



COUNCIL PREPARATIONS

GABI ZIMMER
GUE/NGL CHAIR
GERMANY



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

ASYLUM

**KYRIACOS
TRIANTAPHYLIDES**
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

THIS WEEK

**GUE/NGL PRESS BRIEFING
TUESDAY 14:30**

**European Council
Asylum
FEAD
Schengen
Press Conference Room LOW N-1/201**

SOCIAL HOUSING

INÊS 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, privacy 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

BABY FOOD

KARTIKA LIOTARD
THE NETHERLANDS



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

EEAS

WILLY MEYER
SPAIN



Since its creation, the European External Action Service has been a militarised, non-transparent and uncontrollable structure that links civilian and military capabilities. Neither the European Parliament nor the national Parliaments have any political or budgetary control, over this institution. Its review will only increase its ties to military and intelligence structures. It represents a further threat to peace in Europe and in the world. We believe that the EEAS should be urgently abolished.

Debate: Wednesday; Vote: Thursday

CRIM MID-TERM REPORT

SØREN SØNDERGAARD
DENMARK



The mid-term report on organized crime includes good proposals such as a call to end bank secrecy, which is important as banks have worked as money laundering machines for organized crime for too long. We need more control of capital, more openness and transparency in public and business administrations and to involve civil society much more in the battle against organized crime.

Debate: Monday; 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



GUE/NGL EUROPEAN UNITED LEFT
NORDIC GREEN LEFT

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