



17-20 MAY 2021

PLENARY SESSION PRIORITIES

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ONLINE PRESS BRIEFING
European Parliament
Anna Polykovskaya,
PHS 0A50
TUE 18 MAY
11:15 CET

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.

Manon Aubry (France Insoumise, France) and **Martin Schirdewan** (Die Linke, Germany)



Manon Aubry – TRIPS waiver

Debate : Wednesday. Vote: June's plenary

EPP, ECR, ID and Renew's refusal to vote on a resolution on the TRIPS waiver next week is irresponsible. Because of their veto, the Parliament won't have any official position before the next WTO meeting, dedicated to intellectual property rights on vaccines. So much time has already been lost: we cannot postpone this crucial decision while thousands of people die every day because of the worldwide shortage of vaccines. Once again, the right is showing it only serves the interests of Big Pharma and lobbies.



Manu Pineda – EU strategy towards Israel-Palestine

Debate: Tuesday

We strongly condemn all of the ongoing attempts by the Israeli authorities to evict Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah and other areas of East Jerusalem. The airstrikes must stop. The EU has clearly stated that such actions are illegal under international humanitarian law, and will only serve to fuel tensions on the ground. We also call on the urgent release of the Spanish aid worker Juana Ruiz, who has been arbitrarily detained and imprisoned.



Giorgos Georgiou – EU-Turkey report

Debate: Tuesday, Vote: from Tuesday

EU-Turkey relations need to be based on the latter's respect for fundamental rights and freedoms. Turkey must also meet all that had been set out under the Copenhagen criteria. It must uphold its objectives towards the EU with tangible and consistent actions, and refrain from all provocative actions which violate the sovereignty and sovereign rights of EU member states. Finally, Ankara must show goodwill in the negotiations for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem.





Cornelia Ernst – Data protection & Facebook

Debate & vote: Thursday

We welcomed the Schrems II ruling and its implications. It was clear that Privacy Shield would not stand the test in court, and we had emphasised that over and over again. It is the Commission that got slapped here, as well as Data Protection Commission. Both could have stopped data transfers to the U.S. without troubling the CJEU - and done so much earlier.



Miguel Urbán – EU external migration policy

Debate: Tuesday, Vote: Wednesday

European authorities repeatedly deny and renege on their responsibilities for the deaths in the Mediterranean, the Atlantic and the Aegean. However, people have died as a direct result of these authorities' actions and inactions. Mandatory and binding human rights mechanisms are needed, but what is really necessary is to end this murderous migration policy that allows European countries to use Frontex in the illegal pushbacks of at least 40,000 asylum seekers over the past year.



Miguel Urbán – Ending AIDS by 2030

Vote: Monday, Debate: Wednesday

Access to health is a human right. But inequality worldwide means there is only one effective response to global pandemics like AIDS: universal public health care. The market has proved to be incapable of tackling global challenges such as a pandemic. Waiving private patents is the first crucial step in putting lives and health rights before profits.



Martina Michels – Just Transition Fund

Debate: Monday, Vote: Tuesday

A climate-neutral, circular economy is one of the most important strategic policies of the EU. The phasing out of fossil fuels, especially coal, poses major social and economic challenges. Structural change must be socially balanced to meet the needs for the future and for everyone. The JTF will help address these challenges. In the negotiations, we succeeded in strengthening the social dimension and the partnership principle, and exclude investments in gas infrastructure.