



15 - 18 JAN 2024

PLENARY SESSION PRIORITIES

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PRESS BRIEFING

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

TUE 16 JAN

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) & **Martin Schirdewan** (Die Linke, Germany)



Manon Aubry - Review of the economic governance framework

Debate: Wednesday

After a four-year hiatus, European budgetary rules are resurfacing, aiming to cut government debt through public spending reductions, with no concern for either citizens or the environment. Amidst unprecedented social and ecological crises in the EU, the 3% deficit and 60% criteria appear absurd. It's time to end them! This is a key focus for the Belgian Presidency of the Council and an area where my group will engage very actively.. I'll propose a plenary check for a decisive vote on this matter.



Martin Schirdewan - Fight against the resurgence of neo-fascism in Europe

Debate: Tuesday

In Italy, hundreds are seen giving the Hitler salute at a rally, while in Germany, Austrian and German far-right extremists are plotting the deportation of millions of people. Policies that slash wages, pensions, education, and healthcare erode the social foundation essential for our democracy to flourish. Political decisions catering to right-wing demands bear responsibility for the resurgence of inhumane ideologies because the original is always more appealing.



Manu Pineda - The need to reach a ceasefire in Gaza

Debate: Tuesday, Vote: Thursday

The EU, once again, is late and wrong. We seem to have given up on having an autonomous foreign policy; von der Leyen and Metsola have maintained a position of complicity with the Israeli genocide. The EU should break the Israeli association agreement and apply an immediate arms embargo.



Marc Botenga - Programme of the Belgian EU Presidency

Debate: Tuesday

Europe is going through a massive social crisis. Prices skyrocket. Salaries are insufficient. Workers fear electricity bills and food costs. Excess profits fuel inflation. Yet, the Belgian presidency seems to ignore all of this. It does not offer one single proposal to tackle the social emergency and will even coordinate a ruinous return to austerity policies. This is not our Europe.



José Gusmão - Review of the economic governance framework

Debate: Wednesday

We are witnessing a revival of disastrous austerity policies. The new framework focuses on expenditure as the adjustment variable instead of promoting growth and employment policies, ignoring the lessons of the Troika program and the self-defeating nature of this strategy. The alliance between social democrats, the right, liberals, and conservatives has escalated to the extent of attempting to push through the vote under the radar on this crucial legislation without a plenary discussion in the European Parliament.



Anja Hazekamp - Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable fisheries.

Debate and vote: Thursday

Healthy marine ecosystems are essential for life on Earth and play a key role in planetary wellbeing; We need to drastically improve ocean protection at a global and EU level. The fisheries committee -led by EPP-rapporteur Nicolas Herbst- is trying to sabotage important protection measures, such as a ban on destructive fishing practices within marine protected areas. With this approach, the EPP is not only further endangering marine ecosystems but also betraying fishers who have no future without a healthy ocean (just like other people and animals).



Miguel Urbán Crespo - State of emergency in Ecuador

Debate: Tuesday

Decades of neoliberal policies and IMF structural adjustment plans have positioned Ecuador somewhere between a failed state and a protectorate of global extractivist elites, creating a breeding ground for inequality, organised crime, and violence. It is crucial for the popular and indigenous majorities to take the lead in responding to this crisis to prevent reactionary authoritarianism from seizing control in their stead.