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Greens/EFA Round-up

Debriefing of the Brussels plenary session 2-3 April 2014



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Car engine noise

Legislative report (Ouzky report)
Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
Plenary vote Wednesday 2nd April 2014

A deal on revised EU rules aimed at limiting noise from cars was voted on by MEPs Wednesday. The deal seriously weakens the original proposal made by the European Commission, both delaying the eventual start date for the noise limits and weakening the limits originally proposed meaning there will be no meaningful improvement in noise level of new vehicles sold in the EU until 2026. The deal represents a victory for the car lobby and those manufacturers producing noisy vehicles but is a bad outcome for those affected by vehicle noise and the health and environmental issues it causes.

- **Press release (EN/DE)**

Further information:
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EU nuclear safety rules

Non Legislative report (Jordan report)
Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
Plenary vote Wednesday 2nd April 2014

Already weak proposals by the EU energy commissioner Oettinger to revise EU rules on nuclear safety were voted on by MEPs Wednesday and further weakened. The legal process chosen by the Commission excludes the European Parliament from co-deciding on the legislation and the Greens criticised the failure to change the legal basis as well as the whitewash of safety concerns with Europe's ageing nuclear reactors. The proposals fail to set out up-to-date safety criteria for nuclear power plants, which live up to the latest scientific and technical standards. the vote put the nuclear industry first, leaving public safety as an inconvenient afterthought.

- **Press release (EN/DE/FR)**

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Europe's Magnitsky law

Legislative report (Ojuland report)
Committee on Foreign Affairs
Plenary vote Wednesday 2nd April 2014

Proposals to impose visa restrictions on the Russian officials implicated in the death of rights lawyer Sergei Magnitsky were supported by MEPs Wednesday. The European plans, which come long after similar action in the US, are long overdue. It is now up to member States in the council to heed the call of MEPs and impose restrictions on the 32 people that benefit from the corrupt Russian judicial system and go unpunished while Magnitzky has paid for his revelations with torture and death.

- **Press release (DE)**

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Emissions from aviation

Legislative report (Liese report)
Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
Plenary debate Wednesday 2nd April 2014 - vote Thursday 3rd April 2014

A backward proposal to restrict the application of the EU's emissions trading scheme for aviation to solely domestic flights was backed by MEPs, after being rejected by the environment committee. The Greens criticised the proposal from the outset and it has already failed in its strategic aim of trying to create an international scheme for dealing with aviation emissions. Prolonging the exclusion of international flights from the emissions trading scheme will allow emissions from the sector to continue rising, undercutting reductions from other sectors. The actions of Airbus and the European airlines to undermine EU climate policy have been shameless and discredit the sector as a constructive partner for the future.

- **Press release (EN/DE/FR)**

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Net neutrality

Legislative report (Del Castillo report)
Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
Plenary vote Thursday 3rd April 2014

Important new draft EU rules on electronic communications were backed by MEPs Thursday. The Greens successfully fought for the inclusion of provisions that protect the important principle of net neutrality and welcomed the outcome. While the provisions on roaming are a welcome improvement for consumers, these could have been be totally overshadowed by the original proposals which would essentially have given large providers the all-clear for discriminating against users as they see fit. Information online should not be subject to discrimination, blocking or interference by internet access providers. We now hope EU governments in Council will endorse this approach

- **Press release (EN/DE/FR)**

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Clinical trials of medical products

Legislative report (Wilmott report)
Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
Plenary vote Thursday 3rd April 2014

An agreement on new EU legislation on clinical trials was voted on by MEPs Thursday. The Greens believe there need to be clear and robust transparency requirements on clinical trials and believe the deal represents a step forward to this end. It is no longer acceptable that pharmaceutical companies can withhold data from clinical studies on medicines for which they seek or have obtained authorisation. Clinical study reports should be made publicly accessible. Importantly, the new rules will also reintroduce an ethics committee, with the power to block unethical trials.

- **Press release (EN)**

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Outside the Plenary

Putin's Russia: USSR reloaded?

Public Hearing
Tuesday 1st April 2014

Pussy Riot members Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Maria Alyokhina, released from jail at the end of last year, and Oleg Orlov, Director of Memorial, were our special guests Tuesday for a hearing on Putin's Russia. Topics included human right and civil liberties in Russia, what's next after Crimea and how should the EU react.

- Event information and recorded livestream
- **Photo of the event and guests**

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Bee Week 2014

Action and activities
Tuesday 1st April - Friday 4th April 2014

Bees and pollinators are bio-indicators of biodiversity and food security: when they start dying in huge numbers then something is seriously wrong with the system. As part of 2014's European Week of bees and pollinators, the Greens/EFA Group organised a series of events from the 1st to the 4th April to highlight how a pesticide-and-GMO-free agriculture is a prerequisite for healthy bees and pollinators. These culminated in the launch of a new open source project to track losses in bee colonies across Europe and improve bee health, the 'Bees2Bees project'.

- **Video: Want Bees? Cut Pesticides - Give Bees a Chance**
- **Programme of the week**

Action highlighting effects of pesticides

- **Photos (Facebook)**
- **Photo (Twitter)**
- **Bees2Bees Launch**

Further information:
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Next issue of Greens/EFA Plenary Round-up: 18 April 2014

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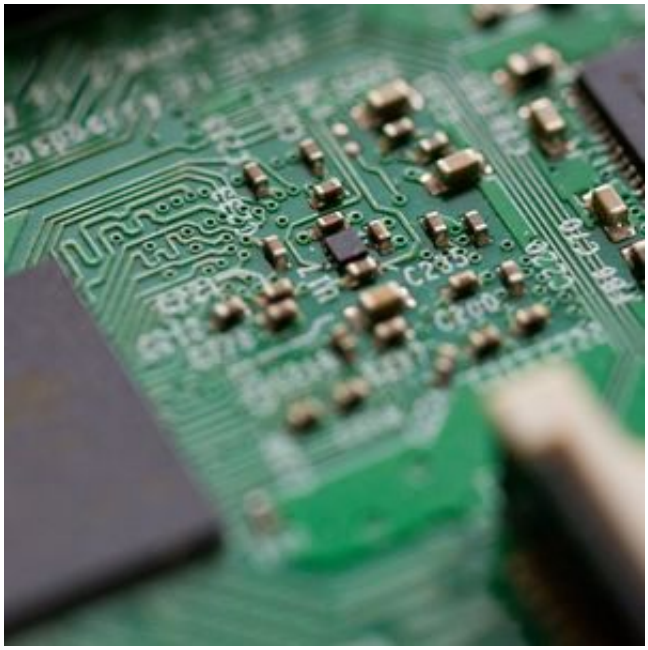


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