



12 - 15 DEC 2022

PLENARY SESSION PRIORITIES

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PRESS BRIEFING

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

TUE 13 Dec
11:20 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)



Manon Aubry - EU leaders' Summit

Debate: Wednesday

The multiple crises the EU is going through have shown that European austerity rules systematically prevent us from responding to emergencies. After the pandemic, the energy and cost of living crises, the Commission is forced to admit that public investment and national aid are indispensable. If that was not enough, the US Inflation Reduction Act has once again demonstrated what we have always said: free trade is anything but sustainable, no one respects undistorted competition, and a change of model is imperative. It is essential to protect the European economy with public investment, ambitious recovery plans, and re-establishing industrial sovereignty. The US is not shying away from this and if the EU does not want to be caught out, it must stop stubbornly following its free trade logic and act to defend its interests.



Martin Schirdewan - EU leaders' Summit

Debate: Wednesday

Not only is Christmas just around the corner, but also winter is upon us in Ukraine, in the EU, and at its external borders. Europe still has a lot of homework to do to prevent a winter of chaos. We urgently need an end to the war in Ukraine to save lives and stop the senseless destruction of the country. Human rights must be reintroduced immediately at the EU's external borders. We need contingency plans to deal with impending power cuts and a ban on evictions and cut offs so that everyone can be sure that where they live today they can spend Christmas with a roof over their heads and the heating on with their friends and relatives.



Anne-Sophie Pelletier - Equal rights for persons with disabilities

Debate: Monday, Vote: Tuesday

For far too long, the difficulties faced by people with disabilities have been ignored in the European Union. They are citizens whose rights are violated on a daily basis. It is high time for this to change, and I am delighted that the debate on my report "Towards equality for people with disabilities" can move our society towards real equality for all.



Manu Pineda - A two-State solution for Israel and Palestine

Debate: Tuesday, Vote: Wednesday

For us, the goal is the liberation of the Palestinian people. To achieve that there are two unavoidable conditions that must be met: respect for the inalienable right to self-determination and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, as mandated by UN resolution 194/48. That's why we urge EU member states to recognise the State of Palestine. Any negotiations without recognition and normalised diplomatic relations with Palestine will end in nothing. Also, we can't ignore the suffering of Palestinian refugees and prisoners. We demand a just solution for all of them. The EU must take more action and talk less.



Maria Eugenia Rodriguez Palop - A long-term vision for the EU's rural areas

Debate: Monday, Vote: Tuesday

We demand a lot from rural areas, much more than what we give in return. They sow, cultivate strong community ties, and care for our roots. We owe them an outstanding debt: the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe. Thank you for prevailing, being there and resisting. Without rural areas we have nothing.



Nikolaj Villumsen - Turkish airstrikes on Syria & Kurdistan

Debate: Tuesday

Erdoğan 's attacks in Iraqi Kurdistan and Northern and Eastern Syria not only violate international law, they also seriously undermine international efforts to combat Daesh terrorism. The Turkish attacks are both a humanitarian disaster and harmful to the wider region. It is high time the EU puts a stop to it.



Özlem Demirel - Turkish airstrikes on Syria & Kurdistan

Debate: Tuesday

It is unacceptable how the two autocratic regimes of Turkey and Iran are again attacking Kurds. These regimes like to work with sweeping accusations such as separatism and terrorism to try to build a nationalist political mood that distracts from real problems. Erdoğan used the Taksim Square bombing as a pretext to launch air strikes. It has long been known that the "Syrian Democratic Forces" group had nothing to do with the disgusting attack. Clearly Russia and the USA, which control airspace in the region, must have given the green light for the strikes. The destruction of infrastructure in Rojava and the killing of innocent people must end immediately. The EU is not doing anything serious to end the bombardments and eliminate the danger of a ground offensive.



Miguel Urbán Crespo - Award of the Sakharov Prize

Wednesday

Today we celebrate that the Colombian Truth Commission is one of the finalists for the Sakharov Prize 2022. For its work in promoting truth and building memory about the atrocities suffered by millions of people during the armed conflict. This is also a recognition of the victims and a clear commitment to build peace and social justice in Colombia.