



19-23 OCTOBER 2020

PLENARY SESSION PRIORITIES

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PRESS BRIEFING

European Parliament
Anna Polykovskaya,
PHS 0A50
TUE 20 OCT
12:00 CET

GUE/NGL PRESS BRIEFING

Journalists are welcome to question the GUE/NGL Co-presidents on issues they are covering. Physical & remote participation possible. For remote questions call VOXBOXEP on Skype and write your name & media outlet in the chat box.

Manon Aubry (France Insoumise, France - GUE/NGL Co-president)

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



Manon Aubry - The social and economic impact of Covid-19: workers' redundancy by big corporations

Debate: Wednesday

Member states and European institutions are have yet to grasp the severity of the economic and social crisis. Poverty and unemployment are rising everywhere and the second wave of the pandemic is likely to worsen the situation. We must take radical measures to mitigate the impact of the recession. We need new Own Resources like the financial transaction tax to increase cohesion funds in helping the most affected regions and vulnerable communities. The Recovery Plan must also integrate binding social commitments to ensure big corporations cannot lay off thousands of employees while receiving public subsidies.



Martin Schirdewan - Brexit

Debate: Wednesday

European fisheries and small and medium enterprises will be the first in line to bear the brunt of the British government's political stubbornness over Brexit; many could become unviable and may not survive come 1st January 2021. This is why the European Investment Bank must set up a Brexit-fund in case of Britain crashing out without a deal. Its premise must be to secure these jobs and to protect the economy from major harm. In order to achieve this, the EU must invest heavily.





Luke 'Ming' Flanagan - The CAP

Debate: Tuesday, Vote: from Wednesday

How we vote in the European Parliament next week on the CAP will determine the direction of agricultural policy and its effect on the environment for the next seven years. Will we go for the business as usual model and accept the greenwashing that we know has failed, or will we take the opportunity presented to us, educate ourselves on the facts, and demand that those who claim to represent us vote for a more progressive CAP?

We have put an alternative on the table that will guarantee a fairer, greener CAP - one that respects the three Pillars of a truly sustainable agriculture: economic, environmental and social Europe. We need others to support this, and deliver what the public wants and the planet desperately needs.



Emmanuel Maurel - Artificial Intelligence

Debate : Monday, Vote: Tuesday

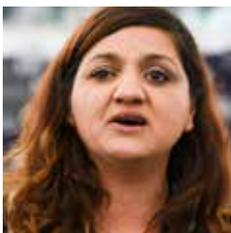
Europe should not engage in a race to the bottom with the United States and China in order to catch up on artificial intelligence. Instead, we should prioritise human dignity, democracy, and the environment over profit. We must also put in safeguards against any authoritarian drift. These are the principles that must form the basis of a European model for artificial intelligence - one which will encourage innovation whilst protecting jobs and the rights of citizens and consumers.



Martin Schirdewan - Digital Services Act

Debate: Monday, Vote: Tuesday

In her State of the EU address, Ursula von der Leyen proclaimed this as "the digital decade". However, just like the European Council in their special summit earlier this month, she said nothing about the huge, unregulated and precarious market for platform workers - some of whom have had to work in conditions akin to The Wild West. Nor did she say anything about the taxation of BigTech firms. We will therefore be monitoring closely what will come after the Commission's proposals to tackle monopolies this week. It is clear that monopolies must be reduced and, if that's not possible, dismantled.



Özlem Demirel - PESCO (EU's Permanent Structured Cooperation)

Vote: Tuesday

PESCO represents the EU Defence Union at its most bellicose and militaristic. Yet, whilst billions are being spent on armament, the same cannot be said for arms control and civil conflict management. The EU's attempt to become a military superpower does not create security. Instead, it undermines peace. We therefore demand the end of PESCO and all defence-related EU programmes. We also call for the strictest of interpretations of Article 41(2) in the EU treaty which prohibits the use of the EU budget for military or defence operations.



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