



Strasbourg Flash

Plenary Session Priorities 21-24 April 2008

Run-up to assistants' statute

Debate Tuesday, 22 April

The debate on the budget discharge of the European Parliament offers an opportunity to make a new attempt to establish a statute for parliamentary assistants. The current situation is totally unsatisfactory; assistants are treated very differently based on the respective attitude of the MEP for whom they work. The Greens/EFA group calls for a European statute for MEPs' assistants, which guarantees them a fair salary and covers social security charges. Nevertheless, Members should retain the freedom to recruit their assistants and determine their salary level, respecting set minimum standards.

Agrofuels and food prices

Debate Tuesday, 22 April

Rapidly rising food prices have already led to violent protests in various parts of the world. MEPs will discuss measures to tackle the growing food crises. One of the culprits is the soaring production of agro-fuels, once considered a wonder remedy for climate change. The Greens will hold a press conference on Wednesday 23 April to explain the measures the group believe are needed to tackle the current emergency situation. They call for the EU to abandon its fixed percentage goal for agro-fuels and to put food security first in all EU policies.

Preserving Biodiversity

Debate Wednesday 23 April

The Parliament will vote on a resolution on biological diversity in the run up to the 9th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the 4th Conference to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety that will be held in May in Bonn, Germany. The Greens will support the resolution which will set out the position of the European Parliament ahead of these two important conferences in Bonn. The resolution calls on the Commission and Member States to do more and live up to their commitments in the field of biodiversity both internally and internationally.

Press conference Agrofuels and food prices

with R. Harms, F.W. Graefe zu Baringdorf and A. Lipietz

Tue. 22 April, 14.00,
Press Conference Room

Briefing with Greens/EFA Co-Presidents

Daniel Cohn-Bendit and Monica Frassoni

Tuesday 22 April, 10.20-10.40,
Press Conference Room

Press conference International campaign

"I speak football"
with J.-L. Bennaïmias

Wed. 23 April, 11.00,
Press Conference Room

Worth watching - Parliamentary reports, debates and resolutions

Monday, 21 April 2008

- Oral question: New Flame shipwreck and its consequences in Algeciras Bay

Tuesday, 22 April 2008

- Joint debate: Budget discharge, including statute for assistants and pension fund
- Council and Commission statements on the riots related to the increase in world food prices
- Commission statement on the posting of workers

Wednesday, 23 April 2008

- Council and Commission statements, including visa waivers between the EU and US
- Council and Commission statements on illegal immigration, EU external affairs and Frontex
- European Union-Latin America and Caribbean Summit
- Vote on resolutions on biodiversity and biosafety
- Oral question: GMO Tolerance Zero

Thursday, 24 April 2008

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

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