



13-16 DEC 2021

PLENARY SESSION PRIORITIES

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**PRESS BRIEFING**

European Parliament,  
Daphne Caruana  
Galizia room - LOW  
N-1/201

**TUE 14 DEC**  
**11:10 CET**

**PRESS BRIEFING**

Journalists are welcome to question the Co-presidents of The Left in the European Parliament on issues they are covering. Physical & remote participation possible. See @Left\_EU on Twitter for more details.

**Manon Aubry** (France Insoumise, France) and **Martin Schirdewan** (Die Linke, Germany) and **Sira Rego** (Izquierda Unida, Spain), candidate for president of the European Parliament.



**Manon Aubry – December EU Summit**

**Debate: Wednesday**

Europe is now facing the fifth wave of Covid-19 and the omicron variant might bring the next one. Vaccines are key to ending the pandemic globally and the only way to break the infernal circle of new variants is to produce enough doses for the whole world. The Commission is directly responsible for this global shortage of vaccines: the EU needs to stop blocking the TRIPs waiver at the WTO. We have a clear choice to make: protect Big Pharma profits or save lives.



**Martin Schirdewan - Digital Markets Act**

**Debate: Tuesday vote: Wednesday**

The monopolized structures in the digital market are no longer acceptable. In order to end the lock-in effects of Facebook, WhatsApp etc. I pushed the interoperability of messenger services and social media in the DMA negotiations. The protection of internet users is important to me, which is why there will be a ban on unfair confusion tactics, also called dark patterns, in the future. No more annoying pop-up windows that tempt you to agree. To have strong tools against the attention-seeking business model, I will continue fighting for a ban on targeted ads, as well as high transparency obligations for recommender systems in the DSA. Stop flushing rubbish, hatred and violence into our timelines to make users stay longer on platforms so that their data can be extracted.



**Sira Rego : Our candidate for European Parliament president**

**Debate and Vote: January session**

We have two great challenges: the rise of the extreme right & its war on human rights, and the eco-social crisis. The answer to these challenges is feminism, environmentalism, public services, the welfare state, and quality employment. To achieve this, we need changed European institutions and a different kind of governance in Europe. Every day we see how migration policy, anti-women policy, anti-LGBTI policy, and the demolition of the welfare state are a reality in Europe. We need a collective response. A response that offers a future, gives hope, and mobilises people.





## **Sandra Pereira: Equality between women and men in the EU**

**Debate: Monday vote: Wednesday**

We need policy change to strengthen and enforce women's rights. To tackle inequalities, we need to increase wages, defend and promote high-quality universal public services, such as free access to health and education, but also accessibility to housing and justice. Combatting all forms of violence against women has to be a priority. This is the only way to achieve equality between women and men.



## **Cornelia Ernst: The Belarus border**

**Debate: Wednesday**

Instead of starting infringement procedures against member states that openly violate fundamental rights, the Commission is proposing derogations from the EU asylum acquis for these member states. Basing the proposal on an "emergency instrument", bypassing Parliament, is playing into the anti-migration agendas of some EU governments. This is dangerous and another step towards the erosion of the individual right to asylum in Europe.



## **Maria Eugenia Palop : #MeToo, harassment & the consequences for EU institutions**

**Debate: Thursday Vote: Thursday**

For a long time, women who reached positions of power were made to feel that we had to ask for permission or forgiveness. The 'silent consensus' that existed in the face of harassment was a way of "protecting the prestige of institutions", we were told. Are we women supposed to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of the institutions, first to protect the family, the church and misogyny of the state, and then the institutions in which we work, complicit in or covering up the workplace and sexual harassment we suffer? Women have said "enough is enough". #MeToo expresses our weariness and our dignity. A collective and sisterly "enough is enough".



## **Anja Hazekamp: Banning the use of wild animals in circuses**

**Debate: Thursday**

The welfare of animals in circuses is regularly and seriously violated. Animals are living beings, not things, toys, accessories or products. Entertaining people is absolutely no justification to lock animals up and to impose unnatural behaviour on them. More than 1 million people have signed a petition calling on the EU to stop circus suffering. on the Commission to introduce an EU-wide ban and to free - and rehome - the last wild animals from circuses.



## **João Pimenta Lopes: European Year of Rail**

**Press Conference: Tuesday 09h30 Daphne Caruana Galizia room - LOW N-1/201**

MEP Joao Pimenta Lopes is travelling to Strasbourg from Lisbon by train to highlight the state of Europe's railways as we come to the end of the European Year of Rail. He will need to take 5 different trains over 3 days and 57 hours and he's holding a press conference on Tuesday morning at 9.30 to talk about how this mode of transport can be meaningfully improved for all.