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## State of the Union 2015

### Plenary debate on 9 September

Statement by Greens/EFA co-president **Philippe Lamberts** ahead the annual State of the Union which will take place on 9 September in the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

More information <http://soteu.eu/> and #SOTEU

*"Faced with a series of crises with a devastating impact on people's lives, the Union's divided state is a major problem.*

*Nowhere is this better represented than in the current acute refugee emergency. The chaotic and, in places, inhumane response to the refugee emergency across Europe is now clearly a threat to the common values on which the EU is founded. Europe's internal squabbling and lack of solidarity is exacerbating the humanitarian crisis for which we share responsibility.*

*National egotism is also standing in the way of a lasting and just solution to the Euro crisis, notably in Greece. The social and humanitarian crisis in Greece needs to be a much greater focus of the EU response, as does providing a viable economic perspective for the country. It is also clear that the continued failure to resolve Greece's totally unsustainable debt burden is only prolonging the misery.*

*On climate change, Europe has gone from being a leader to a laggard. The UN climate summit in Paris is a make or break moment and the EU will need to seriously up its ambition if it is to play a leading role at COP21. Instead, we are witnessing EU governments and the Commission increasing standing in the way of the transition to a sustainable economy and measures to reduce climate-damaging greenhouse gas emissions.*

*It is only by standing united and pursuing ambitious and humane responses to these crises that the Union can be credible. Failure to resolve the division will ultimately pose a serious threat to the EU itself."*

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Philippe Lamberts

Member

## **Contact person**



Philippe Lamberts

Member

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