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**GUE/NGL PRESIDENT GABI ZIMMER** GERMANY

### ELECTION OF COMMISSION PRESIDENT

Juncker's priorities do not match our vision for a social and democratic future for the EU. As Commission president, Juncker will not stop the authoritarian and undemocratic Troika policies of austerity and privatisation. Nor will he suspend negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement with the United States, which will have a negative impact on social and environmental standards and will allow private companies to challenge the democratic decisions of states in private courts. Juncker does not stand for the much-needed break with the current Commission's policy. *Debate and vote: Tuesday*



**INÊS ZUBER** PORTUGAL

### WITHDRAWAL OF THE MATERNITY LEAVE DIRECTIVE

The withdrawal of the legislative process of the draft directive on maternity leave will affect the lives of millions of working mothers who will continue to be discriminated against because they have children and it will make it impossible for many young families to achieve their dreams. This decision contrasts starkly with the official EU rhetoric on the alleged defence of equal rights, the right to reconcile work and family life and the battle against wage inequality. *Vote: Tuesday*



**THOMAS HÄNDEL** GERMANY

### YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

More than 8 million young people across Europe are unemployed, with the highest rates up at 60 per cent. And what does the EU do? Nothing. Member States' commitment to a youth guarantee remains an empty promise; the money redistributed to tackle this situation is a drop in the ocean. Europe needs change: sustainable public investment and a guaranteed minimum income should be the first steps to give our youth back their future. *Debate and vote: Wednesday*



**MARTINA ANDERSON** IRELAND

### SITUATION IN PALESTINE

The situation in Gaza is totally unacceptable. We have seen almost 500 strikes by Israeli fighter jets in an area with one of the highest population densities in the world. It is unbearable for the local population with a rising death toll and mounting casualties, the majority of which are civilian - including many children. Renewed dialogue and genuine commitment to a Peace Process, including respect for pre-1967 borders, is needed. *Debate and vote: Wednesday*



**PATRICK LE HYARIC** FRANCE

### SITUATION IN PALESTINE

Peace in the region cannot be achieved while Israel continues to ignore UN Security Council Resolutions stipulating that Israeli forces should withdraw from the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem and that an independent Palestinian state should be established on 1967 borders. It is imperative to freeze new settlements and dismantle the wall of shame. *Debate and vote: Wednesday*



**SABINE LÖSING** GERMANY

### SITUATION IN IRAQ

Lessons should be drawn from the US war of aggression in 2003 - the situation in Iraq is more catastrophic than ever. To paraphrase Einstein - it is insane to continue what has been proven wrong. NATO members such as the US, Turkey, as well as Gulf dictatorships such as Qatar and Saudi Arabia have contributed significantly to the strengthening of ISIS. We reject any form of military solution; we demand immediate humanitarian aid to the Iraqi and Syrian population and the general halting of all arms exports, in particular to the region. *Vote: Thursday*



**JAVIER COUSO** SPAIN

### SITUATION IN IRAQ

Since the US invasion 11 years ago, Iraq has been suffering from a massive humanitarian catastrophe and is now in danger of dismemberment. The arrival of terrorists financed by foreign actors is leading to the end of Iraq as a state. We reject any foreign interference, the irruption of terrorist elements and sectarian policies of any kind. We call for an international peace conference to rectify the situation. *Vote: Thursday*



**HELMUT SCHOLZ** GERMANY

### TTIP NEGOTIATIONS

Our daily bread is at the mercy of the powerful: no other lobby group has manipulated the TTIP negotiations as much as the agri-food industry has. Ahead of the sixth round of negotiations, left parliamentarians and civil society are once more protesting against the trade deal. Particularly in light of current NSA and German intelligence service scandals, one of our fundamental criticisms is that TTIP threatens citizens' right to protect their data. We demand an end to the negotiations and support the citizens' initiative against TTIP. *Debate: Tuesday*

GUE/NGL Press briefing: TUE @ 14:30, EP Press room.

Gabi Zimmer - Commission Presidency; Martina Anderson - Palestine; Helmut Scholz - TTIP.