



Strasbourg Flash

Plenary Session Priorities 17-20 November 2008

CCS: a red herring?

Monday, 17 November 2008

Coal is already heavily subsidised. The Ehler report aims to maintain that tradition and give coal a "business as usual" scenario.

Even the most optimistic projections accept that carbon capture and storage (CCS) will not be commercially available in time and at any kind of level sufficient to help meet EU Kyoto targets.

Granting free ETS allowances for CCS would be a step too far. A strong ETS price and an EU-wide emissions performance standard should be enough of an incentive to deploy this technology.

CAP in bad shape

Tuesday, 18 November 2008

Parliament appears set to agree on the weakest possible dose of change for a European agricultural policy that is in poor health.

Channelling more money to rural development is not an answer if it is not backed by a real shift towards sustainability.

Greens argue that social and economic conditions should be applied to direct aid to farmers.

Current milk quota proposals will further favour production in well-off regions and drive out small-scale farmers in disadvantaged areas.

Blue Card too restrictive

Wednesday, 19 November 2008

The Blue Card initiative was a promising one, but it is half-hearted as it stands.

In particular, the Greens oppose the restriction of needing to earn 1.7 times the average salary in the host member state to be considered "highly skilled". This in effect creates wildly varying levels of restriction from sector to sector. The Greens always support the principle of equal pay for equal work.

Destinations such as the US and Canada seem set to continue to present a much more attractive proposition for skilled workers.

Briefing with Greens/EFA Co-Presidents

Daniel Cohn-Bendit and Monica Frassoni

Tuesday 18 November, 10.20-10.40

Press conference room

Worth watching - Parliamentary reports, debates and resolutions

Monday, 17 November

Langen/Berès report: EMU@10-the first 10 years of economic monetary union and future challenges
Lulling report: General arrangement for excise duty (tobacco/alcohol allowances, duty free shops)

Tuesday, 18 November

Busk report: school fruit scheme
Böge report: Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund
Joint debate: The EU's response to the global financial crisis and on the 2009 legislative programme

Wednesday, 19 November

Oral question (Greens/EFA and others): convention on cluster munitions
Oral question regarding minimum criteria for environmental inspection in the Member States
Stauner report: The future of social security systems and pensions

Thursday, 20 November

Grässle report on investigations by the European anti-fraud office (OLAF)
Presentation of the Court of Auditors' annual report 2007

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