

FOCUS



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PLENARY SESSION PRIORITIES – GUE/NGL GROUP IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

20 - 23 MAY 2013

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

GABI ZIMMER

GERMANY

Tax evasion and tax fraud harm democratic societies in economic and social terms. We support measures to combat tax evasion and tax havens so that the beneficiaries of the crisis will contribute to its costs. The internal energy market strategy can be of benefit to large energy companies and consumers will be faced with additional charges. With increasing energy poverty, against which there is no adequate protection, this path is not sustainable. Energy must remain affordable.

Debate: Tuesday



EU/US TRADE AGREEMENT

HELMUT SCHOLZ

GERMANY

The Commission demands a mandate from the EU Council for free trade and investment negotiations with the United States - without any red lines. Will MEPs comply with this? Plenary will vote on a resolution that ignores all the legitimate and existing concerns by EU citizens. My group is putting forward demands for transparency for an open and inclusive debate in society on what this Treaty will mean for GMOs and hormone use in agriculture, for data protection and internet freedom, for maintaining public services and defending cultural diversity in Europe and for social, wage and environmental standards on both sides of the Atlantic and beyond.

Debate: Wednesday; vote Thursday



THIS WEEK

GUE/NGL PRESS BRIEFING TUESDAY 14:30

European Council meeting (May 2013) - Tax fraud & tax havens
Thomas Händel

Enhanced Cooperation between the European Union and the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation

Jaromír Kohlíček

EU Trade & Investment Agreement Negotiations with the US

Helmut Scholz

Press Conference Room LOW N-1/201

TAX FRAUD & TAX HAVENS

THOMAS HÄNDEL

GERMANY

Even if this report remains an opinion by the European Parliament, it is a strong signal and a real step forward. Ahead of the upcoming Council on May 22nd, the Parliament drafted strong measures to tackle tax fraud and fight tax havens worldwide. One trillion of lost money for member states and the EU cannot be considered as a peccadillo anymore. In times of crisis and austerity, quick, coordinated and effective reaction from the Council and Commission is necessary.

Debate: Tuesday; vote Tuesday



BANKING SUPERVISION

JÜRGEN KLUTE

GERMANY

Over the years, Parliament has been pushing for a common oversight of financial institutions in the EU. While governments have tried to avoid and minimize any effective supervision at European level, they changed their minds in 2012, due to the pressure of the crisis. The results of the negotiations to be voted this week leaves several questions open: a number of non-eurozone countries will not participate, so supervision will not cover the whole single market. Questions regarding parliamentary control over supervision that will mainly be exercised by the ECB also remain open.

Debate: Tuesday



WOMEN'S RIGHTS - BALKANS

INÊS ZUBER

PORTUGAL

I believe that it is not enough just to have legislation on gender equality. I understand that economic development and a fair redistribution of wealth are fundamental so that gender equality becomes a reality in the Balkan accession countries.

Debate: Monday; vote Tuesday



UPCOMING INITIATIVES



STOP AUSTERITY - DEFEND DEMOCRACY

GUE/NGL delegation will take part in the **ALTERSUMMIT** in Athens on 7 and 8 June.

More info: <http://www.altersummit.eu>

This event will be organized with Greek social movements with the support of civil society organizations, trade unions, NGOs, and elected representatives from all around Europe. Follow our blog and keep up to date at www.guengl.eu

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