



Strasbourg Flash

Plenary Session Priorities 10-13 March 08

EIIT - not this way

Debate Tuesday, 11 March

While the Greens support the goal of strengthening the links between education, research and innovation, the group fears the current proposals would create a pointless white elephant. Under the draft EP report, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIIT) budget would be slashed to around 300m Euro, despite research suggesting 2.3b over 6 years is necessary. Without the funding that is required Knowledge and Information Communities will not benefit and will therefore be forced to constantly apply for funding through already established programs. As the proposal remains the same the Greens retain the position that an under-resourced and ill-conceived EIIT would be worse than no EIIT. As a result the Greens will vote against this proposal for a second time.

CAP Health Check

Debate Tuesday, 11 March

The European Parliament will put the current practices of the Common Agricultural Policy under the microscope on Tuesday. Whereas the so called Health check will probably not be much more than a stock taking exercise, it will be done with a view to a thorough reform of this centrepiece of the community policies, which gobbles up almost half of the European Union's budget. It is time for the agricultural policy to correspond to the needs of society: agriculture contributes to the creation of jobs, the economic development of regions, the maintenance of cultural landscapes rich in biodiversity, food security and stopping climate change. In order to further promote these aims, the CAP needs serious changes. The French want to conclude the health check under their EU presidency. Parliament would prefer to wait until the Treaty enters in force, which gives it full power over the agricultural budget for the first time.

EU-Summit & Climate Change

Debate Wednesday, 12 March

EU leaders will meet in Brussels for the European Council spring summit on Thursday and Friday. Once again the climate change policies of the Union will be at the centre of debate. The far-reaching Climate Change Package that the European Commission presented in January is under heavy attack from several sides. Seven of the new member states want to water down the ambitious goals set out by the Commission. Germany and France struck a deal to go for less rigid limits on car emissions and Industry Commissioner Günter Verheugen wants large exemptions for big industry. The Greens are asking EU leaders to stay the course and make the EU the leading force in the fight against climate change.

Briefing with Greens/EFA Co-Presidents

Daniel Cohn-Bendit and Monica Frassoni
and MEP Friwi Graefe zu Baringdorf

Tuesday 11 March, 10.20-10.40, Press Conference Room

Worth watching - Parliamentary reports, debates and resolutions

Monday, 10 March

- Report (Albertini) on sustainable European transport policy, taking into account European energy and environment policies

Tuesday, 11 March

- Report (Turmes) on energy statistics
- Report (Staes) on statistics on plant protection products

Wednesday, 12 March

- Formal sitting - Celebration of the European Parliament's fiftieth anniversary
- Report (Gomes) on the European Union's role in Iraq
- Council and Commission statements - European code of conduct on arms exports
- Report (Turmes) on the Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund

Thursday, 13 March

- Debate on breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

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