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Introduction

Since the beginning of the European Parliament's 7th term of office in June 2009 and in the context of the continuing economic, social and ecological crisis that is hitting ordinary people first and foremost, the Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL) reiterated its calls for a different policy for Europe, one that will guarantee a fairer European Union based on greater solidarity and, more generally, a fairer and better world.

The current economic and financial crisis has been ongoing since 2007 and repeated meetings of EU heads of state and government have failed to tackle the root causes of this crisis. Neither have leaders listened to the voices calling for the necessary changes to macro-economic policies or for greater regulation of the financial sector, largely responsible for the current situation. Their response has been the imposition of more and more stringent austerity measures that are wreaking havoc with the lives and jobs of increasing numbers of Europeans.

The economic crisis has, in turn, led to a crisis in democracy with the ousting of democratically-elected heads of government, in Greece and Italy for example and their replacement with unelected technocrats whose task it is to implement the measures being dictated by the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank. The Group has called for different options for Europe which would guarantee social well-being, employment and democracy.

In this respect, the GUE/NGL has called repeatedly during this half-term period for a halt to the privatisation and deregulation of public services and greater respect for workers' rights. It has continued to work against policies that increase precariousness or attempt to place workers from different member states in competition with each other in terms of pay and working conditions.

During the past two and a half years, the group has worked actively in the field of foreign policy. It has opposed the EU's foreign and security policy and the structures established by the Lisbon Treaty, in particular the EU's External Action Service, and has strongly criticised the lack of democratic control and parliamentary influence over this as well as its emphasis on greater militarisation of the EU, which we radically oppose.

Another Europe is possible. For this, radical changes in current policies are needed. The GUE/NGL group has worked and will continue to work to ensure that the policies adopted on behalf of the EU are not done so at the expense of its citizens and in order that they can look to Europe with hope and confidence in the future.

This activity report gives a factual account of the actions and reactions of our Group and its MEPs to the many and diverse political, social and economic events and challenges that have been thrown up in the course of the first 30 months of the 2009-2014 term of office. We hope you will find it both useful and informative.

THE GUE/NGL GROUP 2009-2011

With 35 MEPs elected, the European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL) maintained the weight it enjoyed in the European Parliament during the previous term of office, considering the reduction in the number of seats in the new assembly. The 2009 European elections were marked by a massive rate of abstention and the election of a majority of largely conservative forces to the European Parliament.

The GUE/NGL saw the number of its members increasing in some EU member states: Germany (8 MEPs), France (5 MEPs) and Portugal (5 MEPs). However, it suffered from the split in the Italian left, which completely lost its representation in the group as did the Finnish left party. For most other countries a status quo was maintained and the group welcomed one newcomer country, Latvia.

The Economic & Financial Crisis

The view of the Left is that the solution to the ongoing economic and financial crisis is not to continue with the same policies that have created them, but a policy that puts the needs of people first, and not those of the market.

NEW EUROPEAN COMMISSION

One of the first tasks for MEPs after the June 2009 election was to vote on the re-appointment of José Manuel Barroso, the sole candidate for his own succession as President of the European Commission and for the new college of European Commissioners. The group voted against both, and was particularly critical of the neoliberal orientations of the former Commission, which had demonstrated its incapacity to face the serious economic, social and financial crisis.



“The Left in Europe demands a re-orientation of EU policies towards a social, peaceful and democratic Union. Mr Barroso has not given any satisfactory answers to our questions and he represents a continuation of the policies that led to the current crisis.”

LOTHAR BISKY

SUMMIT FEVER

A record number of formal and informal summit meetings of EU heads of state or government took place in the period from June 2009-December 2011 (22 against a total of 17 for the entire 2005-2009 period), the majority of which were devoted in one way or another to the economic and financial crisis, particularly the situations in Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain. Before and after these summits, the GUE/NGL group and its members voiced their demands for adequate responses to the needs of people, the increasing numbers of unemployed and increasing poverty.

“With the recent Council decision, the IMF has become policeman of the Eurozone and social groups, illegally, and in contravention of all EU treaties. With that decision the only thing that can happen is the strengthening of the Stability Pact to the detriment of smaller countries and the weakest economies. This is not a mechanism of solidarity, it is one of blackmail and pressure and already other countries, such as Spain and Portugal, are taking measures against working people, driving up unemployment and



poverty without providing any way out of this crisis. Social dumping has become the only instrument of competition in the EU - this is far from a Europe of solidarity and social cohesion.”

NIKOS CHOUNTIS

LISBON TREATY - IRISH REFERENDUM RESULTS

Irish citizens were called upon by their government to vote in a second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty in October 2009. The “YES” vote won by a 67% majority. The Group reacted saying that the Left in Europe had always campaigned for obligatory referenda on the “reform treaty” in all member states and regretted that only voters in Ireland were allowed to decide directly. The group was critical of the way the Treaty was sold to Irish citizens as a treaty for jobs and investment and the fact that Irish people were told that voting No would mean economic isolation, punishment in Europe and capital flight.

2020 STRATEGY

When the EU’s 2020 strategy for “smart, sustainable and inclusive growth” came under scrutiny, it was given a cool reception by the GUE/NGL group as a whole, which criticised the Commission for sidelining MEPs in the negotiations on the strategy and of replacing the failed Lisbon Strategy with one that paves the way for an even greater concentration of wealth.

“The Lisbon Strategy has just been renamed Europe 2020. While over the last ten years of Lisbon objectives we have seen a slide in living standards in Europe, the Commission is not proposing adequate social measures. The Stability and Growth Pact should be replaced by a pact for the achievement of social objectives.”



KYRIACOS TRIANTAPHYLIDES



hearing



SOCIAL EUROPE Crisis & EU Governance: The Left Response

John Monks Secretary General European Trade Union Confederation ETUC-CES
Oskar Lafontaine MP, Former Finance Minister, Germany
Yannis Dragasakis Former Finance Minister, Greece
Professor Benjamin Coriat Economistes Atterrés Network, France
Professor Frédéric Boccard Economistes Atterrés Network, France
Ronald Janssen European Trade Union Confederation ETUC-CES
Fernando Marques CGTP, Portugal
Professor Henry Sterdyniak Economistes Atterrés Network, France
Professor John Grahl Middlesex University, EuroMemo Group, UK
Gunter Quaisser Working Group on Alternative Economic Policy, Germany
Kenneth Haar Corporate Europe Observatory
Finn Sorensen VP 3F Union CPH & Network for A Better Future, Denmark
Andrea Montagni CGIL, Italy

Thursday 31 March 2011
09.30-13.00 & 15.00-18.30
EP room ASP 1G2



CRISIS COMMITTEE

The special committee on the economic and financial crisis (CRIS) had a two-year mandate and focused essentially on analyzing the causes and consequences of the crisis, the costs of inaction, and possible ways to overcome the crisis and to prevent a repeat. The GUE/NGL group voted against the Committee's final report calling it a missed opportunity to make a serious and comprehensive analysis of the causes of the crisis.

"This report was written in the context of neoliberal mismanagement of a crisis that the leaders of the EU and national governments produced. It fails to assess the outcome: permanent austerity, rising unemployment, privatization, cuts in wages, insurance and social rights. Most of the report's proposals will not reverse the anti-social and growth-stunting policies that are currently being implemented. Moreover, the Committee did not raise the issue of the legitimacy of those policies or the issue of democracy. Decisions that worsen living standards and undermine the lives of future generations are being taken without the consent of citizens."

NIKOS CHOUNTIS

TREATY CHANGE

A European Council proposal to establish a permanent stability mechanism for Euro zone countries and to change the Lisbon Treaty using an accelerated procedure to enable this mechanism to be put in place gave rise to strong criticism by GUE/NGL. The group considered that any future crisis mechanism should follow the Community method, not create parallel structures, and democratic and parliamentary control should be guaranteed at all stages.

"It is a mechanism to make working class people throughout Europe pay for the crisis of a broken financial system and a crisis-ridden European capitalism. It is a vicious weapon dictated by the markets masquerading as something benign. We on the Left in Ireland will insist that it goes to a referendum before it is passed."

JOE HIGGINS



ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

The GUE/NGL repeatedly outlined its alternative proposals to a package of Commission legislative proposals, the so-called six-pack, aiming to strengthen the Stability and Growth Pact, to keep Euro zone countries' budgets and fiscal policies in check and to prevent the deepening of the financial crisis. GUE/NGL proposals include: a Pact for human and environmental development, employment, social progress and against poverty, accompanied by an investment plan for social and industrial policies requiring that pensions, industrial relations, public services, especially social services and health care, are excluded from any budgetary austerity plans.

As the six-pack progressed through Parliament, it met with strong resistance from the GUE/NGL. With this package the EU is forcing citizens to pay the costs of the economic crisis after having raised billions of Euros to save the banking system that caused it.

"With the reinforced Stability Pact, the Commission will be empowered to sanction member states that are not meeting EU targets on deficits and debt. Furthermore, countries that are not able to compete with the wealthiest economies in the EU will be forced to follow reform plans drawn up by the Commission. In Greece, we can see where this road leads - deeper recession, social unrest and zero revival of the infamous market trust."



JURGEN KLÜTE



FINANCIAL TRANSACTION TAX

A tax on financial transactions has been considered by the GUE/NGL group as an urgent and necessary tool to oblige the financial sector to contribute to public treasuries in Europe and throughout the world. For many years, it has supported the idea of a Tobin tax on financial transactions. Since the current financial crisis began, it has called time and time again on the Commission to come up with legislation.

“The causes of the financial crisis are manifold but the lack of control or monitoring of financial markets was its main motor. As a first step, an international transaction tax must be implemented quickly. Next, the most dangerous financial products must be simply prohibited. The EU must show an example globally - and if EU banks evade regulation in other parts of the world, they should face a ‘no-bailout’ threat in times of crisis. Ultimately, their work must be carried out under state supervision or they should be nationalised.”

LOTHAR BISKY

EUROPEAN DAY OF ACTION AGAINST AUSTERITY AND SOCIAL REGRESSION

The GUE/NGL supported trade union demonstrations against economic governance proposals to be adopted by the European Summit on 24-25 March 2011 in Brussels. Trade unions mobilised in Brussels, London, Spain, France and Germany between 22 and 26 March, in addition to a Euro-demonstration in Budapest on 9 April.

FINANCIAL SUPERVISION

The group called for effective, independent and democratically-controlled supervision of big financial institutions as an essential component of the market regulation that is needed to prevent future crises. It expressed its disappointment that finance ministers were reluctant to come up with real European solutions - not only as regards supervision, but also the proposal for a financial transaction tax.

“Elevated public debt is largely a consequence of the nationalization of private debt - namely, the taking on of financial institutions’ debt by governments - while public spending cuts have mainly hit workers, pensioners and the poor. If you talk about cutbacks, you also have to talk about the revenue side of the budget, this means bringing those who are responsible for the crisis into the tax net.”

JÜRGEN KLUTE

CREDIT RATING AGENCIES

These agencies are considered by the group to be one of the root causes of the financial crisis. Their actions of degrading member states’ ratings have fuelled a “mafia of speculators”. The group repeatedly called for the work of the agencies to be undertaken by a public and democratically controlled institution.

“Since the onset of the crisis, the EU recognized the negative role played by rating agencies so one would expect the Commission to restrict the role of CRAs in some way. Instead we see continued deference to those who have destroyed economies and jobs at the expense of workers and citizens of EU countries. This is economically and politically outrageous.”



NIKOS CHOUNTIS

REGULATION OF FINANCIAL PRODUCTS

Two votes aiming to regulate a series of financial products and transactions were considered by the group as a positive first step but it stressed that further and tighter legislation was needed.

• DERIVATIVES

The first vote sought a clearing obligation for certain over-the-counter derivatives through authorization and supervision of central counterparties by the new European Securities and Markets Authority, and mandatory reporting by derivative traders on their contracts.

“We had sought the total removal of derivatives from the market, especially given their role in this crisis but this is an important first step. While it’s unfortunate that Parliament did not take the opportunity to subject the financial markets to far-reaching regulation, a strong message for regulation has been sent to Council.”

JÜRGEN KLUTE



• SHORT SELLING & CREDIT DEFAULT SWAPS

The second was on draft EU legislation aimed at regulating short selling and credit default swaps (CDS), including CDS on sovereign debt.

“Speculation was a major factor in triggering the crisis and CDS and short selling is an essential factor in the worsening of the crisis. I support the proposal to ban naked short selling and in particular to regulate CDS on government bonds. However, I fear that the interests of the financial sector rather than the interests of the majority of people in Europe will receive the attention in upcoming talks with member states on the dossier.”

THOMAS HÄNDEL



MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

The group was strongly critical of a report for the Temporary Policy Challenges Committee (SURE) which outlined the committee's long-term budget recommendations (2014-2020).

“We, on the left, who have particularly high ambitions for the social orientation of EU policies, are disappointed that in your report social policy is not a major priority for the coming years. I am convinced that the preservation of the European social model and the principle of European solidarity are extremely important in times of crisis and belt-tightening. Both are significant European achievements and to give them up would signal the end of European integration.”

LOTHAR BISKY

“INDIGNADOS” IN BRUSSELS



The “indignados” movement began on May 15th 2011 in Spain and manifested itself in a series of ongoing peaceful demonstrations and camps in that country demanding real democracy. It soon spread to become a worldwide protest against the greed of politicians and banks which has plunged the planet into financial crisis.

After an 80-day walk from Madrid to Brussels to highlight their call for radical change in politics, a group of indignados arrived in Brussels on October 11 and were invited by Willy Meyer to speak to MEPs in the Parliament.

G20 IN NICE

Marie-Christine Vergiat and Jürgen Klute went to Nice in November 2011 to join social movements in popular protest calling for alternatives to the G20. The GUE/NGL delegation took part in the opening anti-G20 protest and participated in meetings to build convergence to counteract the policies of the G20.

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

The new President of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi, faced stern criticism of ECB policy from GUE/NGL MEPs during his first appearance before the European Parliament in December 2011.

“The ECB price stability objective had turned out to be a disaster especially during this crisis. The role of the bank needs to be changed. The independence of the ECB is also extremely questionable, the institution is clearly being manipulated by bankers and this must change - there needs to be proper parliamentary scrutiny. The ECB hid behind the alibi of keeping inflation down, and did not address three major factors: it did not stop the explosion of spreads; it did not stop the actions of speculators in Credit Rating Agencies; and it kept interest rates even higher than those in the US and the UK.”

NIKOS CHOUNTIS

European Social Forum
European United Left
Nordic Green Left
CONFERENCE

AGAINST
Austerity & The Dismantling Of Social & Democratic Europe
RESISTANCE & ALTERNATIVES

GUE/NGL welcomes: Transform! • ATTAC Germany, France, Hungary, Flanders • CADTM France, Belgium, Switzerland, Greece, Spain, Poland • Euromarches • Solidaires France • FGTB Belgium • EuroMemo Group • Forum Sociales Europa - trade unionist network • Joint Social Conference • Trans National Institut - TNI Amsterdam • Prague Spring II Network - CEE • Greek Social Forum • Austrian Social Forum • Forum Social de Belgique • Hungarian Social Forum Network • Espaces Marx France • Socialismo21 Spain • Copernic Foundation France • Mémoire des luttes France • Patas Arriba • Nikos Poulantzas Institut Greece • Society for European Dialogue SPED Czech Republic • Initiative des femmes en mouvement contre la dette et les plans d'austérité • World March of Women • Rood Flanders • Coalition of Resistance UK • WIDE - Women In Development Europe • Realpe - European network of progressive local deputies • CGT-FSU-solidaires du Havre de grève • European Feminist Initiative • Ligue des droits de l'homme France • Fédération syndicale unitaire - FSU France • European Association for the Defence of Human Rights

Room A1G2 • European Parliament BXL • Tuesday 31 May • 9.00 - 18.30

EUROPEAN SEMESTER & FISCAL COMPACT

The European Semester, a cycle of economic and fiscal policy coordination for the EU and the Euro zone in particular, and the agreement on a separate treaty on a fiscal union, to be known as the "Fiscal Treaty" but nicknamed the "Austerity Treaty" by the Left, were among the solutions put forward to solve the crisis. The group criticised both as being anti-democratic.

"The semester is fully in line with the plans of Merkel and Sarkozy on the creation of a fiscal union of the willing on the basis of a more rigorous stability pact. The European semester means that the EU and the euro area will be engaged in the coordination of fiscal policies in line with the ultra-neoliberal stability and growth pact and the Europe 2020 strategy. It is essentially a European Directive for the adoption of austerity policies aimed at eliminating the capacity and flexibility for member states to implement alternative or counter-cyclical policies in favour of redistribution, sustainable development and the provision of decent public services."

NIKOS CHOUNTIS

Budget



- The debates and decisions on the annual EU budget are long and tortuous. In 2011, for example, after weeks of deadlock in negotiations with the Council of Ministers, the EP voted through the proposal imposed by the Council, which was well below the agreed limits of the financial framework for 2011.

"This is a Europe that today refused to tax financial transactions, to reduce the burden on already impoverished national budgets and to start a debate on new resources for the EU - a Europe that refused greater flexibility of the budget to maintain education, environmental and social programmes."

MIGUEL PORTAS

- For 2012, the Group rejected the draft budget saying that it had been decided on in 2006, long before the 2008 and 2009 financial crises and the euro zone crisis.

"More is being spent on security policy than on education, this budget is supporting big business more than SMEs, and it's channelling more money to international pharmaceutical companies than to research. My group cannot support this budget."

MIGUEL PORTAS



Employment & Social Policy

Good work, workers' rights and better work-life balance should be the driving concepts of EU employment policy. A shift in focus towards combating poverty - especially child poverty - and social exclusion and putting forward proposals to alleviate the problems faced by the disadvantaged and vulnerable is central to the group's work on social policy.

WORKERS' RIGHTS

The group's battle for a more socially-minded Europe got underway rapidly after the June 2009 elections when it condemned a massive blackmailing campaign against workers at an Osram plant in Alsace in north-east France. Employees at this plant were forced to give up 12.5% of their salaries and when they objected to this, the management reacted by dismissing 108 staff members, later offering to withdraw the dismissals provided that production was reduced in the main Osram facility in Berlin.

"It is scandalous that French and German workers are being played off against each other. In Alsace, wage-earners are now earning less than temporary workers and sub contractors in Germany in order to remain more competitive."

GABI ZIMMER

WEEK OF PROTEST & SOLIDARITY

The GUE/NGL group supported the European-wide "Week of Protest & Solidarity" in June 2010 and joined with political parties, trade unions, social movements and activists in protests across Europe to highlight opposition to attacks on wages, pensions, living standards and public services. The group said a collective response and show of solidarity in the face of these attacks was needed to counteract attempts to divide workers and to give working people the confidence to fight back against policies that are forcing them to pay for the crisis.

ROAD TRANSPORT WORKERS

- The Employment and Social Affairs Committee rejected a proposal to protect self-employed truck drivers from long hours of work.

"This decision will not only lead to long working weeks but it is also bad for the sector, the profession and for the public because it will have a very negative impact on road safety. We will keep up pressure for decent working hours for all drivers."

THOMAS HÄNDEL

- The Parliament later voted against the Bauer report on working time for road transport workers, a move that was welcomed by the GUE/NGL.

"It is good news for road transport workers that the Commission proposal has been rejected by Parliament. The exclusion of self-employed drivers from the legislation would have effectively introduced an 86-hour working week into the sector merely to facilitate the profit margins of big business. As well as the safety implications, social dumping and employment deregulation would have been encouraged through the proliferation of bogus "self-employed"

contracts."

ILDA FIGUEIREDO

POSTAL SERVICES



The GUE/NGL group supported the campaign against the liberalization of postal services by participating in a

demonstration organised by trade unions and postal workers from across Europe. The Group considers that the decision by the European Parliament to abolish postal service monopolies by 2011 runs counter to the interests of European citizens and favours the profit interests of private enterprises. It called for a comprehensive, cost-effective and high quality universal service.



EUROPEAN SOCIAL FORUM ISTANBUL

A delegation of 8 GUE/NGL MEPs attended the European Social Forum (ESF) in

Istanbul from 1-4 July 2010. The sixth European Social Forum focused on austerity measures to the crisis under the slogan "Make them pay for their crisis! Another Europe is necessary". The GUE/NGL organised two workshops. The first focused on the European year for combating poverty and the second on political action for global solidarity. The delegation also took part in a demonstration through Istanbul city centre.

EUROPEAN GLOBALISATION ADJUSTMENT FUND

• A report by Miguel Portas on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, which aims to support workers who lose their jobs as a result of changing global trade patterns, was adopted by the EP and welcomed by the GUE/NGL. When a large company or factory closes or is relocated to a country outside the EU, the fund provides up to €500 million per year to finance job-search assistance, career guidance, training and education for the redundant workers.

“As European governments are eradicating or diminishing social benefits for the weakest and poorest and using billions of taxpayers’ money to rescue financial institutions, it is time a lifeline was extended to the victims of mass redundancies.”

MIGUEL PORTAS

• The group later supported the derogation to the EGF to continue it beyond the current multiannual financial framework and to set up a separate budget line for it.



“The EGF cannot cancel out the negative effects of capitalism but it does help the victims of this crisis - the people who lose their jobs - and that’s not a minor point. This fund is important because it redistributes resources and offers a break to those with the fewest opportunities.

However this fund needs modifying and that’s why we support the changes to be voted on today.”

MIGUEL PORTAS

• When a blocking minority in Council refused to extend the derogation until end 2013, the group stressed that with the ongoing crisis, there is a much greater need to boost this fund and regretted that the countries in which workers need the fund most are those with greatest financial and social difficulties and are those in which most companies have closed and most workers have been laid off.



“I very much hope that the debate around this fund will make it possible to restructure it so that it can stop the worst practices of companies treating their staff simply as adjustment variables.”

MARIE-CHRISTINE VERGIAT

POVERTY & SOCIAL EXCLUSION

The situation of the poor, the homeless and the most disadvantaged sectors of our society was a recurrent theme during the first half of this term of office. GUE/NGL reiterated its calls for more help for the poor and less for banks and the financial world.

Seminar

THE SPIRIT LEVEL



Why equality is better for everyone

Lothar Bisky GUE/NGL President
Eva-Britt Svensson GUE/NGL MEP Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights & Gender Equality
Kartika Liotard GUE/NGL MEP
on behalf of GUE/NGL welcome
Richard Wilkinson author of *The Spirit Level*
to discuss *Why More Equal Societies Do Better*

Thursday 10 February
09.30 - 12.30

Room A1G2
European Parliament Brussels



“We need to bring an immediate end to the sell-off of public assets and of social security systems. We need minimum social and environmental standards. This winter, we must not allow people to be thrown out on the street, or

deported, or ultimately even to freeze to death, because of rising energy prices. We have a joint responsibility in this respect, in other words, the responsibility of the European Union. We must stand up for this and not for the nationalist claptrap that we have heard from those on the right.”

GABI ZIMMER

WORKERS' RIGHTS



A group of GUE/NGL MEPs marched with trade unionists and workers from all over Europe at the Euro-demonstration organised in Brussels by the European trade unions. The march was to protest against attacks on wages, welfare, pensions and public services as well as increases in social security contributions and statutory retirement ages as a means of reducing the budget deficits that are the direct result of the financial crisis.

“Ordinary people - workers, pensioners, young people, the unemployed and the poor - must not foot the bill for the crisis!”

GUE/NGL MEPs

MINIMUM INCOME

Ilda Figueiredo presented her report on an EU-wide minimum income to the Parliament and challenged the European Commission to come up with a framework directive on a minimum wage.

"Poverty and social exclusion are violations of human dignity and fundamental human rights. Minimum



income schemes based on at least 60% of median income in each country would be an effective tool to fight the consequences of social exclusion,

unemployment and poverty wages. Such schemes have an important role in the redistribution of income and play a counter-cyclical economic role by providing additional resources to enhance demand and consumption in the domestic market, thereby counteracting recession."

ILDA FIGUEIREDO

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM, DAKAR

A delegation of 9 GUE/NGL MEPs took part in the World Social Forum 2011 in Senegal from February 6 to 11. Members of the GUE/NGL participated in the World Parliamentary Forum on February 8 and organised a meeting of deputies from the left to discuss policies including the exclusion of migrants - notably the Return Directive and the externalisation of European migration policy -, to defend genuine cooperation between peoples and to defend peace and disarmament by categorically opposing war and NATO.

SERVICES DIRECTIVE

The GUE/NGL reiterated its opposition to the 2006 Services Directive during a debate on a progress report on its implementation.

"The GUE/NGL is against the Services Directive because its core is underpinned by EU liberal market freedoms whereby the idea of freedom for companies is prioritised over trade union or social freedoms. Anti-union rulings that have been handed down in recent years are not mentioned in this report despite the fact that they have completely changed labour market policy and weakened workers rights"



EVA-BRITT SVENSSON

PENSIONS

In response to a Parliamentary report on the European Commission's Green Paper on pensions, the group produced an alternative resolution setting out the left's opposition to increases in retirement ages and the notion of European integration built on the basis of anti-social policies.

"We presented an alternative resolution to this report which demonstrates that it is possible to improve pensions and retirement conditions without increasing the statutory retirement age. This can be done via employment rights, particularly for young people, better wages, and higher taxes on the financial sector and financial transactions."

ILDA FIGUEIREDO

FREE FOOD PROGRAMME

Attempts to slash the budget for the EU's free food distribution scheme from €500 million to €113 million were condemned by GUE/NGL.



"We can't just idly sit back and see poverty grow while it is the result of the austerity measures being adopted by EU governments. We are cutting food aid to the poorest while their numbers are increasing. This situation is unacceptable when we consider that several billion Euros were found to bail out the banks."

PATRICK LE HYARIC

JOB LOSSES IN THE EU

Announcements of massive lay-offs at Arcelor-Mittal plants and other companies throughout Europe led

HEARING

GUE/NGL in cooperation with
Forum Social Europe -
European network of trade unionists


ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY Alternatives for a Social Europe

European Parliament Brussels room ASP 1 G 2
17 November 2010 15:00 - 18:30





HEARING



GUE/NGL's
alternative solutions
the way out of the CRISIS

29 June 2010
 09:00 - 18:00
 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BRUSSELS room ASP 2.1

the GUE/NGL to request a debate on the subject during the October 2011 plenary session.

“ArcelorMittal is closing its plants down one by one and the direct result is job losses in thousands. For years ArcelorMittal benefitted from hundreds of millions of Euros in public aid while €238 billion in profits were given to shareholders.



The Commission’s policies have financed the predatory practices of this company and it remains servile to them.”

JACKY HÉNING

EUROPEAN DOCKWORKERS

GUE/NGL MEPs sent a letter of support and solidarity to European dockworkers on the occasion of the strike called by the International Dockworkers’ Council on 23 November 2011.

“We defend the public interest and the rights of the workers in the ports of Europe. We oppose the selling of port infrastructure, constructed with public funds, to international economic groups and speculators that Governments of various European countries are prompting for.”



GUE/NGL MEPs



SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEMS

A revised social security regulation covering the rights of cross-border workers, the self-employed, airline crew and other workers benefiting from the right to free movement was welcomed by the group, with reservations



“It is good to apply the most advanced legislation in this field but the problem of false self-employment remains and must be eradicated. We should ensure that these workers have contracts. It is good to see that airline workers will be able to benefit from the social security of their home base

but we should ensure that airlines do not set up their bases in low-cost social security countries to avoid social dumping. In Portugal, there is currently an attack on social security systems. We will not support the idea of privatisation. We want public social security systems based on solidarity.”

INÊS ZUBER

GUE/NGL Conference
 in cooperation with the **Forum Social Europe**

NEOLIBERAL EUROPE vs. SOCIAL EUROPE

Can the EU be changed from within?
 POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION STRATEGIES FOR ANOTHER EUROPE

Wednesday 29 June 2011 • 15 00 - 18 30
 EP Brussels • room ASP 1G2

EUROPEAN UNITED LEFT • NORDIC GREEN LEFT
 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT GROUP
GUE/NGL

Environment, Public health & Consumer protection

The period from June 2009 to December 2011 was punctuated by international conferences on climate change and biodiversity in Copenhagen, Cancún, Cochabamba, Durban and Nagoya attended by GUE/NGL MEPs working on environment issues. But our members also fought battles on issues such as the widespread introduction of GMOs, the banning of cloned products in novel foods and in the field of health.

CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY

CLIMATE & ENERGY DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON

Bairbre De Brún represented the GUE/NGL Group on this European Parliament delegation in October 2009 and was optimistic on her return when she reported:

“Huge changes are underway since the Obama administration took over in terms of budget, a willingness to regulate and determination to get an international agreement on climate change.”

COPENHAGEN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

The group supported a European Parliament resolution which stated that EU negotiators must seek a legally binding deal in Copenhagen. The resolution called on the EU to commit at least €30 billion per year in climate funding to developing countries by 2020 in addition to overseas development aid. In an amendment tabled by the group, a reference was added that proactive adaptation actions should have priority in the most vulnerable regions. The group also asked the EU to clarify under what conditions it would strengthen its emissions targets to 40% by 2020 in keeping with the latest science. After the disappointing talks in Copenhagen, the group was critical of world leaders who failed to produce an agreement that would effectively tackle climate change and called on climate justice campaigners to steel their determination.



“This vague and badly written political declaration is a disaster for those hit hardest by climate change in the developing world. We needed ambitious targets on emissions reductions, clear sources for the substantial new

finance needed and clear commitments, measures, and procedures on a range of other issues in order to limit the global increase in temperature to less than 2 degrees Celsius. For those who want climate justice, the tragedy and waste of this COP-15 must give way to even greater determination to see a substantial agreement struck during 2010 to avert catastrophic climate change.”

BAIRBRE DE BRÚN

COCHABAMBA

A GUE/NGL delegation, led by Willy Meyer, went to the global conference on climate change which took place in Cochabamba, Bolivia in April 2010. Representatives from all continents were welcomed there by Bolivian President Evo Morales who called for a universal commitment to save the planet.

“There is a need to transform the system responsible for the economic, social and environmental crisis. If there is no change in the current market-dominated economic model we will not be able to halt the destruction of the planet.”

WILLY MEYER



BIODIVERSITY

Kartika Liotard attended the 10th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity, held from 18 to 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. Speaking in advance of the talks she told

Commissioner Potočnik that doing nothing to counter biodiversity loss will cost \$4 trillion by 2050 and called for an overhaul of EU agriculture and fisheries policy.

CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS IN CANCÚN

The group participated in the UN climate talks in Cancún (COP 16) in December 2010 and welcomed progress made there and the adoption of the Cancún Agreement while warning that much work needed to be done if the necessary ambition and necessary detail is to be achieved.

“World leaders and governments need to take up the challenge now and ensure that we can have an ambitious post-2012 climate deal. Governments also need



damage. In the EU, that means going immediately to a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 while looking to build on that.”

BAIRBRE DE BRÚN

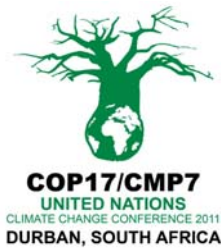
DURBAN CLIMATE TALKS

Prior to the Durban climate talks, Parliament voted a resolution on the climate change summit to be held in Durban from 28/11- 9/12 2011. Throwing its support behind this resolution, the GUE/NGL called on EU negotiators to indicate in advance that they would engage in a 2nd commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol. GUE/NGL MEPs, Bairbre De Brún and Sabine Wils were in Durban, South Africa for the COP17 climate change talks. While delegates in Durban agreed on a range of issues including emissions cuts and finance to help tackle climate change in developing countries, through “an agreed outcome with legal force”.



“There is an urgent need for countries to increase the level of ambition and to add further and more binding pledges and actions to what has been agreed here.”

BAIRBRE DE BRÚN



“The Commission is defying European public opinion that is opposed to the cultivation of GMOs, and showing its indifference to the consequences for public health, the environment and conventional crops.”

KARTIKA LIOTARD & NIKOS CHOUNTIS

- Members of the European Parliament’s Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee (ENVI) adopted a report that should allow member states to restrict or ban outright the cultivation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) on their territory.

“With this compromise, member states now have an arsenal of valid legal arguments that they can use when challenged by international commercial partners. Regrettably, some of our initial demands, like the inclusion of health concerns, were not carried through in the compromises.”

SABINE WILS



- Some months later, the group reacted favourably to a report (Lepage) giving the possibility to member states to ban or restrict the cultivation of GMOs on their territories, although it would have preferred a total ban.

“The European Commission would have preferred fewer opportunities for countries to ban GM crops but Parliament was not manipulated. GMOs have adverse effects on the environment and agriculture. Citizens do not need modified food.”



KARTIKA LIOTARD

ENVIRONMENT

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOs)

- After the Commission approved the licensing for commercial cultivation throughout the EU of the genetically modified potato Amflora using a written procedure - avoiding debate and bypassing a proposed new framework on GM authorisations, the



GUE/NGL requested the addition of the issue to the agenda of the March 2010 Plenary Session in Strasbourg.

- In a written question on GMO policy, GUE/NGL MEPs - Kartika Liotard, Sabine Wils, Marisa Matias and Nikos Chountis - asked the European Commission if it would propose strong and binding legislation to clearly regulate the coexistence of GM and non-GM crops following a European Court of Justice ruling that said food products such as honey and other foods containing traces of GMOs should be considered “food produced from genetically modified organisms”.

“The ECJ has validated the concerns of those of us who have been campaigning against the notion that coexistence is possible and the Commission must now come forward with strong rules to prevent contamination. The Commission is responsible for this as it has avoided putting in place binding rules on the coexistence of GM and non-genetically modified crops. The ruling proves that conventional and GM farming cannot co-exist.”

NOVEL FOODS & CLONING

A report by Dutch GUE/NGL MEP Kartika Liotard on revising the regulation on novel foods was adopted by the Environment Committee. In adopting the report, the Committee agreed with the controversial point that foods derived from animals fed with genetically modified organisms should be labelled and that foods made from cloned animals or their offspring should be excluded from the regulation. It also called for a moratorium on this as long as specific legislation for cloning was not adopted. Parliament then supported the proposal to exclude food from cloned animals from rules on the authorisation of these foods.



“While a majority supports my ethical objections to the industrial production of cloned meat for food, the Commission has so far ignored our calls to regulate this properly. We will continue to press the Commission to produce a separate legislative proposal to prohibit food from clones and their offspring in order to protect consumers and uphold environmental and animal health standards.”

KARTIKA LIOTARD

• However, both the Council and Commission ignored this proposal after long negotiations to broker a deal on new EU rules on novel foods.

“As a compromise, we proposed mandatory labelling of food from offspring of clones, rather than a ban. Consumers would then be able to choose whether they want food produced indirectly via cloning technology. But even that was too much to ask.”

KARTIKA LIOTARD

FOOD LABELLING

• Despite attempts to block them, food industry lobbyists won a major victory in the European Parliament in their campaign to stamp out efforts to introduce a simple colour-coding system for labels on food and beverage products. The group expressed its disappointment for consumers and criticised MEPs for siding with industry following a massive lobbying drive.

“With a colour-coded system for labels on food and drinks products, consumers can see at a glance whether there is a lot, some or little sugar, fat or salt in a product. Currently, people who want to know what they are buying and be able to compare products need strong reading glasses.”

KARTIKA LIOTARD

WATER – A PUBLIC ASSET

• On the occasion of World Water Day, the group insists that the management and ownership of this resource should remain in public hands and not be governed by market or competition rules. GUE/NGL's fight to keep water as a public and universal asset is a long-standing one and in March 2011, a European Parliament written declaration on the issue, initiated by GUE/NGL collected a total of 226 signatures.

H2O up for sale
THE PRIVATISATION OF A HUMAN NECESSITY
A Film by Leslie Franke & Hermann Lorenz

The Consequences of water privatization
A film & A debate

Wednesday 26 January 2011
room JAN 4Q1 • European Parliament BXL • 18:00 - 19:45

João Ferreira • Sabine Wils • Uggias Giannmaria • Niccolò Rinaldi • François Alfonsi • Veronique De Keyser

GUE/NGL Socialists & Democrats

HEALTH



FALSIFIED MEDICINES

- April 2010 saw an important report being adopted at committee level. The report on falsified medicines by Marisa Matias focused on protecting patients from the dangers of counterfeit or falsified medicines.

“An important step has been taken by MEPs towards protecting patient safety and preventing potentially lethal falsified medicines being sold in Europe. After nine months of debate and dialogue, Parliament is now in a strong position to negotiate with Council on the dimensions of the legislation still open for discussion.”

MARISA MATIAS

- February 2011 saw the adoption of this report in plenary. In addition to its original aims, the report also covers the sales of medicines over the Internet, a significant step as governments and the European Commission initially wanted to exclude this from the directive. This new law will impact not only Europe but also other regions of the world because the control of medicines will be carried out not only when entering the EU but also when exiting thus contributing to the fight against the export of counterfeit medicines to poorer countries.

“This is one of the main measures to combat falsified medicines in Europe, since the Internet is the main open window of entry for falsified medicines. The main objective of the Directive is to protect individual patients and public health.”

MARISA MATIAS

PATIENT INFORMATION ON MEDICINAL PRODUCTS



- The GUE/NGL welcomed a vote in favour of the provision of information to the general public on medicinal products, despite opposition from right-wing groups which sought to put the interests of pharmaceutical companies before patients.

“We successfully defended against the risk that pharmaceutical companies will have excessive influence over the health care professional-patient relationship. For patients, health care professionals are the most dependable suppliers of facts, not merely dispensers of pharmaceutical company produced information.”

JIRÍ MAŠTÁLKA



HEARING
In the framework of
“AIDS & mobility Europe 2007 - 2010”
Project co-funded by the EU Community Action Programme in the field of Public Health 2003 - 2008

**WITH MIGRANTS FOR MIGRANTS:
IMPROVING HIV PREVENTION FOR ALL**



This event endorses the **Light for Rights** initiative for World Aids Day (1st December)

Marisa Matias MEP
Marie Christine Vergiat MEP

Room 5B 001 • European Parliament • Brussels
Tuesday 30 November 14:00 - 17:00

GUENGL **aids&mobility** **OH International Organisation to Migrate** 

AIDS

- On World AIDS Day, GUE/NGL reiterates its call for serious investment in the health sector and for the Commission to play its role in ensuring that member states fulfil their commitments.

“Unfortunately, despite all the work done in the field, there were approximately 25,000 new cases diagnosed in the EU and EEA countries and some 100,000 in neighbouring countries in 2010. And things are only going to get worse. We must act now to prevent this. There is a great need for serious investment in the health sector, which is lacking due to the current economic and social crisis. We must also eliminate discrimination, ensure equal treatment and iron out the inequalities facing people seeking care and treatment.”

MARISA MATIAS





CROSS-BORDER HEALTHCARE

- GUE/NGL denounced the voting through of new rules on cross-border health treatment saying that this relegated healthcare to the status of a market product and will result in the promotion of health tourism. The group considers that healthcare is not a commercial, tradable good; it's a basic need for everyone. Patients - especially if they are seriously ill - need care in their region, close to their family and a doctor who speaks their language. The group reiterates its demand for affordable and easily accessible good quality healthcare for all.

“Our constant goal is to support patients’ rights to high-quality, accessible and affordable healthcare, at local and regional level. We do not oppose patient mobility: to seek and obtain healthcare is an undeniable right for all and people should have a free choice. EU legislation dating from 1971 already gave citizens the right to be treated in any EU member state other than their own without advancing payment for treatment costs and on an equal footing with citizens of the member state in which they receive this treatment.”

SABINE WILS, JIŘÍ MAŠTÁLKA, JOÃO FERREIRA, BAIRBRE DE BRÚN, MARISA MATIAS & KARTIKA LIOTARD

CONSUMER POLICY

- A report by Kyriacos Triantaphyllides on a new strategy for consumer policy was adopted by the Parliament in November 2011. The report dealt with issues such as the problems faced by consumers, especially in the light of the economic crisis, product safety, appeal mechanisms for redress, compensation, and also sought to curb misleading advertising, particularly widespread advertising targeting children.



“This represents a step in the right direction, towards the effective and comprehensive protection of consumers’ rights especially in the light of the economic crisis in which they have become more vulnerable. It highlights the need for

more accessible appeal mechanisms for redress, concern about the current lack of compensation, the need for more product security as well as the necessity to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.”

KYRIACOS TRIANTAPHYLIDES

Foreign policy & Peace

The GUE/NGL Group maintains that the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy should be based on peaceful principles and demilitarization, that the EU should have a civilian perspective and should be strictly separated from NATO structures.

COMMON FOREIGN & SECURITY POLICY

The GUE/NGL Group has maintained its position throughout this term of office that the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy should be based on peaceful principles and demilitarization, that the EU should have a civilian perspective and should be strictly separated from NATO structures. In addition, it upholds that military expenditure would be better used for civilian purposes, such as the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

“In many areas, the EU’s foreign policy has failed: in the Arab world, in Afghanistan, in dealing with the Palestinian problem and the conflicts in our eastern neighbourhood. The problem is how to get 27 national decision-making bodies to agree to a truly common EU line on CFSP. We need to work jointly for the development of international law, not its unilateral interpretation and enforcement!”

LOTHAR BISKY

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

Since its launch in December 2010, the group has opposed the European External Action Service because, inter alia, there are no guarantees that the European Parliament and national parliaments retain not only budgetary control but also parliamentary and political control. The group is concerned that EU armies could be part of this service and opposes the militarised, non-transparent and uncontrollable structure.





“Our group cannot support this as the structure doesn’t convince us. If troops are going to be sent abroad then the EP should have full powers of scrutiny; this hasn’t been achieved.”

WILLY MEYER

CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Cluster munitions are among the most brutal weapons in existence and have been in use by some EU member states and the USA until recently, for example in the former Yugoslavia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Yemen. In July 2010, the group called on EU member states to ratify the agreement on cluster munitions in full at the earliest possible opportunity and for a moratorium on the use, production and distribution of these munitions until the agreement is ratified.



“All EU member states, along with all other countries, must sign and ratify the agreement on cluster munitions in full by August of this year or at the earliest possible opportunity. There should also be a moratorium on the use, production and distribution of cluster munitions until the agreement is ratified and work should begin as quickly as possible to destroy existing

stockpiles of cluster munitions.”

SABINE LÖSING

Conference
The European Union:
A driving force for armament

European Parliament •
Brussels 9/11/2011
room ASP 162 15:00 - 18:30

ARAB SPRING

The GUE/NGL Group was critical of the EU’s position during the events unfolding in the Arab world, later to become known as the Arab Spring.

“The EU confuses immobility with stability; this attitude is reprehensible since it failed to hear the calls for freedom and social justice of the peoples of the region. But the European Union can act differently, correctly. I wish, hope and urge the EU to negotiate and conclude agreements with each of the countries whose peoples seek change and together with the representatives of these peoples determine the areas in which the EU could help financially and otherwise, through the exchange of experts and the establishment of joint programmes for the socio-economic development of the region.”

KYRIACOS TRIANTAPHYLIDES

TUNISIA

• GUE/NGL MEPs were also critical of the lack of EU response to the situation of unrest in Tunisia and the fact that it had turned a blind eye for so long to the corrupt and violent Ben Ali regime that reigned over the country for decades. At the beginning of February 2011, a delegation of GUE/NGL MEPs went to Tunisia to express solidarity and support for the Tunisian people. The group tabled a resolution on Tunisia for the February plenary session.

“It took a young 26-year-old man to set himself on fire for the Tunisian people to rise up, for the people of Tunisia not to feel alone in their struggles anymore But it took more than 50 deaths for the EU to venture a timid statement in which it called for restraint in the use of force without jeopardizing the sacrosanct EU-Tunisia partnership, and without condemning the violence until now.”

MARIE-CHRISTINE VERGIAT

• In May 2011, 4 GUE/NGL MEPs - Marie-Christine Vergiat, Georgios Toussas, Paul Murphy and João Ferreira - went to Tunisia to meet activists involved in the Tunisian revolution. They met Tunisian associations and civil society activists, visited the migrant camps in the Tunisian-Libyan border region at Ras Jedir, participated in a public meeting on Tunisian debt and visited Gafsa, Redeyef, Kasserine and Tala.

• Marie-Christine Vergiat travelled as part of a European Parliament delegation to Tunisia to observe the constituent assembly elections taking place in the country in October 2011. The GUE/NGL



reiterated its support of the Tunisian revolution as well as ongoing popular uprisings for freedom, democracy and justice elsewhere in the Arab world.

EGYPT

GUE/NGL saluted the courage of the Egyptian people who were braving threats and repression in their call for social justice, economic measures to pull them out of poverty, to fend off hunger and an end to speculation on food prices and corruption by the Mubarak regime which had been in place for 30 years.

“The answer to these legitimate aspirations can not be force and violence, but a free and democratic State which responds to this desire for freedom.”

GUE/NGL MEPs


SYRIA

Following violence against demonstrators in Syria in March 2011, the group called on EU foreign policy Chief Catherine Ashton to firmly condemn the crackdown by President al-Assad and halt efforts to conclude the EU-Syria association agreement.

“If peaceful protestors are being violently attacked, condemnation must be clear and backed up by a suspension of talks on the association agreement. Ashton and the EU must speak out and support not just the people of Syria, but also those legitimate protests in Yemen and Bahrain. We must not repeat the disgracefully tardy reactions to democratic uprisings in other parts of the Arab world.”

LOTHAR BISKY

NORTH AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST




hearing

ARAB PEOPLES' STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION

TESTIMONIES FROM EGYPT, TUNISIA, PALESTINE AND WESTERN SAHARA

Tuesday 29 March 2011
09.00-12.30
EP Brussels room ASP 1G2



The GUE/NGL organised a conference on the struggles for liberation in North Africa and the Middle East in the European Parliament during which it strongly criticised EU policy in the regions and offered full solidarity with those campaigning for their political and social rights. The group expressed its strong support for and solidarity with ongoing popular uprisings for freedom, democracy and justice while guests at the conference shared their experiences.

“In Egypt, Tunisia, Palestine, Western Sahara and beyond, people are fighting back against oppression and autocracy, yet the EU is more concerned with protecting the interests of big corporations than human rights. Europe must support struggles for liberation and follow through on its human rights rhetoric.”

ILDA FIGUEIREDO

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The EU-ACP Joint Parliamentary Assembly met in Budapest in May 2011 and adopted a resolution on the democratic upheavals in North Africa and the Middle East calling for “a temporary suspension of the repayment of debts” and “an audit of those debts”.



“The request for a temporary suspension of the repayment of debts of the so-called ‘Arab spring’ countries cannot be ignored by the European Commission and the member states.”

ELIE HOARAU AND GABI ZIMMER

BOLIVIA




GUE/NGL President Lothar Bisky participated in the inauguration ceremony of re-elected Bolivian President Evo Morales. During his visit, Bisky also met other political figures to talk on socio-economic questions and climate change. He supported Morales’ appeal for a “World conference of the people on climate change and the rights of Mother Earth” which took place at the end of April 2010.

“Copenhagen failed due to the self-interest driven policy of the wealthy industrial nations. They must finally assume their responsibilities.”

LOTHAR BISKY

CYPRUS

HEARING
WEDNESDAY 28th MARCH 2012 09:30 ROOM ASP1G2
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT EXL



**THE DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE
OF CYPRUS: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS**

Opening address by **Gabriele Zimmer**, GUE/NGL President
Keynote speaker **Andros Kyprianou**, General Secretary of CC AKEL

Interventions by

Mehmet Seyis President of the Revolutionary Trade Unions Federation (DEV-IS)
Izzet Izzcan General Secretary of the Turkish Cypriot United Cyprus Party (BKP)
Pambis Kyritsis General Secretary of the Pancyprian Federation of Labour (PEO)
Derman Saracoglu President of the Turkish Cypriot Association for Democracy (KTDD)
Kanattil Murat General Secretary of the Turkish Cypriot New Cyprus Party (YKP)
Shener Etilci General Secretary of the Turkish Cypriot Primary School Teachers Trade Union (KTOS)

Coordination **Takis Hadjigeorgiou** MEP GUE/NGL - AKEL

The GUE/NGL group supports a solution to the Cyprus problem based on a bicomunal, bizonal federation according to the United Nations Security Council resolutions and the principles on which the EU is founded. It supports efforts aimed at achieving a peaceful solution through the ongoing dialogue between the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus.

- When the Commission came up with a proposal for direct trade with the occupied areas of Cyprus in April 2010, the group issued a statement calling for the proposal to be revoked:

“The revival of a European Commission proposal for trade with those areas of the Republic of Cyprus in which the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control puts up important barriers to efforts for the reunification of the island. The European Commission must respect and promote the immediate implementation of European Union decisions concerning Turkey.”

- In a later development (January 2011), on the occasion of a general strike and meetings organised by trade unions, parties and associations within the Turkish Cypriot community to protest against economic measures imposed on them directly linked to Turkey’s policies in the occupied part of Cyprus, the GUE/NGL expressed its solidarity.

“The GUE/NGL expresses its support with this struggle and its solidarity with the forces within the Turkish Cypriot community, which continue to work in parallel for the solution of the Cyprus problem based on the UN resolutions and for a free reunified Cyprus based on a bizonal bicomunal federation.”

LOTHAR BISKY

- The group denounced threats made by the Turkish government against the sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus regarding natural gas exploratory drilling due to start at the end of September 2011.

“Turkey is jeopardizing the sovereign rights of an EU member state, threatening the peace process for the solution of the Cyprus problem, and endangering stability in the region. The Republic of Cyprus, acting according to International Law and after signing agreements with its neighbouring countries, is conducting official exploration within its Exclusive Economic Zone for hydro carbonates. Turkey has never accepted this legitimate fact. The threats are becoming facts: warships have been dispatched and a so-called “agreement” with the occupied part of Cyprus for exploring the EEZ of Cyprus concluded.”

KYRIACOS TRIANTAPHYLIDES



CUBAN FIVE

The Group sent a letter to US President Obama appealing for the release of five Cuban citizens - Fernando González Llort, Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, René González Schwerert, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez and Fernando González Llort – held in various US jails.

GUANTANAMO

Following the announcement of the imminent closure of the Guantanamo Bay prison camp and the resettlement of its detainees, the group called on High Representative Catherine Ashton to press the US government to close Guantanamo rapidly. The Guantanamo Bay prison was originally scheduled for closure by the Obama administration in January 2010.

“Guantanamo must be shut down immediately and High Representative Catherine Ashton must press the US government to close this chapter of shame and to give back Guantanamo to Cuba. Some 800 people from over 40 countries were imprisoned in Guantanamo in contempt of the Geneva Convention.”

HELMUT SCHOLZ



HAITI EARTHQUAKE

The group expressed shock at the horror and suffering brought about by the earthquake that shook Haiti in January 2010 and called on the European institutions for their immediate support and solidarity.

“This alarming tragedy comes on top of the daily drama for Haiti’s 12 million inhabitants, four fifths of them surviving on less than two dollars a day. The GUE/NGL group supports all UN, state, NGO, local and international initiatives and organisations participating in the international solidarity effort.”



PATRICK LE HYARIC

HONDURAS

Following news that democratically-elected president of Honduras José Manuel Zelaya had been ousted from power by a military coup in June 2009, the group demanded the reinstatement of Zelaya and his government. Willy Meyer, Vice-Chair of the EUROLAT Parliamentary Assembly, travelled to Honduras to evaluate the situation there. While there, he met with General Secretary of OAS, the Organisation of American States, José Miguel Insulza, various political and civil society organisations and trade unions. On his return from Honduras, some 90 MEPs from various political groups signed a Declaration condemning the coup and expressing solidarity with democratic forces there. A copy of this declaration was handed to exiled President Manuel Zelaya in Managua by a new GUE/NGL delegation led by GUE/NGL MEP João Ferreira in August.

IRAQ

During a debate with the EU High Representative on Foreign Affairs on the situation in Iraq in January 2010, prior to that country’s Parliamentary elections, the group was critical that the Commission was not sending observers to scrutinise the process.

“We do not share your optimism either on the situation in Iraq or on the benefits of the Coalition, as it borders on blindness. Iraq was invaded and occupied on the basis of deliberately deceptive information concerning the presence of weapons of mass destruction. As a result, 17 of the 27 EU member states were dragged into the attack and occupation of Iraq. The country lies in ruin, its heritage plundered, its population deeply divided.”



JEAN-LUC MÉLENCHON

IVORY COAST

The situation in the Ivory Coast was debated in the EP following divisive election results in that country in December 2010, which risked plunging it into civil war.

“We are all concerned about the severe political crisis affecting this country. The decision of the Constitutional Court to challenge, in violation of election rules, the results of elections officially verified by the Independent Electoral Commission is unanimously condemned by the international community. The EU, UN, African Union, the ACP-EU, ECOWAS and the European Parliament demanded respect for the official election results and the installation of a new president of the republic as announced by the Independent Commission for Elections, and validated by the UN.”

ELIE HOARAU

KAZAKHSTAN

• MEP Paul Murphy went on an official group delegation to Kazakhstan in July 2011 to meet with trade union representatives and activists to discuss ongoing human and workers’ rights abuses in the country and, reported on his return that striking oil workers in that country were being brutally repressed.

“I am launching an international solidarity campaign with these workers. I am calling on the trade union movement across Europe to take up the cause of these heroic workers and to express their support for the workers and their opposition to the actions of the company.”



PAUL MURPHY

Hearing
Central Asia - EU
Human Rights Dialogue Results



Eyewitness accounts from Kazakhstan’s ongoing oil workers’ strike

Meeting hosted by Paul Murphy MEP GUE/NGL

Monday 3 October • 15.00 - 17.00
 European Parliament • Brussels • Room PHS 0C051

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT


• Following this, 48 MEPs from 17 countries and 6 different political groups sent a letter to the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, expressing concern about the violence used by state forces against striking oil workers, their supporters and families in the city of Zhanaozen in western Kazakhstan on 16 December.

JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE & TSUNAMI

GUE/NGL expressed its horror at the devastating earthquake and tsunami which hit Japan causing extensive loss of life and damage to the Fukushima nuclear power station.

“We urge the European Union and member states to do everything possible to assist the Japanese population. Now the question of nuclear safety is firmly back on the agenda in Europe. We support the holding of a debate with Council and the Commission on this issue at the next plenary session of European Parliament.”

LOTHAR BISKY

MOLDOVA

In June 2010, four Members of GUE/NGL visited Chisinau, Moldova: Lothar Bisky, João Ferreira, Jiří Maštálka and Alfreds Rubiks. While there, they met Vlad Filat, Prime Minister of Moldova, Natalia Gherman, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, as well as national parliamentarians from different political parties and the EU ambassador. GUE/NGL had been following developments in Moldova with concern and a key reason for the visit was moves to restrict democratic freedoms and rights there.

PALESTINE

The situation in Palestine has been at the heart of GUE/NGL concerns during this term of office, and a number of missions, delegations hearings and other activities were organised by the group since June 2009 during which it reiterated its support in favour of a peaceful, two-state solution for this part of the Middle East.

• **December 2009:** a European Parliament delegation was denied access to Gaza on grounds that there was a security risk. Two GUE/NGL MEPs were part of the delegation which had intended to observe humanitarian conditions in Gaza, to promote a viable Palestinian state and to check on the use of EU funds in the area.



“The GUE/NGL group protests that the original permission to enter the area was revoked and reiterates its solidarity with the Palestinian people in the search for a two-state solution to the ongoing conflict.”

KYRIACOS TRIANTAPHYLIDES & GEORGIOS TOUSSAS

hearing
freedom
for Palestinian political prisoners

Isa Qarage Minister of Detainees & Ex-Detainees
Salih Nazzal Sub-Commission on Human Rights with the EU
Fadwa Barghouti wife of Marwan Barghouti
Isa Shawqi Director of the Ensan Center for Democracy & Human Rights
Ahmed Alissa BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency & Refugee Rights

European Parliament • Strasbourg • room S2.1
15:00 - 18:00
Wednesday 16 November 2011

EUROPEAN UNITED LEFT • NORDIC GREEN LEFT
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
GUE/NGL

• **January 2010:** Three GUE/NGL MEPs travelled to Gaza and participated in the largest 50-member parliamentary delegation (European and national parliaments) ever to visit the besieged region. They were in Gaza as part of the visit organised by the European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza (ECESG).

“There are few signs of progress in rebuilding despite all the promises and donor conferences during the past twelve months. It is no wonder that the people of Gaza feel completely abandoned by the international community.”

BAIBRE DE BRÚN, MARISA MATIAS AND HELMUT SCHOLZ

• **February 2010:** Following a violent attack by the Israeli army against the offices of the Palestinian People's Party and of NGOs, GUE/NGL expressed its condemnation in a group statement.



“These organizations work legally and their sole “crime” is the demand of the inalienable human rights and freedom of the Palestinian people. This is yet one more oppressive act, part of the Israeli policy against the Palestinian people that should be denounced. The EU should send a clear message to Israel that such actions are unacceptable and weigh heavily on its relations with the EU.”

GUE/NGL MEPs

• **February 2010:** In 2009, South African judge Richard Goldstone led a UN fact-finding mission to investigate human rights violations during the Gaza War. The ensuing report, published in September 2009, highlighted the crimes and violations of international humanitarian law by Israel against the Palestinian people. The European Parliament debated the implementation of the report's recommendations in February 2010.

“Our obligation is to push for a just solution and peace. The Goldstone report should be used to give new impetus to reach an equitable solution.”

KYRIACOS TRIANTAPHYLIDES

• **July 2011.** Seven GUE/NGL MEPs were in Palestine for a conference and visit to Jerusalem to support and promote the objective of recognition of a Palestinian State on the borders of 4 June 1967 two months ahead of a key UN General Assembly that discussed Palestinian statehood. The seven MEPs making up the delegation were Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, Bairbre de Brún, Patrick Le Hyaric, Giorgios Toussas, João Ferreira, Søren Søndergaard and Takis Hadjigeorgiou.



AHMAD DARI, LEILA SHAHID, BASSEM MASRY

“Our conference and visit to Jerusalem and the West Bank could not come at a more opportune time: during the biggest popular and peaceful uprising in the Arab world; in the aftermath of a most welcome reconciliation agreement between the Palestinian factions; only one day before an important conference of the Quartet; just one month before the already reached target which Prime Minister Fayyad set to complete state building; and only two months before the Palestinian Authority is set to submit the question of Palestinian statehood to the General Assembly of the United Nations.”

KYRIACOS TRIANTAPHYLIDES

• **September 2011:** GUE/NGL MEPs were vociferous in their demands for EU support for Palestinian membership of the United Nations and the recognition of the Palestinian state on pre-1967 borders, including East Jerusalem, in a debate in advance of the September 23rd 2011 request by the



President of the Palestinian Authority to the UN General Assembly for recognition of the State of Palestine.

“Besides talks on resolving the political problem, enhanced status for the Palestinians would be helpful in resolving other separate but important issues such as security, the exploitation of water resources, refugees and the status of Jerusalem.”

KYRIACOS TRIANTAPHYLIDES

• **September/October 2011:** A letter co-signed by members of group was sent to Mrs Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy, concerning the situation of the 6,000 Palestinian prisoners who were on hunger strike since 28 September 2011 to protest against



their conditions of detention. The GUE/NGL welcomed an agreement reached between Israel and Hamas in October 2011 on the release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit as well as of about a thousand Palestinian prisoners over the coming months.

“This is a very important and long-awaited moment for the prisoners and their families. Now is the time for Israel to lift the siege of Gaza and address other issues which would facilitate the re-launching of negotiations with President Abbas.”

KYRIACOS TRIANTAPHYLIDES

FREEDOM FLOTILLAS

Three so-called Freedom Flotillas set sail from ports throughout the world with the aim of breaking the siege of Gaza and bringing food, medicines and building supplies to the besieged population. The first was a fleet of nine ships carrying 750 participants from more than 60 countries, including



HEARING

Freedom Flotilla II

BREAKING THE SIEGE

Vangelis Pissias *Founding member of Free Gaza*
 Dror Freiler *European Jewish for Just Peace*
 Huwaida Arraf *International law expert from Palestine*

Nikolaos Chountis *MEP GUE/NGL*
 Willy Meyer *MEP GUE/NGL*
 Raúl Romeva I Rueda *MEP Verts/ALE*

EP Strasbourg - room LOW S2.1 • Tuesday 10 May - 14:30 - 16:00

EUROPEAN UNITED LEFT • NORDIC GREEN LEFT
 GUE/NGL

governmental, parliamentary, European and Arab officials as well as activists of all ages This ship was attacked by the Israeli army and 9 people were killed.

Two GUE/NGL MEPs, Willy Meyer and Paul Murphy, joined the second Freedom Flotilla of under the auspices of the Free Gaza Movement and the European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza. The trip was aborted after two boats were sabotaged and the Greek authorities refused to allow several boats berthed in Greek waters to sail from its ports. A third flotilla saw the arrest of MEP Paul Murphy and other participants in the Freedom Waves Flotilla by the Israeli authorities in international waters off the coast of Gaza.



Following this arrest, the Group took action both in Brussels and in other EU member states when a letter was sent asking EU President Jerzy Buzek to intervene for the release of those detained as well as letters of protest to Israeli embassies throughout the EU. The group organised a protest outside the Israeli embassy in Brussels against the incident and demanding the release of those detained.

Following this arrest, the Group took action both in Brussels and in other EU member states when a letter was sent asking EU President Jerzy Buzek to intervene for the release of those detained as well

PERU & COLOMBIA

In June 2009, a group of 8 GUE/NGL MEPs (Lothar Bisky, Eva-Britt Svensson, Helmut Scholz, Jean-Luc Mélenchon, Patrick Le Hyaric, Nikos Chountis, Bairbre de Brún and João Ferreira) spoke out against a wave of violence by Peruvian government agents against the indigenous people of the Amazonian region. In a declaration, they urged the Commission to cancel a round of EU-Andean negotiations scheduled to be held in Bogota. Less than one year later, the Commission concluded free trade talks with Peru and Colombia despite growing opposition among civil society in both countries because of the content of the agreement and the human rights situation.

“In rushing to conclude these negotiations with the two governments with the worst human rights record in the region, the European Commission is sending a message that it gives priority to business interests over civil liberties and democracy.”

HELMUT SCHOLZ

Hearing

COLOMBIANS FOR PEACE

PIEDAD CÓRDOBA
 former Senator of Colombia & Human Rights defender

hosted by Willy Meyer GUE/NGL

30 November 2011
 13:00 - 14:00 • room PHS 01C051
 European Parliament • Brussels

GUE/NGL
 www.guengl.eu

SÃO PAULO FORUM

GUE/NGL President Lothar Bisky attended the XVII Meeting of the São Paulo Forum in Managua, Nicaragua, and expressed the Group's solidarity with the left forces in Latin America, the wish to maintain close links with them and a commitment to follow closely their developments and achievements.



SRI LANKA

The GUE/NGL organised a conference on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka, which called for a genuinely independent and impartial inquiry into massive human rights abuses committed during the recent war in Sri Lanka.

“There is no prospect for lasting peace on the basis of the regime currently in power in Sri Lanka. Any true enquiry must include all sections of society, including the trade unions and through committees democratically elected by the people affected and must take account of a context of decades of systematic oppression of Tamil-speaking people and attacks on their human, economic and social rights.”

PAUL MURPHY

KURDS

The group hosts an annual conference on EU, Turkey and the Kurds and offers its continued support to the EU-Kurdish groups and associations both within and outside the Parliament.

- The group condemned the decision by the Constitutional Court of Turkey in December 2009



to ban the Democratic Society Party - DTP and for imposing a five-year ban on political activity on 37 leading DTP members as well as on Leyla Zana, a political activist of Kurdish origin and 2004 Sakharov Prize winner. DTP President Ahmet Turk and Vice-President Ayse Turgut were deprived of their parliamentary status.



“This decision brings the country to a new crisis, and is contrary to efforts aimed at reaching a peaceful solution to the Kurdish problem. It further slows down democratization in Turkey and harms its course to EU accession. Our group will continue its struggle against the violations of the rights of the Kurds until such time as the Kurdish citizens of Turkey are granted and are able to enjoy all their individual, political and cultural rights.”

TAKIS HADJIGEORGIOU



LEYLA ZANA

The group strongly condemned the conviction of Leyla Zana, former Nobel Peace Prize nominee and Sakharov Prize recipient - as a step backwards for Turkish democratization. She was sentenced by the Diyarbakir Criminal Court in April 2010 to



three years in prison on charges of propaganda for a terrorist organization because she spoke in the Kurdish language at two events organised by the Democratic Peoples Party in Diyarbakir in 2008.

“The decision taken by the Turkish Court is an act of oppression and intimidation of Kurdish people and efforts should aim at reaching a peaceful solution to the Kurdish problem.”

GUE/NGL GROUP

TURKISH TRADE UNIONS

- In September 2009, GUE/NGL expressed its solidarity with the Turkish trade union KESK (Confederation of Civil Servants) ahead of the trial of 22 of its members and condemned this latest example of intimidation aimed at repressing the union’s struggle for workers’ rights and democracy. GUE/NGL sent MEP Takis Hadjigeorgiou to observe the trial.

TURKISH ACCESSION

- GUE/NGL supported Turkey’s accession to the EU, following the vote on the country’s progress report in March 2011, but underlined the need to meet all the Copenhagen criteria and obligations towards the EU and all its member states.



“On core issues as workers’ and trade union rights and freedoms, women’s rights, and the protection of basic freedoms, Turkey must respect International Law. Much more needs to be done on behalf of Turkey, as far as the achievement of a real political solution to the Kurdish problem, the recognition of the Armenian genocide, the normalization of relations with neighbouring countries and the end of the occupation of the Republic of Cyprus are concerned.”

TAKIS HADJIGEORGIOU

WESTERN SAHARA & AMINATU HAIDAR

In December 2009, Willy Meyer travelled to Lanzarote to visit Aminatu Haidar, the Saharawi human rights defender who was expelled from Morocco, retained in Spain against her will and who had been on hunger strike for 17 days. The Group reiterated its support for Ms Haidar and the Saharawi people during the December Strasbourg plenary session by holding a protest outside the



hemicycle. Plans by GUE/NGL MEP Willy Meyer in November 2010 to visit the Saharawi camp on the outskirts of El Aaiun to acquire information about the situation of some 20,000 Saharawi people who moved there in protest at their situation in territories occupied by Morocco were thwarted when Moroccan police boarded the plane and prevented him from disembarking. Days later, the European Parliament’s Intergroup of Solidarity with the Western Saharan People denounced the violent attack on a Saharawi Dignity Camp in El Aaiun by the Moroccan police and army. At the end of November 2011, Parliament adopted a resolution condemning the situation in Western Sahara and calling on the EU to act urgently to put in place mechanisms that would ensure the right of the Saharawi people to self-determination.

“The European Union should rethink its position and launch a strong policy that guarantees the fulfilment of the right to self-determination by the Saharawi people by holding a referendum.”

WILLY MEYER

Civil Liberties, Fundamental & Human Rights

The Group considers democracy to include that peoples' civil and human rights and freedoms are never violated.



SWIFT

An agreement between the EU and US, allowing the transfer of EU citizens' financial data via the SWIFT banking system, was seen by the GUE/NGL as an infringement of peoples' fundamental rights during its passage through the Parliament where it was twice rejected before being finally adopted.

"SWIFT is symptomatic of the security side slips imposed in the name of fighting terrorism that overlooked the fundamental rights of our fellow citizens."

MARIE-CHRISTINE VERGIAT

PASSENGER NAME RECORDS (PNR)

Reacting to a Commission plan for a new EU-US agreement on the sharing of passenger flight data in the fight against terrorism and serious crime, the GUE/NGL said Parliament must be kept fully informed on talks for the new agreement and urged all institutions to fully respect the right to the protection of personal data of 500 million EU citizens. Subsequently, the group protested against negotiations between the Commission and third



countries including the US, Canada and Australia on the collection and retention of data for all flight passengers. Following a further agreement on data transfer brokered between the EU and Australia, the group asked for the agreement to be checked by the European Court of Justice for its compliance with the Treaties. However, that demand was opposed by the bigger political groups.

"The principles of necessity and proportionality must be respected. The US is not a human rights model worth emulating. Many citizens have already faced administrative burdens, and worse, on the basis of being suspected of terrorism. Such attitudes go a long way in the violation of rights."

MARIE-CHRISTINE VERGIAT

"We consider the legal basis of the agreement with Australia as inappropriate and want clear answers on the use of PNR in the U.S. Secure Flight Program. This is a question of the fundamental right to freedom of movement, as advocated by the European Charter of Fundamental Rights."

CORNELIA ERNST



BODY SCANNERS

The GUE/NGL continually opposed the use of body scanners in airports during debates on the subject because they infringe on personal privacy and fundamental rights and freedoms.

“Body scanners intrude on privacy and are not compatible with respect for fundamental rights and freedoms. The effects on health are still not clear. As long as health risks cannot be ruled out, the use of body scanners is irresponsible. Body scanners present real dangers as the risk of malfunction and consequent false alarm is serious.”

SABINE WILS



PRESS FREEDOM IN ITALY

Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi, was taken to task by MEPs for violating the principles of freedom and pluralism of the press in his country. Berlusconi's media empire comprises several television channels, newspapers, publishing houses, advertising agencies, insurance and banking networks and he also influenced the choice of appointments in the public media sector.

“Such a system of thought-policing is not compatible with the necessary democratic antagonism that only real pluralism in the press and of the media enables.”

PATRICK LE HYARIC

PRESS FREEDOM IN HUNGARY

The Hungarian government, which held the EU presidency for the first half of 2011, initiated legislation that called into question freedom of the press in that country and gave the government unprecedented control and authority over the media. The Group was critical of this law.



“The law will not only cover content, but can also impose fines that would threaten the existence of certain media outlets. The appeasing tones coming from the Hungarian government, like the dubious reference to translation problems, cannot hide the fact that this law means central control of public media.”

LOTHAR BISKY

IMMIGRATION POLICY

• Stockholm Programme

The group voted against the so-called Stockholm Programme aiming to provide an area of freedom, security and justice (2010-2014), because it fell so far short of its potential to offer protection for fundamental human rights to all people living in the EU.

“The Stockholm Programme does not live up to the challenges of today. Its major failure is that it wants to create a ‘Europe of justice’ that grants civil and human rights to the citizens of the EU but not to all the people living in the EU.”

CORNELIA ERNST



“Citizens should have been put at the heart of the Stockholm Programme. The European Union is adopting and applying measures that are leading to infringements of privacy and dignity. It’s absurd to regard all immigrants as criminals and potential terrorists.”

KYRIACOS TRIANTAPHYLIDES

- **Refugee resettlement programme**

During a debate on the proposal for the creation of a European Resettlement Programme, GUE/NGL enumerated its wishes for such a programme to: take into account the need to respond quickly and appropriately to an emergency; assess the needs of refugees to be resettled; bring together expertise and allow the sharing of information between countries; respect the need for an evaluation of the quality of reception and integration in host countries; provide structured cooperation on resettlement activities within the EU; set up a support office to manage all information and assist member states in their own programmes.

- **Refoulement**

Following rumours that an Italian boat was about to send back to Tunisia approximately one thousand migrants who arrived on the island of Lampedusa, GUE/NGL stated its strong opposition to such inhumane practices that violate European human rights standards.



“Refoulement is prohibited by the 1951 Geneva Convention on refugees. Perhaps the Berlusconi Government has forgotten that in 2005, Italy was already condemned for such violations of human rights by a European Parliament Resolution. I hope Italy will not commit such a mistake again otherwise it can be assured that we will do all in our power to stop it.”

CORNELIA ERNST

- **MUMIA ABU-JAMAL**

The group has thrown its support behind the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, former journalist and black rights activist, condemned to death in the US in 1982 for murder and one of the best-known Americans facing the death penalty. The group invited Abu-Jamal’s lawyer Robert Bryan to the



European Parliament to discuss awareness-raising and anti-death penalty activities and delivered a written declaration to the American Embassy in Brussels signed by 171 Members of the European Parliament calling for a fair trial for him. In December 2011, the group welcomed the fact that death sentence was commuted to life in prison.

“We welcome the great news but the fight is far from over. The prosecutors’ decision to drop the death sentence does not answer the question of whether or not Mumia is convicted, despite being innocent. If innocent, life in prison is also completely unacceptable. Therefore I call on everybody to continue the campaign to ensure Mumia a new and fair trial.”

SØREN SØNDERGAARD



- **ROMA**

The GUE/NGL has been unwavering in its support for Roma, the EU’s largest ethnic minority, and an integral part of central Europe’s cultural heritage. However, this ethnic group is increasingly subject to all kinds of discrimination and prejudice. The group has consistently called for a fully-fledged European Roma Strategy, particularly after a wave of deportations of Roma people from France, Belgium, Austria, Germany, Austria and Sweden. When the Commission finally announced its long-awaited policy to coordinate national Roma integration strategies, the GUE/NGL welcomed the framework but was critical of certain aspects.

“We deeply regret that this strategy does not go beyond education, employment, health and housing, and does not contain specific targets for member states. As long as we do not fight the widespread hostility against Roma and as long as there is no change in the situation of Roma people and if, in addition, the member states do not put the

strategy into practice, the whole plan remains a toothless tiger because no sanctions are provided.”

CORNELIA ERNST

SAME SEX COUPLES' RIGHTS

During a plenary debate on the issue, GUE/NGL said it considers that couples who are officially registered or married in one EU member state should not be discriminated against in another EU country.



“Exercising the EU right of free movement of workers in certain EU countries would mean same-sex couples losing a number of fundamental rights, for example, in the field of social security and pensions. Whilst married heterosexual couples can simply retain their status, same-sex couples cannot. Thus, the right of free movement is restricted.

GUE/NGL is not advocating

that the Commission present proposals for harmonisation of family law in this field. This remains a matter for the member states. We ask the Commission to present proposals ensuring that the rights enjoyed by employed and self-employed workers in connection with freedom of movement are the same for everyone.”

DENNIS DE JONG

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A report on human trafficking which would have great significance for the hundreds of thousands of victims of trafficking was welcomed by the group, which urged member states to support its proposals.

“GUE/NGL welcomes the broad scope of the draft, for instance, the fact that it will punish forced prostitution, stalking, forced labour and organ removal. We call for legislation not to be focused on criminalising victims. The gender leitmotif running through this report is to be welcomed as should its explicit references to the specific situation of the disabled, sick and pregnant women, and children - member states should take this seriously.”

CORNELIA ERNST

CITIZENS' INITIATIVE

The GUE/NGL welcomed the Parliament vote on the EU Citizens' Initiative, an EU regulation whereby one million citizens can call on the Commission to draft a new EU law. Some members of the Group highlighted shortcomings, notably that it did not include participation of all EU residents, not just EU citizens. The group vowed to push for more improvements when the Initiative came up for review in three years time.

HEARING

Take the Initiative



The European Citizens' Initiative

European Parliament Brussels room ASP 1 G 2

15 September 2010

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
GUE/NGL

“We have two choices. We can create an initiative that empowers and involves people, especially young people, or we can create an inaccessible bureaucratic nightmare with a whole series of restrictions and obstacles.”

BAIRBRE DE BRÚN

SCHENGEN

The Parliament debated a Commission plan to allow member states to temporarily reintroduce border controls in the Schengen area, following an influx of North African refugees in the wake of the Arab Spring revolutions. The GUE/NGL strongly opposed this plan saying that the EU cannot and must not put Schengen to one side.

“I consider it “surreal” that the free movement of people in Europe should be called into question and that national borders should be re-established to face up to the “flow” of migrants that is hitting Europe since the Tunisian revolution. Sarkozy and Berlusconi are looking to their electoral interests, manipulating peoples' fears and making them feel they are being invaded. Shouldn't we be sending a different message to the emerging democracies on the other side of the Mediterranean?”

MARIE-CHRISTINE VERGIAT





Gender Equality

As in previous terms of office, the group reiterated its support for women's continuing struggle for equality, freedom and social justice in Europe and throughout the world.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

• One of the most important battles of the first half of the legislature concerned the issue of all forms of violence against women. The group repeatedly called for a European year to tackle violence against women and for the EU to approach the issue from an equality perspective saying that it deprives women and girls of their human rights.

"Violence deprives women and girls of their human rights, affecting their daily lives. We must break the silence and cooperate within and outside of political systems to eliminate this kind of violence."

EVA-BRITT SVENSSON

• GUE/NGL members on the Women's Rights Committee urged tougher legislation against the perpetrators of these crimes.

"The European Union must shoulder its responsibility and introduce the legislation required to put an end to this violence."

EVA-BRITT SVENSSON, ILDA FIGUEIREDO, CORNELIA ERNST, KARTIKA LIOTARD

• The European Parliament overwhelmingly backed a report on an EU policy framework to fight violence against women by GUE/NGL MEP and Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights Eva-Britt Svensson. The text demanded a strong commitment to combating violence against women, the need for real steps to combat this violence and a European directive against violence against women which would make the EU much safer for all citizens.

"We must put an end to gender based violence. Rape and other sexual violence against women should be recognised as a crime throughout the EU, and perpetrators prosecuted automatically. A European directive against violence against women would make the EU much safer for all citizens."

EVA-BRITT SVENSSON



**Ending violence against women
The EU must take action now!**

PUBLIC SEMINAR
European Parliament
Brussels
23 November 09.00 - 12.30
Seminar language: English

The European parliament has repeatedly taken a strong stand against violence against women. In its report adopted on April 5 2011 (Svensson (2011/0127)), an almost unanimous European Parliament put forward precise demands for EU action, including:

- An overarching strategy to end all forms of violence against women
- An EU directive against violence against women, including specific measures related to prevention, prosecution and protection, and service provision.
- Increased funding for actions against violence against women
- A European Year on zero tolerance against violence against women
- Increased support and funding for women's shelters and groups working to end violence against women

What we need is a coherent strategy taking on all aspects of violence against women, addressing the health- and social aspects, prevention and protection - focusing on the needs and realities of women.

This seminar will explore the state of play and all participants are invited to bring their experiences - to share and to mobilise in view of ensuring that the EU takes the necessary steps to make a real contribution to ending violence against women in Europe.

WOMEN & POVERTY

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2010, the GUE/NGL called on the EU to take action to address women's increased poverty and precariousness. It stressed that the proposed EU 2020 strategy does not respond to the challenges we are facing. We need a new European strategy for social development and progress, to improve women's working conditions, to ensure increased investment in health and education, and to reshape EU policies for care of children and other dependent persons.

ROADMAP FOR EQUALITY

A report by Ilda Figueiredo calling for significant policy changes and increased action on gender equality as well as strengthened institutional cooperation at EU level was broadly supported by the Parliament which called on Council and Commission to revamp its gender strategy. The report revealed shortcomings in current policy and put forward concrete proposals to shape future actions in the EU, including measures to tackle violence against women, the promotion of gender-balance in decision-making and better EU institutional cooperation.

"The role of EU policies is to address crucial issues for women including combating women's poverty, ending violence against women, achieving a fairer distribution of wealth and income, and creating better working conditions."

ILDA FIGUEIREDO

Hearing

Hosted by
Lothar Bisky President of GUE/NGL
Eva-Britt Svensson Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality • GUE/NGL • Vänsterpartiet • Sweden

Celebrating 100 years of International Women's Day

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CRISIS
The consequences on women's lives and the responses needed
What are impacts on women of the crisis?
The Left's political answers

WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY
9.00-12.30 • Room A1G2 • Europea

GUE/NGL
The European United Left - Nordic Green Left

MATERNITY LEAVE DIRECTIVE

The Group welcomed the Parliament's vote which, when implemented, would extend maternity leave to 20 weeks on full pay and grant paternity leave of two weeks. However, one year later, GUE/NGL MEPs were vociferous in their condemnation of the EU Council of Ministers for blocking the directive.

"This shows a lack of respect for what was voted in Parliament and most of all is a setback and disrespect for women's rights. In October 2010, the European Parliament voted in favour of giving all women employees at least 20 weeks maternity leave, without any reduction in pay. Now the Council is rejecting our position and the new provisions demanded by the EP. This is totally unacceptable"

ILDA FIGUEIREDO



GENDER & THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

The group considered that many of the reports debated by the Parliament on the impact of the financial crisis did not sufficiently address the impact of problems that the crisis has produced on women.

"If today, in Greece, the retirement age has increased from between 5 to 17 years for women, this is due both to the capitalist system and to the 2020 strategy, which is not being contested. I fail to see how the Commissioner can speak of different equality measures for women when she does not contest this strategy. For that reason, we consider that the solution to the problem can only be found through the fight by women, through the fight by all the workers against the consequences of the crisis."

CHARALAMPOS ANGOURAKIS



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CENTENARY

One hundred years after the 1st International Women's Day in 1911, the European United Left/Nordic Green Left group in the European Parliament specifically reiterated its support for women's continuing struggle for freedom and social justice in Europe and throughout the world. During the events of the Arab Spring, the group expressed its:

"heartfelt solidarity, in particular with women throughout the Arab world, who are fighting and making their voices heard to overthrow the harsh dictatorships that have ruled these countries with an iron fist for nearly half a century."

GUE/NGL MEPs

hearing
Gender Equality: 100 years of struggle

LESSONS LEARNED AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

Lotter Bisky	President GUE/NGL
Eva-Britt Svensson	President of Committee on Women's Rights & Gender Equality
Bda Figueiredo	GUE/NGL MEP
Katlika Liotard	GUE/NGL MEP
Cornelia Ernst	GUE/NGL MEP
Olivero Filipe	CSFP-49
Kajsa Ekin Ekman	Journalist & Writer
Catherine bij de Vaate	Senior Policy Advisor E-Quality
Johanna Stoll	Councillor Department for Moral Courage, Democracy & Tolerance

Wednesday 30 March 2011
15.00-18.30
EP Brussels room ASP 1G2

GUE/NGL
European United Left-Nordic Green Left
Groupe parlementaire européen - Grupo parlamentario europeo
www.gue-n-gl.eu

COMMITTEE CHAIR

New GUE/NGL MEP Mikael Gustafsson, from the Swedish Left Party, was elected chair of the European Parliament Women's Rights & Gender Equality Committee in October 2011, the first man ever to hold this post. He became an MEP in September when he replaced Eva-Britt Svensson, who resigned for health reasons. MEP Svensson had been the committee chair for two years.



Development

The EU must work in a strategic partnership with its partners in the South to change the rules for international relations so that globalisation is more fair, more peaceful and respectful of future generations. It is to this fight for civilization that our group is contributing.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A French proposal to use revenue from the taxation of international financial transactions for the realisation of development objectives, something the GUE/NGL had demanded time and time again, was welcomed by the group.

"The Millennium Development Goals are regarded as minimum targets to tackle the most glaring problems in developing countries. In particular, the fight against hunger, malnutrition and extreme poverty has been conducted only half-heartedly. The number of hungry people has increased in recent years to over a billion people. As a target, however it was agreed to reduce the number by half by 2015."

GABI ZIMMER



FOOD SECURITY

A report by Gabi Zimmer on an EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges was adopted by a large majority of Parliament, officially committing the EU to sustainable implementation of the human right to food.

"Today the European Parliament sent a strong signal in the fight against global hunger - high time, given the catastrophic famine in the Horn of Africa. Now it's up to the Commission and the Council to put the fight against hunger and malnutrition at the top of their agenda. We urgently need effective mechanisms against speculation in food and agricultural raw materials and against massive land grabs by large corporations in developing countries."

GABI ZIMMER

Regional Development

COHESION POLICY

The EU is one of the wealthiest regions of the planet, but there are huge differences both between and within EU countries. The EU's regional and cohesion policies and EU funding targeting the regions aim to level out these differences.

“Cohesion policy is the EU’s only real mechanism of redistribution of wealth. Through these funds, the richest countries participate in the development of poorer regions. This policy must pursue the goal that has been assigned to it: to fight against the disparity of wealth in the regions of Europe. The economic crisis hits the poorest areas harder. These regions have a greater need than ever to pursue public investment to fight against the harmful effects of the crisis. We have been asking since the beginning of the crisis that the European Commission waives the principle of co-financing for the most disadvantaged regions of the European Union and provides 100% funding for programmes that were planned since 2007 by the regions in greatest difficulty.”

YOUNOUS OMARJEE



HEARING

THE RISE OF NATIONAL CONFLICTS AND RELIGIOUS TENSIONS IN ASIA AND AFRICA

STRATEGIES FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION IN THE 21ST CENTURY
A CRUCIAL CHALLENGE FOR SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, TRADE UNIONS & WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS

Wednesday 8 December 2010 • 15.00 - 18.00

European Parliament
Brussels • ASP 1 G2

International Trade

ANTI-COUNTERFEITING TRADE AGREEMENT (ACTA)

One of the major battles being fought by the group in the Parliament, which will have important repercussions at European and world level, is the work on ACTA, a multilateral trade agreement aiming to establish an international legal framework to combat counterfeit goods, generic medicines and copyright infringement on the Internet. This was signed by the European Union in January 2012, long before it went for scrutiny to the Parliament's plenary but after many months of negotiation at Committee level. In November 2010, MEPs failed



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to achieve a strong common position and critical stance against the proposed agreement when the right-wing EPP and ECR groups left the negotiating table and a common resolution

tabled by the S&D, ALDE, Greens and GUE/NGL groups was rejected. Instead a resolution was adopted by a slim majority that welcomed changes to the agreement negotiated by the Commission with the World Trade Organisation. The MEPs involved underlined that it was disappointing that after common concerns were shared in terms of impact on the fundamental rights of citizens, access to medicines, geographical indications and intellectual property rights in the digital environment, all groups could not agree from the beginning on a common text.

“The MEPs who voted against the joint resolution are refusing to allow Parliament to use its new powers on trade matters. If the Commission does not address the concerns of MEPs and society before signing the agreement, they risk seeing ACTA rejected when it requires the consent of Parliament. The narrow margin of votes between left and right today shows that this is a distinct possibility.”

HELMUT SCHOLZ



Agriculture & Fisheries Policies

Since the introduction of the Common Agricultural and Common Fisheries Policies, many changes have been made to the organisation of the markets, to the fixing of quotas and prices, to the scope of activities of producer organisations and processing industries. This accelerated during the first half of this term of office with the Commission making new proposals for further reform.

CAP REFORM

- A debate on the Dess report in June 2011 outlining ideas for the forthcoming reform and modernisation of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), due to be released by the Commission in October 2011, gave rise to mixed reactions by the group, which welcomed the new direction the proposed reform was taking in terms of employment and the environment but lacked improvement for small working farmers.



"The key thread of the report is its green component. This is a welcome move forward, but we must clearly support active farmers and production-oriented agriculture."

ALFRĒDS RUBIKS

- The GUE/NGL hosted a public hearing entitled "CAP 2020" which heard from farmers, rural policy experts, cattle-breeders' unions and environmental organisations. During the hearing, organisations such as the European Coordination of Via Campesina presented its position on the need for a fourth option, different from the three proposed for the CAP reform post-2013 by the European Commission.



hearing

The CAP towards 2020

Defending the right to food, to fair prices and to a fair income for farmers

Chaired by **Alfrēds Rubiks, MEP**
Lothar Bisky, GUE/NGL President
Patrick Le Hyaric, MEP
Kartika Tamara Liotard, MEP
Gabriele Zimmer, MEP
João Ferreira, MEP
Charalampos Angourakis, MEP

Wednesday 2 March 2011
11.00 - 12.30 & 15.00 - 18.30
European Parliament
Room ASP 1G2

CRISIS IN THE DAIRY SECTOR

Milk farmers throughout Europe protested on a number of occasions in 2009 against a 6% shortfall in their production prices whilst consumer prices for dairy products had increased by 16%. GUE/NGL MEPs were critical of the €280 million aid to be granted to the sector against the previously announced €600 million.



"You say that you are restricted by the budget, that you are held back by financial restraints. But how can you explain the fact that many billions were found to rescue the banks which today abound in profit and that small and medium-sized farmers are left in bankruptcy and ruin. You give €600 to €1000 to farmers who are losing €100 to €200 per day! We require a true emergency financial scheme, not a plaster to treat cancer."

PATRICK LE HYARIC

Industry & Energy

COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

• The GUE/NGL group voted against an EP report on the proposed reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in February 2010 considering that it furthered attempts to privatise fisheries resources.

"The reality of the fisheries sector in the EU is complex and diverse. In these circumstances, the importance of local management, as opposed to the centralised framework of the Lisbon Treaty, must be emphasised. We need to take into account the realities and particularities of each country, each fishing zone and each fleet, involving fishermen in the solutions. This is very different from the mere implementation of a centrally defined policy."

JOÃO FERREIRA

• A report on the implementation of the common fisheries policy by João Ferreira was adopted by the Parliament in April 2011. One of the report's aims was to bring CFP legislation more closely in line with recent trends in the sector and boost its future prospects. Although GUE/NGL proposals to allow for increased rates of co-financing (from 50% to 60%) in the collection, management and use of scientific data on fisheries resources were not adopted, the report was still a positive step forward.



"With today's vote we have acted to help safeguard the activities of coastal fishing; to improve and develop fishing technology; and to finance socio-economic and environmental data to boost the sector's sustainability."

JOÃO FERREIRA



TELECOMS

The GUE/NGL voted against a Telecoms package consisting of three reports: a common framework for electronic communication networks and services; a directive on universal services and users' rights; and a regulation establishing a body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications. GUE/NGL was critical of the compromise saying it did not prevent private companies from introducing restrictions on end-users' rights and did not incorporate the Group's Citizens' Rights amendments and could mean that the European Court of Justice will decide on conflicts of interest and the right to freedom of speech.

"The compromise deal does not prevent private companies introducing restrictions on end users' rights. Furthermore, it doesn't incorporate our group's Citizens Rights Amendments and means that the European Court of Justice will decide on conflicts of interest and the right to freedom of speech."

EVA-BRITT SVENSSON

INDUSTRY

During a debate on EU industrial policy in a globalised world, the group insisted on the importance of making sure the EU's priorities and funding in this policy field include smaller-scale systems and a bottom-up approach to industrial innovations.

"Industrial policy should not depend solely on the so-called political and economic élites, but should be based on a great stream of small innovations from below, in other words, large technological breakthroughs depend on a great number of small innovations which come from work collectives."

MILOSLAV RANSDORF



ENERGY

- GUE/NGL MEPs criticised the EU's energy strategy priorities ahead of a European Council meeting focussing on energy and innovation. The group called for "an energy revolution", not more public-private partnerships and said the EU's attachment to "old energy" and a lack of ambition in terms of "new energy" meant that this Council was one of continuity, when it should have been a first step toward real change.

"Recent surveys show that people's greatest concern remains the price of fuel as they are confronted with rising costs. Council should come up with comprehensive policies that reflect the interests of citizens so that the EU strives to tackle this problem by working for fair energy prices."

VLADIMÍR REMEK

- GUE/NGL MEPs warned of the dangers of further liberalisation during a debate on the integrity and transparency of the European energy market.

"Market liberalisation does not ultimately ensure more reliable and cheaper energy. Ultimately, the cost is borne by consumers while the big players reap the profits."

VLADIMÍR REMEK



Transport



EUROVIGNETTE

The group gave a cautious welcome to a compromise with Council concerning the "Eurovignette" taxing of heavy goods vehicles within the EU saying it was a "first step" towards a level playing field between road and rail transport. It regretted however the lack of ambition in the new system that takes only partial account of pollution and congestion costs and is completely voluntary.

"We need fairer competition between the various types of transportation. This compromise with Council is a step towards introducing the 'polluter pays' principle into this area of legislation."

JAROMÍR KOHLÍČEK

RECAST 1ST RAILWAY PACKAGE

The recast of the First Railway Package aimed to promote more competition in the rail transport market, in other words, more privatization and fragmentation in the railway sector which threatens safety, social cohesion and employees' incomes. The GUE/NGL voted against the report and continues to reiterate its support for the trade unions' request for integrated railway companies to keep railway services as close as possible to all citizens for the safety and reliability of railways. The group succeeded, however, in having a clause on a "minimum service" in case of strike action deleted from the text.

"Today's European Parliament vote on the establishment of a single European railway area paves the way for private profiteering in Europe's railway sector. Although the practice in the UK already shows that this is the wrong policy, the further liberalization of the railway sector and the further separation of rail and operating services to the detriment of employees, passengers and safety measures is now being implemented in Europe. Fortunately, a parliamentary majority was found to defeat the Commission's proposal to introduce "minimum service" rules during strikes. Had this passed, the right to strike would have been severely damaged in Europe."

SABINE WILS

hearing

The recast of the railway package Directive



Further liberalization of the railway sector

Thursday 3 March 2011
09.30 - 13.00
European Parliament BXL
room ASP 1G2





GUE/NGL STUDY DAYS

During the first half of this term of office, the group held its bi-annual Study Days in Madrid, Stockholm, Nicosia, Reykjavik and a cross-border event in both Dresden in Germany and Usti nad Labem, Czech Republic. The subjects discussed during these events related to the most topical news, notably the economic crisis, the situation in the country hosting the group's study days and foreign policy and environmental issues prioritised by the group such as Latin America (Madrid), Palestine (Cyprus), the Arctic (Reykjavik) and cross-border cooperation (Dresden and Usti nad Labem).



Reports & Opinions by GUE/NGL MEPs (2009-2011)

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS

29 January 2010

OPINION - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Supporting developing countries in coping with the crisis (Jürgen KLUTE)

22 February 2010

OPINION - Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning measures to safeguard security of gas supply and repealing Directive 2004/67/EC (Nikolaos CHOUNTIS)

29 June 2010

OPINION - on the funding and functioning of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (Thomas HÄNDEL)

2 December 2010

OPINION - on GDP and beyond - Measuring progress in a changing world (Nikolaos CHOUNTIS)

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY ORDINARY LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

4 December 2009

REPORT - on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 on the animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals (Bairbre de BRÚN)

2 March 2010

OPINION - on a new impetus for the Strategy for the Sustainable Development of European Aquaculture (Kartika Liotard)

7 May 2010

REPORT - on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2001/83/EC as regards the prevention of the entry into the legal supply chain of medicinal products which are falsified in relation to their identity, history or source (Marisa MATIAS)

10 May 2010

REPORT - Recommendation for second reading on the Council position at first reading for adopting a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on novel foods, amending Regulation (EC) No 1331/2008 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 258/97 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1852/2001 (Kartika LIOTARD)

6 July 2010

REPORT - on the Commission communication: A Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters (João FERREIRA)

11 November 2010

OPINION

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Strengthening Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Security in the European Union – an EU CBRN Action Plan (Kartika LIOTARD)

9 December 2010

REPORT - on a European initiative on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias (Marisa MATIAS)

17 March 2011

OPINION

on Innovation Union: Transforming Europe for a post-crisis world (João FERREIRA)

COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNAL MARKET AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

26 January 2011

OPINION - on the Green Paper entitled 'Towards adequate, sustainable and safe European pension systems' (Dennis DE JONG)

23 March 2011

OPINION - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative - Innovation Union (Kyriacos TRIANTAPHYLIDIS)

26 May 2011

OPINION - on better legislation, subsidiarity and proportionality and smart regulation. (Dennis DE JONG)

21 October 2011

REPORT - on a new strategy for consumer policy (Kyriacos TRIANTAPHYLIDIS)

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

7 June 2010

REPORT - on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 708/2007 concerning use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture (João FERREIRA)

31 January 2011

REPORT - on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 of 22 May 2006 establishing Community financial measures for the implementation of the common fisheries policy and in the area of the Law of the Sea (João FERREIRA)

21 December 2011

REPORT - on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 on the European Fisheries Fund, as regards certain provisions relating to financial management for certain Member States experiencing or threatened with serious difficulties with respect to their financial stability (João FERREIRA)

COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

19 July 2011

REPORT - on an EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges (Gabriele ZIMMER)

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

12 May 2010

REPORT - on assessment of the results of the 2006-2010 Roadmap for Equality between women and men, and forward-looking recommendations (Ilda FIGUEIREDO)

23 June 2010

OPINION - on the proposal for a Council decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States: Part II of the Europe 2020 Integrated Guidelines (Eva-Britt SVENSSON)

18 March 2011

REPORT - on priorities and outline of a new EU policy framework to fight violence against women (Eva-Britt SVENSSON)

20 April 2011

OPINION - on Investing in the future: a new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for a competitive, sustainable and inclusive Europe (Eva-Britt SVENSSON)

27 October 2011

REPORT - on gender mainstreaming in the work of the European Parliament (Mikael Gustaffson)

COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY

24 February 2010

OPINION - on the Commission White paper: "Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action" (Marisa MATIAS)

24 June 2010

OPINION - on developing the job potential of a new sustainable economy (Ilda FIGUEIREDO)

12 November 2010

OPINION - Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: GDP and beyond - Measuring progress in a changing world (Marisa MATIAS)

18 April 2011

REPORT - on the mid-term review of the European satellite navigation programmes: implementation assessment, future challenges and financing perspectives (Vladimír REMEK)

7 September 2011

REPORT - on the Green Paper: From challenges to opportunities: towards a common strategic framework for EU research and innovation funding (Marisa MATIAS)

28 September 2011

OPINION - on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances (Jacky HENIN)

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

19 March 2010

OPINION - on deontological questions related to companies' management (Patrick LE HYARIC)

28 April 2010

OPINION - on poverty reduction and job creation in developing countries: the way forward (Gabriele ZIMMER)

14 July 2010

OPINION - Precarious women workers (Thomas HÄNDEL)

16 July 2010

REPORT - on the role of minimum income in combating poverty and promoting an inclusive society in Europe (Ilda FIGUEIREDO)

10 November 2010

OPINION - on the face of female poverty in the European Union (Gabi ZIMMER)

COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

31 May 2011

REPORT - on the proposal for a Council decision amending Decision 2004/162/EC as regards the products that may benefit from exemption from or a reduction in dock dues (Elie HOARAU)

1 July 2011

OPINION - Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union (Elie HOARAU)

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

3 September 2009

OPINION - Draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2010 (2009/2002 (BUD)) (Jaromír KOHLÍČEK)

27 January 2011

OPINION - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Cohesion policy: Strategic Report 2010 on the implementation of the programmes for 2007-2013 (Jaromír KOHLÍČEK)

COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS

1 February 2010

REPORT - on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion by the European Community of the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance (Jiří MAŠTÁLKA)

8 December 2010

REPORT - on the amended proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning mergers of public limited liability companies (codified version) (Jiří MAŠTÁLKA)

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

17 June 2011

REPORT - on the activities of the Committee on Petitions in 2010 (Willy MEYER)

COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

26 July 2010

REPORT - on the funding and functioning of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (Miguel PORTAS)

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

13 November 2009

REPORT - on the proposal for a Council decision providing macro-financial assistance to Serbia (Miloslav RANSDORF)

23 March 2010

REPORT - on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1934/2006 establishing a financing instrument for cooperation with industrialised and other high-income countries and territories (Helmut SCHOLZ)

7 October 2010

REPORT - on the European Union's trade relations with Latin America (Helmut SCHOLZ)

27 January 2011

RECOMMENDATION FOR SECOND READING on the Council position at first reading with a view to the adoption of a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1934/2006 establishing a financing instrument for cooperation with industrialised and other high-income countries and territories (Helmut SCHOLZ)

7 March 2011

REPORT - on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 732/2008 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences for the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011 (Helmut SCHOLZ)

15 July 2011

RECOMMENDATION - on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products reached on the basis of Article 19 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (Helmut SCHOLZ)

24 November 2011

REPORT - on the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1934/2006 establishing a financing instrument for cooperation with industrialised and other high-income countries and territories (Helmut SCHOLZ)

COMMITTEE ON BUDGETARY CONTROL

9 November 2009

REPORT - on discharge in respect of the implementation of the European Union general budget for the financial year 2007, Section II - Council (Søren Bo SØNDERGAARD)

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

24 November 2011

REPORT - on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1931/2006 as regards the inclusion of the Kaliningrad area and certain Polish administrative districts in the eligible border area (Kyriacos TRIANTAPHYLIDIS)

