



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Brussels Agenda

Weekly preview of the Greens/EFA group - 26-30 November 2012

EP priorities (full text below):

- **Humanitarian aspects of border control (civil liberties committee vote, Tues.)**
- **Rejecting the EU-Colombia/Peru free trade agreements (trade committee vote, Tues.)**
- **Funding European research and innovation (industry and energy committee vote, Weds.)**
- **Limiting hazardous substances in water (environment committee vote, Weds.)**
- **EU budget 2012: meeting the shortfall (budget committee vote, Weds.)**
- **Financial transaction tax - coalition of the willing (economic and monetary affairs committee vote, Thurs.)**
- **EU banking supervision and democratic concerns (economic and monetary affairs committee vote, Thurs.)**

Other EU priorities:

- **Euro crisis: Greece in the spotlight (Council of Eurozone finance ministers, Mon.)**
 - **Promoting European economic recovery (Commission proposal, Weds.)**
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Humanitarian aspects of border control

Tues. 27 Nov. - Civil liberties committee vote

A controversial proposed EU scheme on border surveillance (EUROSUR) is set to be voted on by the EP's civil liberties committee. The Greens believe the focus in the proposals on border control and surveillance is lop-sided. The group has therefore tried to amend the proposals to ensure that EUROSUR is also given a humanitarian mandate, with a view to assisting and giving protection to the legitimate refugees and asylum seekers. The group also believes that, instead of focusing solely on border controls, the EU should be doing more to address the reasons forcing people to leave their countries. (see [latest press release](#))

Rejecting the EU-Colombia/Peru free trade agreements

Tues. 27 Nov. - Trade committee vote

MEPs on the trade committee are to vote on whether or not to endorse the draft EU free trade agreements with Colombia and Peru. The agreements have provoked strong opposition due to concerns that they would negatively impact on the development of the two Latin American countries. The FTAs would further expand the export of raw materials from Peru and Colombia, without taking into

account social and environmental concerns, and place business interests ahead of human rights. The Greens will be urging other groups to reject the agreements.

Funding European research and innovation

Weds. 28 Nov. - Industry committee vote

The EU's research and innovation funding programmes for the next EU financial period (2014-20) will be voted on by MEPs. The Greens believe the EU budget should be used as a key instrument for stimulating economic recovery and transformation by focusing on research, innovation and the promotion of green technologies. Clearly, the elephant in the room will be the overall fate of the EU's financial framework, and its impact on this core area of the budget. The Greens are, however, opposed to the use of public funds for risky and dead-end nuclear power, which receives a disproportionately high amount of EU energy research funds.

Limiting hazardous substances in water

Weds. 28 Nov. - Environment committee vote

Proposals to strengthen EU legislation on water pollution and hazardous substances are set to be voted on by the EP's environment committee. The proposals foresee the addition of new hazardous substances as 'priority substances', with a view to ensuring action to reduce their presence in water. Greens want to ensure that the proposal is as strong as possible, notably with regard to pharmaceutical products.

EU budget 2012: meeting the shortfall

Weds. 28 Nov. - Budget committee vote (possible)

The shortfall in funds under the EU budget for 2012 has left many key social and structural programmes in a precarious situation. The failure of EU governments in Council to honour their commitments led to the breakdown of negotiations on the 2013 budget. Following this, the Commission has come forward with a new proposal, which will be voted on by the EP budget committee. The shortfalls are not due to new or disproportionate budget lines, they are merely a function of the budgetary commitments agreed to by Council last year. Ultimately, it is beneficiaries in EU member states that will suffer due to this shortfall, notably in crisis-hit countries, making Council's irresponsible position all the more incomprehensible. (see [latest press release](#))

Financial transaction tax - coalition of the willing

Thurs. 29 Nov. - Economic and monetary affairs committee vote

The EP's economic and monetary affairs committee will vote on proposals launching an enhanced cooperation procedure for introducing a financial transaction tax for an initial group of 10 EU member states. The Greens have long advocated an FTT both to help curb risky financial speculation and generate much-needed revenue from an under-taxed financial sector for pressured exchequers. This enhanced cooperation is a first step. Ideally, the FTT should apply in the EU as a whole but the task at hand is now to move forward with this coalition of the willing and hopefully convince other member states to join at a later date. (see [latest press release](#))

EU banking supervision and democratic concerns

Thurs. 29 Nov. - Economic and monetary affairs committee vote

The first of two new EU legislative proposals providing for a supervisory system for European banks will be voted by MEPs on the economic and monetary affairs committee. The legislative file, which will be shepherded through the EP by Green draftsman Sven Giegold, addresses the oversight roles of the European Central Bank and European Banking Authority. The Greens are in favour of strong banking supervision rules but stress the need to provide democratic oversight and to prevent conflicts of interests with the existing competences of the European Central Bank. (see [latest press release](#))

Euro crisis: Greece in the spotlight

Mon. 26 Nov. – Council of Eurozone finance ministers

With the Greek parliament having passed the latest painful austerity measures, Eurozone finance ministers have been procrastinating on the release of further bail out funds. It has long been clear that the EU-ECB-IMF programme of one-sided austerity has been self-defeating, plunging the country deeper into recession and causing massive hardship. Greater flexibility is clearly needed for Greece's fiscal correction, while the failure to tackle massive tax avoidance cannot continue. The EU needs to help Greece turn its economy around and, ultimately, move swiftly towards a proper economic and banking union, if the crisis is to be resolved. The Greens believe the funds should be released. (see [latest press release](#))

Promoting European economic recovery

Weds. 28 Nov. – EU Commission communication

The Commission will launch the European semester of economic policy co-ordination, setting out fiscal and economic policy priorities for the near term. The Greens believe the preoccupation with one-sided fiscal cutbacks has utterly failed and that the EU's priorities need to shift. This means agreeing measures to stimulate economic recovery, through investment in sustainable economic activity, as well as tackling spiralling unemployment, notably youth unemployment.