



08 - 11 MAY 2023

PLENARY SESSION PRIORITIES

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PRESS BRIEFING

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

TUE 09 MAY
11:00 CET

PRESS BRIEFING

Journalists are welcome to question the Co-presidents of The Left in the European Parliament on issues they are covering. Physical & remote participation possible. See @Left_EU on Twitter for more details.

with **Manon Aubry** (France Insoumise, France)



Manon Aubry: Stability and Growth Pact

Debate: Tuesday

The proposed reform of the Stability and Growth Pact is just a new window-dressing exercise from the Commission. Under the name of more flexibility and national ownership of debt-reduction paths, sanctions are actually strengthened and EU countries will still have to comply with the same absurd fiscal rules - to converge towards 3% deficit and 60% debt-to-GDP. As usual, this will mean cuts to public services - schools, hospitals and trains - and more unfair structural reforms undermining social security. In short, austerity is once again around the corner and people will pay the price for it. The proposal is not better at making fiscal rules fit for addressing climate change, since they do not guarantee enough fiscal leeway for states to invest massively in the green transition like they should. But what is the point of a balanced budget on a burnt planet?



Martin Schirdewan: This is Europe debate with Olaf Scholz

Debate, Tuesday

The citizens of the EU deserve more than Olaf Scholz and his coalition blocking everything. They don't need a brake pad trying to force them into austerity. Olaf Scholz and the EU would be well advised to follow the left-wing government in Spain, which financed the higher costs of its citizens with a wealth tax, a real energy price break or an excess profit tax in 2022 and also achieved economic growth of 5.5%.



Marc Botenga: EU Budget 2021- European Parliament

Debate: Tuesday, Vote: Wednesday

A special fund guarantees Members of the European Parliament up to €13,700 pension per month. That's 10 times more than most Europeans. The fund is so generous that it will go bankrupt next year, with a deficit of €300 million. And now, they expect taxpayers to step in. No way. This culture of privilege must end. Scrap the fund!



José Gusmão: EU Budget 2021- Frontex

Debate: Tuesday, Vote: Wednesday

Investigations into Frontex by the European Anti-Fraud Office and NGOs exposed systemic mismanagement and horrific practices at EU borders. The European Parliament cannot convey the message that the agency that violates human rights and that lies to MEPs deserves the most investment. Last year, we made history by not granting Frontex its 2020 budgetary discharge. This year, we must do the same.



Özlem Demirel: No EU funds for ammunition production

Debate: Monday

The aim of the EU Act to Support Ammunition Production is to supply Ukraine with ammunition as quickly as possible, further fuelling the war in Ukraine. The money for this shall come from the EU budget, which is forbidden according to Article 41.2 of the EU Treaty. Money is being made available on a grand scale not only for the research and development of armaments, but also for their production and procurement. It's scandalous that the suffering of the people in Ukraine and the sympathy of the people in the EU are being shamelessly exploited to build up a military union and subsidise the EU's arms industry.



Anne-Sophie Pelletier: Protecting consumers from greenwashing

Debate: Tuesday, Vote: Thursday

Greenwashing is distorted marketing. The climate emergency is more urgent than ever, we must take the necessary measures against large companies that do not respect the environment. This text is an important step towards banning programmed obsolescence and allows consumers to make informed and meaningful choices about how and what they consume.



Malin Björk: Istanbul Convention

Debate: Tuesday

Violence against women, girls and LGBTQI people is a widespread problem in Europe, and the Istanbul Convention is the most important international instrument to combat this form of violence. It is therefore hugely important that the EU accedes to the convention. All member states must also get their act together and ratify the convention. Gender-based violence has no place in Europe 2023.



Martina Michels: Implementation of the audiovisual media services directive

Debate: Monday

The so-called "Netflix" regulation on audio-visual services from 2018 includes video-sharing platforms regarding promotion of European works, advertisement rules, protection of minors, elimination of hate speech and accessibility for people with disabilities. The Commission's evaluation on implementation in the member states was very sketchy. We are calling for further exploration of how we can maintain more cultural diversity, data transparency and how we qualify discoverability of European works.