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News | 17.02.2012

## **Greens/EFA Round-up**

### **Debriefing of the plenary session 13-16 February 2012**

#### **EU Homelessness Strategy**

*Oral question*

*Plenary debate with Commission Monday 13 February 2012*

The extreme cold weather across Europe has had a devastating impact in many countries, with homeless people naturally acutely affected. MEPs on Monday urged the European Commission, represented by Commissioner Michel Barnier, to act on the Parliament's September 2011 request for a strategy for the homeless, which would seek to end street homelessness by 2015. The Greens believe there is a need for EU-wide action on homelessness, while not forgetting that people sleep on the streets for twelve months of the year. Homelessness is not only a violation of fundamental rights, it is a violation of human dignity and we should not need a tragic cold snap to act

- [Plenary Speech by Green MEP Karima Delli](#)
- [Greens/EFA press release](#)
- [European Parliament resolution of 14 September 2011 on an EU Homelessness Strategy](#)

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## **Feasibility of introducing stability bonds**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Committee on Economic Affairs*

*Plenary debate with Commission Tuesday 14 February 2012 - Vote Wednesday 15 February 2012*

With the latest agreement by member states on a fiscal compact naturally having failed to draw a line under the crisis, MEPs debated the issue of Eurobonds with the Commission on Tuesday. The EU

Commission set out the case for Eurobonds in November, and the European Parliament welcomed the Commission report and asked the Commission to come forward rapidly with specific legislative proposals on Wednesday. It is clear that the sole focus on budgetary consolidation has failed and that a more comprehensive response is needed. The Greens have long argued for Eurobonds to play a central role in this response and called on the Commission to swiftly come forward with proposals to decisively address the current sovereign debt crisis.

- [Plenary Speech by Green MEP Sven Giegold](#)
- [Text adopted by EP](#)
- [Greens/EFA Press Release](#)

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## **Food distribution to the most deprived persons in the Community**

*Amending Regulation*

*Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development*

*Plenary debate Tuesday 14 February 2012 - vote Wednesday 15 February 2012*

A compromise solution on a scheme under the CAP providing "food aid to the most deprived persons" in the EU was approved by MEPs on Wednesday. In the short term the compromise follows the lines of a Green proposal made last year and will see the scheme continued until 2013 (around €500 million per year). This will give all involved sufficient time to prepare for a change in the scheme, rather than ending it abruptly and leaving the 18 million beneficiaries (from 2010, up from 13 million in 2009) stranded. Greens believe that in the longer run, the food aid scheme needs to be reformed and given the broader remit of lifting people out of food poverty.

- [Plenary speech by Green MEP Marije Cornelissen](#)
- [Greens/EFA Press Release](#)
- [Procedure file](#)
- [Text adopted by EP](#)

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## **Contractual relations in the milk and milk products sector**

*Legislative Report*

*Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development*

*Plenary debate Tuesday 14 February 2012 - vote Wednesday 15th February 2012*

MEPs voted in favour of new EU rules on contracting and supply management in the dairy sector. The Greens regret that the result fails to go far enough in promoting the effective organisation of dairy farmers to pool production. The current system - with structural overproduction and a handful of dominant players in the processing and wholesale industry - threatens the continued survival of small farmers. Farmers should instead be supported to cooperate to manage their supply and strengthen their bargaining position.

- [Plenary Speech by Green MEP Martin Häusling](#)
- [Greens/EFA Press Release](#)
- [Text adopted by EP](#)

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## **Agreement between the EU and Morocco concerning reciprocal liberalisation measures on agricultural products and fishery products**

*Legislative report by **Green MEP José Bové***

*Committee on International Trade*

*Plenary debate Tuesday 14 February 2012- vote Thursday 16 February 2012*

The EP voted on Thursday to give its consent to the inclusion of a new protocol on agriculture and fisheries in the EU-Morocco trade agreement. The high level of opposition (Votes: 369 in favour; 225 against; 31 abstentions) makes it a bad outcome for the Commission. Green draftsman José Bové not only had problems with the overall direction of the agreement - with blanket liberalisation against the interests of small producers on both sides of the Mediterranean - he has also raised doubts about the legality of the agreement, notably the inclusion of the self-governing territory of Western Sahara. To this end, following the vote he withdrew his name as parliament's rapporteur for the agreement.

- [Plenary Speech by Green MEP José Bové rapporteur](#)
- [Greens/EFA Press Release](#)
- [Text adopted by EP](#) (so far available as Word document)

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## **Employment and social aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2012**

*Own initiative report by **Green MEP Marije Cornelissen***

*Committee on Employment and Social Affairs*

*Plenary debate and vote Wednesday 15 February 2012*

Ahead of the EU summit in March, the EP set out its opinion on the priorities for social and economic policy in the EU, as part of the Annual Growth Survey 2012. The report by Green rapporteur Marije Cornelissen was adopted on Wednesday and underlines that the one-sided focus on fiscal consolidation is at odds with the EU's objectives for 2020 to increase employment and reduce poverty. The Greens believe EU leaders should support the creation of sustainable and quality jobs, while investing in education and combating poverty and unemployment.

- [Plenary speech by Green MEP Philippe Lamberts](#)
- [Greens/EFA Press Release](#)
- [Text adopted by EP](#)

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## **Situation in Russia**

*Motion for Resolution*

*Plenary debate Wednesday 15 February 2012 - vote on resolution Thursday 16 February 2012*

Ahead of the presidential election in Russia, the European Parliament adopted a resolution with a call to do more to promote political pluralism and fair elections in compliance with OSCE recommendations. The resolution also condemned the violent crackdowns against recent mass demonstrations that have underlined the extent of opposition to presidential candidate Vladimir Putin and frustration with restrictions on democracy.

- [Greens/EFA motion for a resolution](#)
- [Plenary speech by Green MEP Werner Schulz](#) (1 February 2012)
- [Greens/EFA Press Release](#)
- [Text adopted by EP](#) (so far available as Word document)

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## **Situation in Syria**

*Motion for Resolution*

*Plenary debate with Commission Wednesday 15 February 2012 - vote Thursday 16 February 2012*

The European Parliament adopted a resolution condemning the violence in Syria and calling on the EU to support the opposition more on political, technical and humanitarian issues. This includes support for the communications facilities of the opposition. Furthermore, the number of Syrian institutions and individuals subject to a Visa ban is set to double. The resolution also supports the efforts of the Arab league and calls for a ceasefire as an important first step.

- [Greens/EFA motion for a resolution](#)
- Plenary Speech by Hélène Flautre (not yet available)
- [Greens/EFA Press Release](#)
- [Text adopted by EP](#) (so far available as Word document)

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## **Recent political developments in Hungary**

*Motion for Resolution*

*Vote Thursday 16 February 2012*

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation in Hungary that includes a pledge to examine the possibility of an Article 7.1 procedure in a report by the Civil Liberties committee. This is a procedure for verifying whether there is a breach of founding EU values by a member state. Concerns remain about Hungary's slide away from democracy. The EU Commission initiated infringement procedures regarding three specific reforms affecting the independence of the judiciary, the central bank and data protection authority. But this misses the more fundamental assault on democratic norms through Hungary's new constitution and media laws.

- [Greens/EFA Press Release](#)
- [Previous Plenary speech by Dany Cohn-Bendit 18 January 2012](#)
- [Text adopted by EP](#) (so far available as Word document)
- [Resolution on the media in Hungary 10 March 2011](#)
- [Resolution on the revised Hungarian Constitution 5 July 2011](#)

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## **Say No to ACTA!**

*Greens/EFA Action at the European Parliament in Strasbourg*  
*Tuesday 14 February 2012*

Greens/EFA MEPs demonstrated against ACTA (The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement) in Strasbourg as pressure builds on the European Parliament to take action. The EU and 22 of its member states have already signed the agreement, but crucially, ACTA must still come before the European Parliament. The group has long campaigned on the agreement, alarmed at the lack of transparency surrounding negotiations and now hopes to convince other groups to take heed of the growing public

concern surrounding its signing.

- [News Article](#)
- [Video of the Action](#)
- [Photos on Flickr](#)
- [Photos on Facebook](#)

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## **"Neo-liberal Taliban"**

*Council and Commission statements - Preparation of the European Council meeting (1-2 March 2012)*  
*Plenary debate Wednesday 15 February 2012*

In a passionate speech on Wednesday, Greens/EFA Co-President Daniel Cohn-Bendit hit out at the EU-ECB-IMF troika and its punitive austerity as a "neo-liberal taliban". He later responded to challenges from the Liberal ALDE group on his use of language, reiterating his point, that ideology is more important than reality to the troika.

- [Video of the plenary speech by Dany Cohn-Bendit](#)

## **Recommended**

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## [PLENARY FLASH: Greens/EFA Priorities 9 to 12 February](#)

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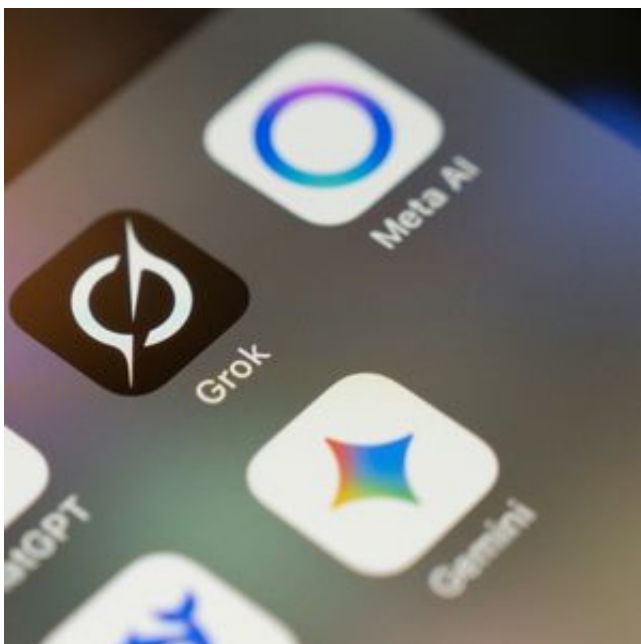


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## [PLENARY FLASH: Greens/EFA Priorities 19 to 22 January](#)

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### **Responsible MEPs**



José Bové

Member



Karima Delli

Member



Sven Giegold

Member



Martin Häusling

Member



Philippe Lamberts

Member

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