COUNCIL PREPARATIONS

GABI ZIMMER
GUE/NGL CHAIR
GERMANY

Kyriacos Triantaphyllides
CYPRUS

In light of skyrocketing unemployment rates in Europe, especially among young people, European leaders must urgently invest in sustainable growth. Big promises will not help if the money provided is not enough as by the so called “Growth and Jobs Compact”. The dogma of austerity and improving competitiveness means social dumping and wage cuts at the expense of the people. The social situation in many Member States requires solutions based on solidarity if the EU wants to have a future.

Debate: Wednesday

BABY FOOD

KARTIKA LIOTARD
THE NETHERLANDS

Willy Meyer
SPAIN

The proposal aims to regulate baby food and food for special medical purposes, like dietary products and meal replacements aimed at the elderly and sick. Most importantly, the agreement reached with the Council sets a higher food safety standard for food intended for vulnerable groups. For example, stricter regulations will apply on maximum residue levels of pesticides in food and feed of plant and animal origin.

Debate: Tuesday; Vote: Tuesday

SCHENGEN

CORNELIA ERNST
GERMANY

Freedom of movement without border controls is one of the most important achievements of the EU. This reform of the governance of the Schengen area introduces the possibility to reintroduce internal border controls if one Member State fails to keep its external borders airtight. With this decision to be made by the ministers in the Council, this reform severely undermines the principle of free movement within the EU by surrendering it to the discretion of governments whose biggest interest is to be re-elected.

Debate: Tuesday; Vote: Wednesday

ASYLUM

KYRIACOS TRIANTAPHYLLIDES
CYPRUS

The question of a common asylum system has been on the table since 1999. In these 14 years we have consistently failed to establish a genuine asylum policy centred around the rights of asylum seekers and the principle of solidarity. The compromise reached with Council falls far below our expectations: for instance, the agreement does not modify the Dublin system, it does not ban the detention of unaccompanied minors, and it does not exclude vulnerable groups from accelerated or border procedures.

Debate: Tuesday; Vote: Wednesday

SOCIAL HOUSING

INÈS ZUBER
PORTUGAL

I believe the right to housing should be implemented through a guarantee that citizens and families will have adequate housing which meets their needs and safeguards their well-being and quality of life, thereby helping to achieve social justice and cohesion and tackle social exclusion and poverty. Member States, taking into account their different social, economic and cultural circumstances, should set transparent and impartial criteria for allocating social housing that guarantee this right to all without discrimination.

Debate: Monday; Vote: Tuesday

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