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News | 11.09.2015

Greens/EFA Round up

Debriefing of the Strasbourg plenary week 7-11 September 2015



Table of contents

- Seal products ban
- Keeping water as a basic right and public service
- Animal cloning
- The refugee crisis
- State of the EU
- Meeting of the Special Committee on Tax rulings and other measures similar in nature or effect (TAXE)
- Other Greens/EFA motions for resolutions including urgencies

Seal products ban reinforced

Mon. 7 Sept. – EP plenary debate; vote Tues. The European Parliament approved Tuesday a new law, adapting the EU's ban on the trade in seal products to make it fully compliant with World Trade Organization rules. The new law will ensure the ban is fully WTO-compliant and should no longer be at the whim of legal challenges. The new regulation is therefore improved, with the removal of the so-called "MRM exception" - import of seals products derived from hunts conducted for the purpose of marine resource management.

- [Text adopted](#)
- [Press release \(EN/FR\)](#)
- [Social media](#)

Further information

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Keeping water as a basic right and public service

Mon. 7 Sept. – EP plenary debate; vote Tues. The European Parliament adopted Tuesday a report to follow-up on the massively popular European Citizens' Initiative aimed at protecting the right to water (Right2Water). The resolution gives explicit support to the goals of the initiative, despite a move by centre-right MEPs to block this. For the Greens, the major popular mobilisation behind the initiative shows this is an issue that is a top priority for Europe's citizens and it befits the EU institutions to respond positively to this appeal for action. The ongoing threats to the availability of water as a basic right and public service were again confirmed this summer, with the planned inclusion of water services in Greece as part of the privatisation list under the Greek bailout programme.

- [Text adopted](#)
- [Press release \(DE/EN/FR\)](#)
- [Social media](#)

Further information

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Animal cloning and EU rules

Tues. 8 Sept. – EP plenary debate and vote The European Parliament voted Tuesday on draft EU legislation on the cloning of animals. The EP's message is strong and clear: we do not want food from animal clones and their descendants in our plates! The Greens welcomed the vote, which would introduce a comprehensive ban on cloning, and on the placing on the market of food from clones and their descendants. We now call on Member States to support this clear demand. MEPs voted to introduce a comprehensive ban on cloning and, crucially, on the placing on the market of food from clones and their descendants. The vote also strengthened the legal base. Clone food brings significant concerns, with impacts in areas such as livestock management and food security, but also in terms of genetic diversity or animal welfare.

- [Text adopted](#)
- [Press release \(DE/FR/EN\)](#)
- [Infographics \(DE/EN/FR/NL\)](#)
- [Social media](#)

Further information

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The refugee crisis and Europe's chaotic response

Weds. 9 Sept. – EP plenary debate and vote (Tues. - debate on Keller report) MEPs debated Tuesday the dramatic situation of the refugee crisis ahead of an emergency meeting of EU home affairs ministers and

proposals from the EU Commission. They also adopted their opinion on the proposed system for distributing asylum applications, which has been shepherded through parliament by Green MEP Ska Keller. A fair distribution key needs to be urgently agreed but the EU's dysfunctional asylum rules also need to be finally overhauled. The EU Commission and Council must vigorously assess any measures by EU governments that are at odds with their European Treaty obligations or EU law and take robust action if breaches are confirmed.

- [Greens/EFA motion for a resolution](#)
- [Text adopted](#)

- [Press release 9 Sept - National egotism on refugee crisis must be overcome \(DE/EN/FR\)](#)
- [Press release 10 Sept - European Parliament calls for binding EU measures \(EN/DE\)](#)
- [Social media – Ska Keller](#)
- [Social media – Judith Sargentini](#)

Further information

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State of the EU

Weds. 9 Sept. – EP plenary debate The first state of the union debate with EU Commission president Juncker finds the EU in disarray in its response to the various crises. Given the acute nature of the refugee emergency, clearly this will be a focus of the debate. The division and lack of solidarity in Europe's response, which have exacerbated the humanitarian crisis, somewhat mirrors the response to the Euro and Greek crises. Speaking in this context, Greens/EFA co-president Philippe Lamberts said the EU's Council has become a theatre of national egotism: “The EU was founded on the respect of human dignity and human rights. These are our common values”, he said. “The European spirit is nowhere better demonstrated than by different citizens' actions welcoming refugees across Europe. We need legal migration routes to Europe to end the deadly business of refugee smugglers”, he continued.

- [Plenary video – Philippe Lamberts on the refugee crisis](#)
- [Statement – Philippe Lamberts](#)
- [Social media](#)

Meeting of the Special Committee on Tax rulings and other measures similar in nature or effect (TAXE)

On September 7th, the European Parliament's Special Committee on Tax rulings and other measures similar in nature or effect (TAXE) met for a first discussion on its draft report. After the Luxleaks scandal in November 2014, the Greens called for the creation of an inquiry committee in order to investigate who was responsible for granting sweet-heart tax deals, resulting in close to zero corporate tax being paid by these multinationals.

- [Full article](#)

Further information

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Other Greens/EFA motions for resolutions including urgencies

- [The EU's role in the Middle East peace process](#)
- [Russia](#)
- [Angola](#)
- [Azerbaijan](#)

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***** *Next issue of Greens/EFA Plenary Round-up:*
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Contact person



Jean-Bernard Pierini

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