

FOCUS



SUMMIT PREPARATIONS

GABI ZIMMER

**GUE/NGL PRESIDENT
GERMANY**

Some Member States, including Germany, stick to their radical savings plans, regardless of recession and growing unemployment. President Van Rompuy now negotiates with governments only about further cuts, the EP is out. The rich nations want to cut inter alia the Structural and Cohesion Funds, despite the crisis and growing social divisions. Although the EU already cannot pay 16 billion euros for the year 2012, we need to strengthen a social EU with solidarity because of the crisis.



Debate: Wednesday

ACTIVE & HEALTHY AGEING

KARTIKA LIOTARD

NETHERLANDS

The austerity measures leading to cuts in healthcare and social security result in health inequalities and social exclusion, especially for the older generation. Active and healthy ageing means ensuring solidarity between the generations. It means the current economic/financial crisis should in no way negatively affect basic human needs and dignity. It means we need a clear and unambiguous strategy to safeguard social cohesion, to improve overall health outcomes and to tackle health inequalities.



**Debate: Monday;
Vote: Wednesday**

THIS WEEK

GUE/NGL PRESS BRIEFING TUESDAY 14:30
Summit preparations **Gabi Zimmer**;
Active ageing, 1bn rising campaign
Kartika Liotard; Fisheries **João Ferreira**;
European Semester **Marisa Matias**

PRESS CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY 9:30
Tunisia: Democratic transition in
danger **Marie-Christine Vergiat & Fathi
Chamkhi (ATTAC Tunisia)**

PRESS CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY 17:00
Kurdish-Turkey peace **Jürgen Klute**

KURDISH ISSUE IN TURKEY

JÜRGEN KLUTE

GERMANY

In 2012, fighting between Turkey and Kurdish guerilla forces left 500 dead. Out of international media attention, the Kurdish conflict is the most violent armed conflict in Europe. New talks between the Turkish government and imprisoned PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan have been creating hope for a peaceful solution recently. GUE/NGL put this question on Parliament's agenda and asks EU institutions to push conflict parties towards truthful political talks. **Debate: Wednesday**



COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

JOÃO FERREIRA

PORTUGAL

There is a wide consensus when characterising the results of the current Common Fisheries Policy (CFP): the current CFP is disastrous – from an environmental, social and economic point of view. The Commission proposal persists with a centralised management of the CFP, ignoring the huge diversity among countries and insisting on a sweeping definition of 'overcapacity', without specifying in detail or on the basis of quantified indications where the overcapacity exists. Moreover, the problems and specificities of small-scale fisheries are not duly taken into account.



Debate: Tuesday; Vote: Wednesday

EUROPEAN SEMESTER - GROWTH

MARISA MATIAS

PORTUGAL

The European Parliament is expected to present its opinion on the Annual Growth Survey 2013 proposed by the Commission. The policy coordination between Member States must support investment policies promoting sustainable growth and employment, as the only route toward sustainable fiscal consolidation. To tackle the deepening recession, the eurozone needs a real commitment among Member States to reduce the macroeconomic imbalances, by increasing the domestic demand in all economies, especially in the surplus ones, and a differentiated and backloaded path for deficit and debt reduction.



Debate: Tuesday; Vote: Thursday

EUROPEAN SEMESTER - JOBS

INÊS ZUBER

PORTUGAL

This report aims to make recommendations for the European Semester bearing in mind the social problems in many Member States, such as youth employment. However it doesn't make any real break with the current neoliberal policies. It says fiscal consolidation, in a growth friendly manner, must continue and seeks to increase the retirement age, flexicurity in the labour market. The crisis is used as a justification to reduce workers' rights.



Debate: Tuesday; Vote Thursday.

AGRICULTURE IN THE OUTERMOST REGIONS

YOUNOUS OMARJEE FRANCE

The POSEI is a programme for outermost regions. It was set up in 1991 to support agriculture in French overseas departments and the outermost regions of Portugal and Spain. POSEI plays a key role in supporting and developing farming in these regions. Revised by MEPs it will now have three objectives: one aiming to secure the long-term future and development of crop diversification, a second aiming to strengthen the competitiveness of traditional agricultural activities, and a third aiming to compensate additional costs related to the extreme remoteness of these regions.



Debate: Monday; Vote: Tuesday

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