



PLENARY FOCUS

17-19 JUNE 2020

PLENARY SESSION PRIORITIES

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PRESS BRIEFING

European Parliament
Anna Polykovskaya,
PHS 0A50

TUE, 16/03
11:30 CET

GUE/NGL PRESS BRIEFING

Journalists are welcome to question the GUE/NGL Co-president on issues they are covering.

Martin Schirdewan (Die Linke, Germany - GUE/NGL Co-president)



Younous Omarjee - Anti-racism protests & murder of George Floyd

Debate: Wednesday, Vote: from Thursday

The murder of George Floyd and the ensuing protests have raised global awareness to the scourge that racism represents. Racism remains rampant throughout Europe, where theories of racial hierarchy have long served as justification for slavery, colonisation and the Holocaust. However, the European Parliament shouldn't only condemn racist acts and police violence, we must also seize this historic opportunity by establishing a European Day for commemorating the end of slavery, and to recognise slavery as a crime against humanity.



Manon Aubry - EU summit on Covid-19 recovery

Debate: Wednesday

A few weeks ago, the EU was supposed to change it all: regulation, relocalisation, praising the public sector... But normal service has now resumed! The EU Council is likely to embrace the Commission's Next Generation EU recovery plan and all the dangerous macro-economic constraints attached to it. With the Parliament now set to vote in favour of lighter requirements for the banks, we are repeating the same mistakes that led to the 2008 financial crash. We will stick to an alternative path - one based on an ambitious Social and Green New Deal, and a clean break with failing neoliberal dogmas.



Martin Schirdewan - Brexit

Debate: Wednesday, Vote: Wednesday & Thursday

We will continue to work to safeguard the social rights of European citizens and to prevent a race to the bottom with the British. The outcome of Brexit must not allow a downward spiral in social, environmental and consumer protection standards. It is also essential that we avoid the risk of tax dumping. We also call for transparency in the exchange of personal data between the authorities, and for full data protection. However, by refusing to extend the transition period, we must seriously prepare for the economic impact of a hard Brexit at the end of the year. This is why we need a contingency plan for all the affected employees and companies.





Clare Daly - EU-Israel aviation agreement

Vote: Wednesday & Thursday

This vote comes just after the new Israeli government's decision to annex a third of the occupied Palestinian West Bank. The Parliament's ratification would therefore signal, perceived or otherwise, a formal upgrade in EU-Israel relations - marking a shift in the EU's longstanding policy of linking any upgrade of bilateral ties to progress on the conflict resolution track. The approval of this report would be disastrous, and will symbolically reward Netanyahu's disrespect for international law and Israel's apartheid policies.

Clare Daly - Schengen

Debate: Thursday, Vote: Friday

In the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak, 14 EU member states re-introduced internal border controls, in violation of the Schengen Borders Code. This resolution assesses the impact of the partial or full closure of those borders on EU citizens and third country nationals, and calls on member states to adhere to non-discrimination, the freedom of movement, and the respect for the right to seek asylum.



Marc Botenga - Seasonal workers & Covid-19

Debate: Thursday, Vote: Friday

Hundreds of thousands of mobile workers, loaded onto buses and charter flights, stuck far away from home - and all without adequate protection or social rights. The Covid-19 crisis has once more shown how mobile workers in Europe lack adequate protection and rights. We must guarantee equal rights and end social dumping. Same work, same place, same rights. Prioritise workers' rights over economic freedom now!



Elena Kountoura - Tourism and transport in 2020 & beyond

Debate: Wednesday, Vote: Friday

Tourism is the sector hardest hit by the Covid-19 outbreak. It is in urgent need of support to save the millions of workers threatened by lay-offs or deteriorating working conditions. We must also keep SMEs afloat and to make sure they are strong enough to avoid bankruptcies and aggressive takeovers, as well as price wars that would make recovery even harder after this crisis.



Manu Pineda - Israel's plans to annex Palestinian land

Debate: Thursday

Israel's intention to annex up to a third of the occupied Palestinian territory is a threat to international law and Palestinian rights. The EU must respond to this unacceptable move immediately - and match words with action. Israel cannot keep violating Palestinians' rights with impunity and expansionism. It's high time for specific steps to be taken, such as banning all trades with illegal settlements, and ending Israeli participation in EU-funded projects.



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