



05 - 08 FEB 2024

PLENARY SESSION PRIORITIES

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PRESS BRIEFING

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

TUE 06 FEB
11:30 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.

with **Manon Aubry** (France Insoumise, France) & **Martin Schirdewan** (Die Linke, Germany)



Manon Aubry – Farmer demonstrations

Debate: Wednesday

Farmers' mobilisations all throughout Europe are making plain the need to get away from the current broken agricultural model. The EU Common Agricultural Policy must be overhauled in order to guarantee a fair price for farmers and it's time we put an end to free trade agreements that incentivise imports of food products from the other side of the world while we already produce them here.



Martin Schirdewan – Reaction on the special European Council

Debate: Tuesday

Heads of government have finally reached an agreement in the budget dispute after Hungarian autocrat Orbán blackmailed the EU. €50 billion should go to Ukraine. If the EU really wanted to help the people of Ukraine, it would provide debt relief and ensure its full diplomatic commitment to peace.



José Gusmão Quality traineeships in the EU

Debate: Tuesday

The EU needs to take action to make traineeships empowering, not exploitative. We need rules that ensure quality traineeships provide a truly formative experience accessible to all, instead of exclusive opportunities available only to the lucky few, which furthermore often replace entry-level jobs. To achieve this, the only guarantee is a Directive that bans unpaid traineeships once and for all.



Nikolaj Villumsen - Limit values for lead and its inorganic compounds and diisocyanates

Debate: Tuesday

Today we deliver new rules that will better protect the health and safety for millions of workers. Lead and diisocyanates are crucial substances for industries driving the green transition, but they are harmful to workers' health. With these new binding limit values, we are an important step closer to zero work-related diseases.



Anja Hazekamp - New GMOs

Vote: Tuesday

The release of genetically manipulated food crops into our environment and onto our plates, without any safety assessment, is a very bad idea. The past has proven that genetically modified crops entail risks for nature and for organic agriculture. Furthermore, safety assessments are important to exclude possible health risks. The EU should maintain strict authorisation procedures both for old and new GMO's.

Another concerning aspect of the proposed law is that it will no longer be mandatory to label GMO's as such. If this law passes, consumers will no longer be able to choose GMO-free products. Anyone who values GMO-free agriculture, the precautionary principle and freedom of choice for consumers should reject this law.



Stelios Kouloglou - Rule of law and press freedom in Greece

Vote: Wednesday

Greece is a country with weak institutions that is backsliding on rule of law issues, as demonstrated by the wiretapping scandal and SLAPP lawsuits against journalists involved in revealing these matters. We expect in the coming months the outcome of the appeal of the first spyware victim, Thanasis Koukakis, whose case was recently declared admissible by the European Court of Human Rights.



Silvia Modig - Norway's recent decision to advance seabed mining in the Arctic

Vote: Wednesday

Norway's decision to advance seabed mining threatens to start a race to the bottom to mine the ocean floor. The deep sea is one of the most fragile ecosystems in the world, and seabed mining can cause serious and irreversible damage to it. We must send a clear message to the Norwegian government to reverse its decision.



Idoia Villanueva Ruiz - Two years of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

Debate: Tuesday

Two years have passed since Russia invaded Ukraine and EU hypocrisy has not made a ceasefire more likely. Europe must act firmly but seek peace. The priority should be stopping the war and loss of lives. We must promote and preserve any space for dialogue and negotiation to end the war. This is the only way we can end this catastrophe.