



26 - 29 FEB 2024

PLENARY SESSION PRIORITIES

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**PRESS BRIEFING**

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

**TUE 27 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 – EU free trade agreements: Chile & Kenya**

**Chile Debate & Vote: Thursday | Kenya Vote: Thursday**

While a massive agricultural crisis has shaken Europe in recent weeks, the EU is stubbornly pursuing free trade policies that devastate our farmers by imposing unfair competition. This week, a vote will be held on the free trade agreements with Kenya and Chile, which will result in even more products travelling from one end of the planet to the other - a real ecological scandal - and in the import of goods that do not meet our social and environmental standards. This madness must stop immediately, but the Left is the only one to oppose it. We are even going further and calling for a moratorium on these treaties!



**Manu Pineda – Gaza-ICJ/UNRWA**

**Debate: Tuesday**

Since the ICJ adopted interim measures against Israel for the genocide in Gaza, more than 3,500 Palestinians have been killed. Last plenary, we called for an urgent debate in the European Parliament, because the EU must put pressure on Israel to end the genocide. Unfortunately, the far-right, with the shameful support of S&D, shot down our initiative. Now, three weeks later, and with several thousand more people dead, we will finally discuss the situation in Gaza. But again, the far-right is trying to divert attention and add the situation of UNRWA, which Israel is trying to criminalise without any evidence, to the debate.



**Leila Chaibi - Platform workers directive: End the deadlock!**

**Debate: Monday**

Like last December, the Council again blocked the Directive on platform workers' rights. It is unacceptable that only four countries, led by France and followed by Germany, Greece and Estonia, are depriving millions of workers of their rights. The Council has to accept its responsibility and to approve the last agreement. The European Union should not let Uber make the law!



## Helmut Scholz - *EU free trade agreements: Chile*

**Debate & Vote: Thursday**

Next week, MEPs will be rushing to approve a modernised Free Trade Agreement with Chile. The Andean country is rich in numerous minerals including lithium, a key resource for the green transition. The new deal aims at securing the EU's lithium supply, through metal mined mostly on indigenous. A further expansion of lithium mining will aggravate Chile's severe water crisis, while the Chilean government will face new obstacles when developing its own refining industry.



## Elena Kontoura - *Driving licences*

**Debate: Tuesday | Vote: Wednesday**

I consider this revision of utmost importance as it shapes the legal framework for European drivers, greatly impacting road safety. The final text, depending on the votes, could enhance or worsen safety standards. Setting appropriate age limits for drivers, especially for buses and trucks, is crucial. It's disappointing to see lower age limits proposed, compromising safety.



## Cornelia Ernst - *Frontex Senegal report*

**Vote: Wednesday**

The potential Status Agreement with Senegal would, for the first time in its history, give Frontex a mandate to perform an executive mandate on the territory of a third country that is neither bordering an EU Member State, nor geographically located in Europe. My report has a critical analysis both towards Frontex being potentially deployed in Senegal, but also concerning the deteriorating human rights situation in the country. Should negotiations ever be opened, about which the report raises reservations, we make clear recommendations on scrutiny, transparency and fundamental rights protection.



## Anne-Sophie Pelletier - *The Commission's 2023 Rule of Law report*

**Debate & Vote: Wednesday**

This report condemns the alarming and lasting decline of democracy and fundamental rights in all European Union countries, and rightly so. For the first time, States that fail to meet their obligations are broadly mentioned in this report, which recalls the importance of protecting our civil liberties, the independence of judicial systems and freedom of the press.