



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Brussels Agenda

Weekly preview of the Greens/EFA group - 27 February - 2 March 2012

EP priorities (full text below):

- **Tougher energy efficiency rules edge closer (energy committee vote, Tues.)**
- **Air passenger rights and EU rules (transport committee vote, Tues.)**
- **Mobile phone roaming charges under review (industry committee vote, Tues.)**
- **Women and climate change (women's rights committee vote, Tues.)**
- **Unsustainable investments - EIB budget under scrutiny (budgetary control committee vote, Weds.)**
- **EU enlargement and Serbia under scrutiny (foreign affairs committee votes, Thurs.)**

Other EU priorities:

- **Addressing the humanitarian crisis in Syria (council of foreign ministers, Mon.; EU summit, Thurs. - Fri.)**
- **Euro crisis: no line on the horizon (EU summit, Thurs. - Fri.)**

Tougher energy efficiency rules edge closer

Tues. 28 Feb. - Energy committee vote

New improved EU rules on energy saving and efficiency are set to be voted by the EP energy committee. With EU member states failing to deliver on the non-binding target to reduce energy consumption 20% by 2020, tougher rules are clearly needed. Green rapporteur Claude Turmes is proposing a number of binding measures to this end. The issue of oversupply of emissions permits, which is undermining the EU emissions trading scheme, will also be addressed. (Press conference will follow the vote at 12.30 in EP press room)

Air passenger rights and EU rules

Tues. 28 Feb. - Transport committee vote

While progress has been made in improving air passenger rights, it is clear that much more could be done. Green draftsman Keith Taylor has set out proposals aimed at strengthening the rights of passengers with regards to assistance and reimbursement for delays and cancellations. The report also includes proposals for addressing some of the problems faced by persons with disabilities. Crucially, from a Green perspective, it also calls for better information on environmental performance.

Mobile phone roaming charges under review

Tues. 28 Feb. - Industry committee vote

EU legislation on roaming charges for mobile phonecalls has helped bring down the exorbitant prices charged by operators. Building on this success, the EU Commission has proposed further legislation to tackle other aspects of roaming charges, for example SMS and data roaming. The Greens have welcomed the proposals, which respond to the failure by mobile phone operators to bring down their arbitrarily high prices, however believe the proposals could go further. (click for [latest press release](#))

Women and climate change

Tues. 28 Feb. - Women's affairs committee vote

The EP women's affairs committee is set to adopt a report by Green draftsman Nicole Kiil-Nielsen on women in climate change. The report highlights findings that women are worse affected by climate changes and proposes measures for taking this into account.

Unsustainable investments - EIB budget under scrutiny

Weds. 29 Feb. - Budgetary control committee vote

The European Investment Bank's activities in 2010 will be under scrutiny, when the EP budgetary control committee votes on its annual report. Green shadow draftsman Bart Staes has raised concerns about some of the investments of the EIB in developing countries, which have supported unsustainable developments. The Greens would also like to end the EIB practise of paying bonuses to its staff.

EU enlargement and Serbia under scrutiny

Thurs. 1 Mar. - Foreign affairs committee votes

The EP's foreign affairs committee is set to adopt its assessments of the accession progress of a number of EU enlargement countries. Given the current debate on Serbia's candidate status, the progress report on Serbia will be of particular interest. Question marks remain about justice sector reform, as well as the elephant in the room: relations with Kosovo. The vote takes on added significance with Serbia's candidacy on the agenda for EU leaders at the EU summit. (see [press release](#))

Addressing the humanitarian crisis in Syria

Mon. 27 Feb. - Council of EU foreign ministers

The situation in Syria continues to deteriorate, with this week's shelling of Homs greatly exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. The overriding immediate priority is to ensure a ceasefire and ensuring humanitarian aid can reach those in need and this must be a priority for EU foreign ministers. The Greens believe the EU also needs to do more to support the opposition and tighten sanctions against the out-of-control Assad regime. (see [latest press release](#))

Euro crisis: no line on the horizon

Thurs. - Fri. 1-2 Mar. - EU summit

EU leaders will again be confronted with the Euro crisis, with no resolution in sight. It is widely acknowledged that the recently-agreed fiscal compact is yet another stop-gap measure. While the terms of the second Greek bail out, finally approved this week, will prohibit any solution to the crisis there. A major question to be addressed at the summit is the necessary increase of the Euro firewall, seen

as essential to shoring up the sovereign debt crisis. (see latest press releases on Greece and on the fiscal compact)