we see a deteriorating situation in both countries. We need better mechanisms to ensure that the rule of law is in place in all EU countries.

Cornelia Ernst - Crisis in Iran and Iraq

Debate: Tuesday

What had taken 15 years of hard work have been destroyed by Donald Trump in just a matter of moments. There will now be more insecurity arising from nuclear threats, and hardline conservative forces are once again on the rise in Iran. We therefore demand an end to America's policy of escalation and call on EU governments to continue engagement and dialogue.

Silvia Modig - Australian wildfires

Debate: Monday

The disastrous Australian wildfires are a direct result of climate change. The biodiversity loss is incalculable - not to mention the human tragedy. The Australian government has continuously opposed more urgent and stronger climate actions. It must change its policies, allocate more resources so that such catastrophes won't happen again.