



# Strasbourg Flash

## Plenary Session Priorities 19-22 May 2008

### Legal protection for the environment

Debate Monday, 19 May

Causing serious damage to the environment can have devastating effects on human health and the environment. Harmful practices must be criminalised. This first Directive for penal law on environmental protection has been substantially improved from the initial report, thanks to pressure from the Greens/EFA group.

A question mark still remains over how Member States will engage in implementing the Directive. An important feature of the proposal is that they must declare how they will apply the law.

### Discrimination within discrimination

Debate Tuesday, 20 May

European legal protection against discrimination on grounds of age, disability, religion/belief and sexual orientation lags behind gender and race/ethnic origin. In 2004 Barroso committed to end the hierarchy of grounds and extend protection beyond the field of employment.

Four years later, and with transposition of the 2000 Equality Directives still not complete in all 27 Member States, resolve appears to be wavering on delivering a new Directive as promised. The Commission must not drop grounds to appease certain Member States.

### Climate change: the facts

Debate Wednesday, 21 May

The Climate Change Committee presents its interim report on Tuesday. Following the findings of the UN panel on climate change, MEPs now have the scientific facts, which leave no doubt that climate change is both real and man-made.

The report reiterates commitment to the goal to limit the global temperature increase to not more than 2°C over pre-industrial levels and underlines the urgency to act now. While the report is supported by a broad majority, the second part on concrete policy conclusions promises to provoke a heated debate.

#### Press conference Anti-discrimination

with T.Zdanoka, K.Buitenweg,  
J.Lambert, E.Schroedter and  
R.Romeva

Tue. 20 May, 11.30,  
Press Conference Room

#### Briefing with Greens/EFA Co-Presidents

Daniel Cohn-Bendit and Monica Frassoni

Tuesday 20 May, 10.20-10.40,  
Press Conference Room

### Worth watching - Parliamentary reports, debates and resolutions

#### Tuesday, 20 May 2008

- Joint debate: Transport by road.
- Report: Meat and livestock statistics
- Agriculture committee: health check of the common agricultural policy.

#### Wednesday, 21 May 2008

- Report: Turkey's 2007 progress report.
- Oral questions: Global treaty to ban uranium weapons.

#### Thursday, 22 May 2008

- Motion for resolution: Rising food prices in the EU and developing countries.
- Motion for resolution: Negotiations between the EU and US with regard to visa exemptions.
- Debates on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

#### Greens/EFA Press Team

- Helmut Weixler (Head of Team): Mobile +32 475 671340, Phone +33-3-88174760
- Isabelle Zerrouk: Mobile +32 477 319474, Phone +33-3-88174032
- Christopher Coakley: Mobile +32 485 241622, Phone +33-3-88174375
- Steven Cornelius (EFA Press Service): Phone +33-3-88172936