



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Brussels Agenda

Weekly preview of the Greens/EFA group - 8-12 October 2012

EP priorities (full text below):

- Sakharov Prize - choosing the shortlist (joint committee vote, Tues.)
- Tackling insider dealing and market manipulation (economic affairs committee vote, Tues.)
- Regulating offshore oil and gas exploration (energy committee vote, Tues.)
- Keeping track of emissions from land and forests (environment committee vote, Tues.)
- Nuclear safety and cooperation with other countries (energy committee vote, Tues.)
- EU budget and future financing 2014-20 (budget committee votes, Thurs.)
- Animal transport and welfare (agriculture committee vote, Thurs.)

Other EU priorities:

- Economic and banking union moves closer (Eurogroup and Ecofin, Mon. - Tues.)

Greens/EFA events:

- EU forest law enforcement (public conference, Tues.)
- Deterring EU fund fraud with investigative journalism (study presentation, Tues.)
- Libya and the harassment of migrants (report launch and press conference, Thurs.)

Sakharov Prize - choosing the shortlist

Tues. 9 Oct. - Joint vote of human rights, development and foreign affairs committees

MEPs will vote to decide on the shortlist of candidates for this year's Sakharov prize. The EP's conference of presidents will then select the winner late this month from the three shortlisted candidates chosen by the committees. The Greens/EFA group has this year nominated a co-candidacy from Iran: human rights activist and lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh and activist and film director Jafar Panahi. (click for [more information](#))

Tackling insider dealing and market manipulation

Tues. 9 Oct. - Economic affairs committee votes (McCarthy reports)

MEPs on the economic affairs committee will vote on new proposals to strengthen EU level regulation aimed at preventing financial actual market manipulation and insider dealing. The recent LIBOR interest rate rigging scandal has underlined the need to tighten rules to prevent such manipulation. The Greens are in favour of strengthening instruments, as well as tough criminal and administrative sanctions, and that attempts at manipulation should be sanctioned whether they are successful or not.

Regulating offshore oil and gas exploration

Tues. 9 Oct. - Energy committee vote (Belet report)

Various recent leaks and accidents have underlined the dangers of offshore oil and gas exploration. MEPs on the energy committee are set to vote on draft EU legislation on offshore exploration, an area currently subject to piecemeal regulation in the EU. The Greens believe the highest safety and standards must be uniformly applied, as well as full liability of operators for any environmental or other damage through mandatory financial security, and a ban on any activities in environmentally sensitive areas like the Arctic.

Keeping track of emissions from land and forests

Tues. 9 Oct. - Environment committee vote (Arsenis report)

Rules on how greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural land and forests are accounted for in the EU are being harmonised and the EP environment committee will vote on the draft legislation. While technical sounding, the question of how land use emissions are accounted is crucial for EU climate policy, as the greenhouse gases stored in land and forests represent around 10% of total EU emissions. The Greens want to ensure that cropland management and emissions from wetlands (both significant emissions sources) are included in the mandatory EU accounting, and that member states take action to guarantee the sectors improve their contribution to the overall climate effort.

Nuclear safety and cooperation with other countries

Tues. 9 Oct. - Energy committee vote (Krahmer report)

MEPs on the energy committee will give their opinion on the EU's 'Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation', which provides funds for nuclear safety activities in third countries. The Greens believe this instrument should not be used as a marketing tool for the nuclear industry around the world, which has been the case hitherto. Instead, it should be used for dealing with real nuclear safety issues and the Greens have proposed that half of the foreseen funds (€631 million) should be allocated to the remediation of the Fukushima site.

EU budget and future financing 2014-20

Thurs. 11 Oct. - Budget committee votes

The EP's budget committee will vote on an interim report on the EU's multiannual financial framework for 2014-20, which will prepare the way for the EU budget process proper. The Greens believe the EU budget should be a key instrument for stimulating economic recovery in Europe. To this end, we should be investing more in research, education, green technologies, and the sustainable transformation of our energy sector. The Commission's proposals fail to reflect this ambition and need to be increased. The Greens also believe it is high time to introduce a meaningful system of own resources for financing the EU budget. This would end the self-defeating annual horse-trading on the budget.

Animal transport and welfare

Thurs. 11 Oct. - Agriculture committee vote

MEPs will vote on a report on the controversial issue of animal transport. The long distance transport of animals, often in poor conditions, can lead to serious distress for the animals involved. The Greens believe current EU legislation needs to be improved and support calls to limit journey times to 8 hours. The group also believes there is a need for less crowded transporting conditions and better protection for wounded animals. (see [more information](#))

Economic and banking union moves closer

Mon.-Tues. 8-9 Oct. - Council of Eurozone and European finance ministers

With urgent progress on the proposed European banking and economic unions needed, finance ministers will meet to prepare the forthcoming EU summit, which is supposed to take concrete decisions. There is a need to end the deleterious cycle by which EU governments agree some tentative steps towards resolving the Eurozone crisis, only to backtrack after. The Greens are strongly in favour of a banking union, which breaks the toxic link between banks and sovereigns and provides for strong European-level supervision, but stress the need for democratic control. The group also believes a democratically-controlled economic union with mutualised debt is the only way to draw a line under the crisis.

EU forest law enforcement

Tues. 9 Oct. - Public conference - 13.30-17.30 - Room ASP 5E2 European Parliament

This conference will deal with EU rules concerning forests and logging, both internally and in terms of exports and imports, with forest management and governance crucial to environmental and climate goals. The conference will invite stakeholders and policy makers to assess past experience and assess how to improve current rules and their enforcement. (click for [more information](#))

Deterring EU fund fraud with investigative journalism

Tues. 9 Oct. - Study presentation in budgetary control committee - 9.30 - Room JAN 6Q2 European Parliament

A new study looking at the role of investigative journalism in deterring fraud with EU funds will be presented in the constitutional affairs committee. The study was carried out after a request by Green MEP Bart Staes and looks at the state of investigative journalism in EU countries and how to address barriers to this.

Libya and the harassment of migrants

Thurs. 11 Oct. - Press conference and report presentation - 10.30 - Room PHS 7C50 European Parliament

Green MEP H el ene Flautre will host this press conference at which a new report on the mistreatment of migrants in Libya will be presented.