



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Brussels Agenda

Weekly preview of the Greens/EFA group - 17-21 December 2012

EP priorities (full text below):

- **Controversial EU fingerprint database proposals (civil liberties committee vote, Mon.)**
- **Fisheries policy reform takes step forward (fisheries committee vote, Tues.)**
- **Noise from cars/vehicles and EU rules (environment committee vote, Tues.)**
- **EU cross-border energy infrastructure (energy committee vote, Tues.)**
- **EU cross-border transport infrastructure (transport committee vote, Tues.)**
- **Tackling youth unemployment (employment committee vote, Tues.)**

Other EU priorities:

- **EU tobacco rules and public health (Commission proposal, Weds. - poss.)**

Controversial EU fingerprint database

Mon. 17 Dec. – Civil liberties committee vote

Controversial proposals to allow law enforcement authorities access to the Eurodac fingerprint database are set to be voted by MEPs on the civil liberties committee. Eurodac was created as part of the incomplete system of EU asylum rules. There are major concerns about allowing law enforcement authorities unimpeded access to this system, notably as regards concerns for privacy and basic rights of the individuals concerned.

Fisheries policy reform takes step forward

Tues. 18 Dec. – Fisheries committee vote

Much-anticipated plans to overhaul the EU's Common Fisheries Policy are set to be voted by MEPs on the fisheries committee. The Greens have pushed for a fundamental reform of the CFP to move it away from its current destructive and money-losing model, which is based on overfishing. With many fish stocks in a precarious situation, which also threatens the viability of the fishing industry, the Greens believe the EU needs to move to a sustainable fisheries policy, with quotas tied to scientific recommendations on allowable catch and ending wasteful practises like discards.

Noise from cars/vehicles and EU rules

Tues. 18 Dec. – Environment committee vote

Proposals to revise EU rules on noise from vehicles are set to be voted by MEPs on the environment committee. The legislation has been subject to heavy lobbying from carmakers, with sports car manufacturers seeking to water down the proposals amidst lobbying intrigue and controversy. With noise pollution having a seriously damaging effect on human health and the environment, the Greens believe proposals to strengthen current EU rules on noise from vehicles should clearly be supported and their implementation not delayed.

EU cross-border energy infrastructure

Tues. 18 Dec. – Energy committee vote

Proposals on EU funds for cross border energy infrastructure projects from 2014-20, as well as defining the criteria for the selection of these projects, are set to be voted by the energy committee. The Greens believe the clear focus of the Connecting Europe Facility should be on cross-border infrastructure projects, which aim to increase the share of renewable energy, as we move towards a more sustainable economy, based on renewables. Pipelines for transporting CO2 or gas clearly do not have a role to play. The criteria for selecting such projects should also reflect this.

EU cross-border transport infrastructure

Tues. 18 Dec. – Transport committee vote

Proposals on EU funds for cross border transport infrastructure projects from 2014-20, as well as defining the criteria for the selection of these projects, are set to be voted by the transport committee. The Greens believe clear priority should be given to sustainable transport projects, like rail corridors, and not roads. To this end, the group has pushed for provisions on environmental criteria and CO2 emissions. The group also opposes expensive projects with no European added value, and stresses the need to link any projects with regional and cohesion policy.

Tackling youth unemployment

Tues. 18 Dec. – Employment committee vote

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. With the European Commission having set out proposals to this end, notably with a view to increasing the prospects for traineeships, the group wants to put pressure on EU governments to act. To this end, Green MEPs have tabled an oral question and resolution to be voted this week. (see [latest press release](#))

EU tobacco rules and public health

Weds. 19 Dec. – European Commission proposal (poss.)

Long awaited legislative proposals revising EU rules on tobacco products are set to be presented by the European Commission this week. The proposals, which had already been long overdue, were further delayed by the recent controversy surrounding the replacement of EU health commissioner Dalli and allegations of inappropriate industry lobbying. Tobacco is the largest single cause of avoidable death in Europe and strengthening EU rules on labelling, health warnings and additives should clearly be a priority in this context.