



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Brussels Agenda

Weekly preview of the Greens/EFA group - 5-9 March 2012

EU priorities (full text below):

- **Enforcing EU environment law (Commission proposal, Weds.)**
- **Criminal asset seizure and EU action (Commission proposal, Weds.)**
- **Malfunctioning ETS and hot air: fixing EU climate policy (environment ministers council, Fri.)**

Greens/EFA events:

- **Democracy in Hungary (conference, Tues.)**
 - **Fukushima: one year on (high-level conference, Weds.; press conference Tues.)**
 - **How to stop land grabbing (conference, Thurs.)**
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Enforcing EU environment law

Weds. 7 Mar. - Commission proposal

The Commission is set to outline proposals on how to improve the implementation of EU environmental law. Persisting deficits in the implementation of environment rules by member states (particularly in the Mediterranean) are exacerbated by the lack of proper control and enforcement by the Commission. The Greens believe the Commission is often too lax in its use of the infringement procedure, while the procedures themselves take far too long and lack transparency. (see [press release](#))

Criminal asset seizure and EU action

Weds. 7 Mar. - Commission proposal

Given its cross border nature, there is a need to step up EU-level coordination and measures to combat organised crime. The Commission is set to propose new rules to strengthen the ability of national authorities to seize criminal assets, including assets not directly linked to the criminal offence. This is a necessary step in tackling this persisting problem.

Malfunctioning ETS and hot air: fixing EU climate policy

Fri. 9 Mar. - Environment ministers council

Environment ministers will discuss the malfunctioning EU emissions trading scheme, in which the low carbon price is stymieing green investments and emissions reductions. The Greens believe the oversupply of permits needs to be tackled before the third phase starts in 2013. The controversial issue of hot air or surplus emissions permits (AAUs) has dogged EU climate policy for years, both

undermining the effectiveness of internal emissions reduction policies and damaging the EU's credibility in UN climate talks. Environment ministers will again consider the issue, with a view to finally resolving the hot air question.

Hungary - Democracy in a bad constitution

Tues. 6 Mar. - Conference, 9.30-13.00, Room PHS 4B1 European Parliament

This conference will aim to assess the reasons behind Hungary's slide away from democracy over the past year. (see [more information](#))

Fukushima: one year on

Tues. 6 Mar. - Press conference, 10.30, European Parliament press room

In conjunction with the Greens/EFA conference on the first anniversary of the Fukushima disaster on Wednesday, the group will host a press conference, including some of the high-level Japanese participants on Tuesday. The press conference will be streamed live at <http://www.greenmediabox.eu/live/>

Fukushima: one year on

Weds. 7 Mar. - Conference, 10.00-17.30, Room ASP 1G3 European Parliament

Ahead of the first year anniversary of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami disaster and the resulting nuclear disaster (11 March), the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament is organising a conference in the European Parliament on the consequences of the catastrophe. The programme will include a wide variety of speakers, including experts from Japan and Europe, as well as people directly affected in Fukushima. (see [more information](#))

How to stop land grabbing

Thurs. 8 Mar. - Conference, 15-18.30, Room ASP 1G3 European Parliament

The problems of land grabbing in the context of the global food crisis and the right to food will be addressed by this conference, which will seek to present alternative land management models and new instruments for land ownership. (see [more information](#))

Schengen and EU-level oversight

Thurs. 8 Mar. - Home affairs ministers council

Following on from the controversy surrounding the imposition of restrictions to the Schengen border-free system, home affairs ministers will debate changes to EU rules regarding the evaluation of Schengen. This evaluation has been carried out at intergovernmental level hitherto but the Greens support proposals to transfer this responsibility to the Commission for EU-level scrutiny of existing and future Schengen members. (see [latest press release](#))

Tar sands - outlawing dirty fuel in the EU

Fri. 9 Mar. - Environment ministers council

Proposals to effectively prevent the import of oil from tar sands, due to its excessive greenhouse emissions, are set to be decided by environment ministers after deadlock in the Council committee. The Greens support the Commission's proposals, which would ensure this highly climate and environment damaging fuel will not find its way to Europe's petrol pumps. The group hopes environment ministers will not cave to the intense lobby from the Canadian government and dirty fuel firms. (see [press release](#))