



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Brussels Agenda

Weekly preview of the Greens/EFA group - 3-7 December 2012

EP priorities (full text below):

EU budget 2012: meeting the shortfall (trialogue agreement, Mon. poss.)

- **Preventing biopiracy and protecting indigenous genetic resources (development committee vote, Thurs.)**

Other EU priorities:

- **Expanding renewable energy in Europe (Council of EU energy ministers, Mon.)**
- **Banking supervision and regulating financial products (Council of EU finance ministers, Tues.)**
- **Clamping down on tax avoidance and fraud (Commission proposal, Weds. TBC.)**
- **Tackling youth unemployment (Commission proposal, Weds.)**

Greens/EFA events:

- **Bloggers for democracy (conference, Weds.)**
 - **Car transport - a fair deal (conference, Thurs.)**
 - **EU criminal justice - a Green approach (conference, Thurs.)**
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EU budget 2012: meeting the shortfall

Mon. 3 Dec. - Triilogue agreement (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. With time running out, the EP and Council have reached a provisional agreement on the 2012 shortfalls and the 2013 budget and a final deal could be sealed next week. 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](#))

Preventing biopiracy and protecting indigenous genetic resources

Thurs. 6 Dec. - Development committee vote

The EP development committee will vote on a report by Green draftsman Catherine Grèze on the intellectual property rights of genetic resources in developing countries. Biopiracy is a major problem in developing countries, flying in the face of poverty reduction measures, notably for indigenous communities.

This report outlines the problem and sets out measures to protect the intellectual property rights for genetic resources in poorer countries and regions.

Expanding renewable energy in Europe

Mon. 3 Dec. – Council of EU energy ministers

EU energy ministers are set to agree on a strategy proposed by the EU Commission aimed at boosting renewable energy. The Greens believe existing EU legislation, which set out clear 2020 targets for renewable energy, has proved successful. To this end, the group believes the EU should adopt a longer-term 2030 target as soon as possible, with a view to ensuring investor certainty and ensuring the potential of this sustainable, domestic and employment-creating energy source can be maximised. (see [latest press release](#))

Banking supervision and regulating financial products

Tues. 4 Dec. – Council of EU finance ministers

With crucial new EU rules on banking supervision - part of the EU banking union - having been voted in the EP, EU finance ministers are set to outline their position, with the Greens having democratic concerns, as well as concerns about potential conflicts of interest with the ECB's mandate (see [latest press release](#)). The ministers are also set to consider new EU rules on financial products, where the Greens want to curb commodity speculation and ensure better consumer protection. (see [latest press release](#))

Clamping down on tax avoidance and fraud

Weds. 5 Dec. – EU Commission action plan (date to be confirmed)

The Commission is set to present an action plan for dealing with tax evasion and fraud in Europe. The Greens have expressed frustration with the continued failure to tackle tax avoidance - both private and 'legal' avoidance by corporations - which deprives EU exchequers of € billions each year. The action plan should include measures for tackling the legislative loopholes facilitating tax avoidance and arbitrage - e.g. on double taxation, clearly defining tax havens, setting out a consolidated corporate tax base - as well as concerted measures for dealing with non-compliant jurisdictions and more consistency with bilateral taxation agreements.

Tackling youth unemployment

Weds. 5 Dec. – EU Commission communication

Unemployment is sky-rocketing in crisis-hit EU member states, with youth unemployment particularly worrying (at around 50% in Greece and 35% in Spain for example). The Greens have been to the fore in advocating for a binding youth guarantee to address this problem. The European Commission will set out proposals to this end, notably with a view to increasing the prospects for traineeships.

Bloggers for democracy

Weds. 5 Dec. - Conference 15-18.30 - Room ASP 1G3 European Parliament

This conference will look at the importance of and barriers to a free internet, as well as addressing the role of blogging and internet activists in political and social change. (click for [more information](#))

Car transport - a fair deal

Thurs. 6 Dec. - Conference 15-18.30 - Room ASP 1G3 European Parliament

This conference will look at the true cost of cars in the EU, including direct subsidies and external costs (like pollution and road accidents), assessing the impact for taxpayers, citizens and the environment, and setting out an EU policy response. (click for [more information](#))

EU criminal justice - a Green approach

Thurs. 6 Dec. - Hearing 15-18.30 - Room ASP 3G3 European Parliament

This conference will look at EU developments in criminal law, both positive steps (such as measures to address environmental or economic crime), as well as problematic areas (such as the European arrest warrant and the lack of proper standard rights in criminal proceedings). (click for [more information](#))