GUE/NGL PRESS BRIEFING

Journalists are welcome to question our MEPs on issues they are covering.

Martin Schirdewan - (DIE LINKE, Acting Group President) on the Ursula von der Leyen vote

Interpretation: EN, FR, DE, ES, IT & PL

Martin Schirdewan - Ursula von der Leyen vote

Debate & Vote: Tuesday

On behalf of the millions of EU citizens who voted for us, we invited Ursula von der Leyen to our group on Thursday morning. Our members challenged her on everything from the climate emergency, austerity, tax justice, enforcing the Dublin Regulation, women’s rights, workers’ rights, EU-Mercosur FTA to defence and transparency at the Commission.

As the Left, we are deeply troubled by her candidacy and the process of her nomination. Backroom deals can only deepen the undemocratic shortcomings of the EU. Furthermore, as Germany’s Defence Minister and a former Minister of Labour, von der Leyen has a long record of failures. With support from right-wing conservatives, the chances of a peaceful EU and a more humane migration policy look more remote than ever.

Miguel Urbán - Humanitarian assistance in the Mediterranean

Debate: Wednesday

The EU and its member states must choose between saving lives or being complicit for the deaths of thousands at sea. The xenophobic right-wingers and the extreme neoliberals are destroying a Europe for its people. To prevent more deaths, we must stop the criminalisation of life-saving NGOs. Further, we urgently need a civil search and rescue system in the Mediterranean that complies with international law.

Silvia Modig - The Finnish presidency

Debate: Wednesday

Climate change is the biggest challenge we face and there is no time to waste. For those of us in the environment committee, Finland’s goal is to strengthen the EU’s position as a global leader in climate action. This must be the priority during the Presidency. All the while, we mustn’t forget taking social justice into our consideration. In our divided society, common values have been put into question. It is therefore important that we build a Europe that is good and fair to all its citizens. As a Nordic welfare state, Finland can set a path towards a socially inclusive Europe: one that strongly defends democracy and human rights.
ABED REGO, Sira
Izquierda Unida, Spain

AUBRY, Manon
La France Insoumise, France

BOMPARD, Manuel
La France Insoumise, France

CARthy, Matt
Sinn Féin, Ireland

DEMIrel, Özem Alev
DIE LINKE, Germany

FLANAGAN, Luke ‘Ming’
Independent, Ireland

GUSMÃO, José
Bloco de Esquerda, Portugal

KOKKALIS, Petros
SYRIZA, Greece

KOUNTourA, ElenA
SYRIZA, Greece

MICHels, Martina
DIE LINKE, Germany

PAPADIMoulis, Dimitrios
SYRIZA, Greece

PINEDA MARÍN, Manuel
Izquierda Unida, Spain

SCHOLz, Helmut
DIE LINKE, Germany

VILLUMSEN Nikolaj
Enhedslisten, Denmark

ANDERson, Martina
Sinn Féin, Ireland

BARRENA, PerAndo
EH Bildu, Basque Country

BOTENGA, Marc
PTB/PVDA, Belgium

CHAIBI, LeïlA
La France Insoumise, France

ERNST, Cornelia
DIE LINKE, Germany

GEORGIou, Georgios
AKEL, Cyprus

HAZEKAMP, Anja
Partij voor de Dieren, Netherlands

KONEČNÁ, Kateřina
KSČM, Czech Republic

KOULOGLOU, Stelios
SYRIZA, Greece

MATIAS, Marisa
Bloco de Esquerda, Portugal

MODIG, Silvia
Vasemmistoliitto, Finland

PELLETIER, Anne-Sophie
La France Insoumise, France

RODRÍGUEZ PALOP, María Eugenia
Podemos, Spain

URBÁN CREsPO, Miguel
Podemos, Spain

WALLACE, Mick
Independents for Change, Ireland

ARVANITIS, Konstantinos
SYRIZA, Greece

BJÖRK, Malin
Vänsterpartiet, Sweden

BUSCHMANN, Martin
Partei Mensch Umwelt Tierschutz, Germany

DALy, Clare
Independents for Change, Ireland

FERREIRA, João
PCP, Portugal

GEORGOULIS, Alexandros
SYRIZA, Greece

KIZILYÜREK, Niyazi
AKEL, Cyprus

KOULOGLOU, Stelios
SYRIZA, Greece

MAUREL, Emmanuel
La France Insoumise, France

OMARJEE, Younous
La France Insoumise, France

PEREIRA, Sandra
PCP, Portugal

SCHIRDEWAN, Martin
DIE LINKE, Germany

VILLANUEVA RUIZ, Idoia
Podemos, Spain