



**The Greens | European Free Alliance**  
in the European Parliament

## **Brussels Agenda**

### **Weekly preview of the Greens/EFA group - 4-8 June 2012**

#### ***EP priorities (full text below):***

- **Mortgages - EU rules and consumer protection (economic affairs committee vote, Thurs.)**
- **Upgrading EU rules on credit rating agencies (economic affairs committee vote, Thurs.)**

#### ***Other EU priorities:***

- **Dealing with broken banks (European Commission proposal, Weds.)**
- **Renewable energy - an EU strategy (European Commission proposal, Weds.)**
- **Schengen - preserving the system (home affairs council, Thurs.)**
- **Acting against ACTA (Europe-wide action day, Sat.)**

#### ***Greens/EFA events:***

- **Rio +20 and global sustainable development (conference, Weds.)**
- **Reindustrialising Europe in a circular economy (conference, Weds.)**
- **EU research and innovation and SMEs (conference, Thurs.)**
- **Culture production and consumption in a changing environment (conference, Thurs.)**
- **Turkey and the situation for human rights activists (press conference, Thurs.)**

---

#### **Mortgages - EU rules and consumer protection**

Thurs. 7 June - Economic affairs committee vote (Sanchez Presedo report)

EU legislation regulating mortgages is set to be voted on by the economic affairs committee. Reckless mortgage lending played a major role in causing the current economic crisis and the Greens believe we need tougher rules to regulate the sector. In particular, the group wants to strengthen the proposals to improve macroeconomic rules for and supervision of mortgage markets. The Greens also want to strengthen the consumer protection aspects of the legislation, notably as regards tackling the risks of variable interest rates. However, the proposals have been subject to intense industry lobbying.

#### **Upgrading EU rules on credit rating agencies**

Thurs. 7 June - Economic affairs committee vote

MEPs on the economic and monetary affairs committee will vote on proposals to reform EU rules on rating agencies. The prominent role of ratings agencies in the context of the current sovereign debt crisis in Europe has underlined the need to revise the regulation in the sector. The Greens agree with the need to tackle the dominance of the big three agencies and address conflicts of interest but believe the proposals do not go far enough. The group believes there is a need to overcome the reliance on external ratings while generating more competition. The creation of a European rating foundation could help to this end. There is also a need to move from the current problematic and simplistic letter-based system (AAA) to a figure-based system, giving greater transparency on the situation and the likelihood of default. (see [latest press release](#))

### **Dealing with broken banks**

Weds. 6 June - European Commission proposals

Long-awaited proposals from the Commission setting out EU rules for bank resolution are set to be presented. The absence of a proper framework for bank resolutions partly triggered and has clearly exacerbated the crisis in Europe, with zombie banks acting as a major burden on EU sovereigns. The Greens believe the proposals need to be bold and ensure taxpayers are not again left to foot the bill for cleaning up the mess made by banks. This implies creating a proper resolution fund, with banks contributing via a 'bail in' system, as well as ensuring that systemically important institutions that are too big to exist are restructured.

### **Renewable energy - an EU strategy**

Weds. 6 June - European Commission proposals

Building on the EU 2050 energy roadmap, which was presented last year, the Commission is set to outline a renewable energy strategy for the EU. The Greens believe the EU needs to rapidly shift to a high-efficiency, renewable energy based economy. This implies setting binding targets for the renewable energy share for 2030, the next crucial milestone after 2020, ensuring proper support structures are in place, and transforming energy networks. The energy roadmap was a missed opportunity to this end and the Greens hope this is rectified sooner rather than later in order to give market certainty for investments. (see [latest press release](#))

### **Schengen - preserving the system**

Thurs. 7 June - EU home affairs council

After the controversy surrounding the re-imposition of border controls last year, home affairs ministers are set to decide their position on proposals from the EU Commission on this crucial aspect of the Schengen border-free system. The Greens believe Schengen is one of the major positive achievements of the EU and that its integrity should be preserved. This implies ensuring any decision on the reintroduction of border controls be taken at EU level (not national level), be very limited in timeframe and only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

### **Acting against ACTA**

Sat. 9 June - EU-wide action day

With momentum in the European Parliament mounting for an outright rejection of the controversial ACTA anti-counterfeiting treaty, there will be an EU-wide action day on Saturday. Greens/EFA MEPs are set to take part and the group is pushing for the EP to finally reject ACTA before the summer. (see [latest press release](#))

### **Rio +20 and global sustainable development**

Weds. 6 June - Conference, Room ASP 1G3, European Parliament, Brussels

20 years on from the original global 'Earth Summit', Rio de Janeiro will again host a landmark UN summit on sustainable development. Ahead of the summit, this Green conference aims to look at what's at stake, the role of the EU, how to promote the green economy on a global scale and how to deal with global environmental governance. (see [more information](#))

### **Reindustrialising Europe in a circular economy**

Weds. 6 June - Conference, Room ASP 1G3, European Parliament, Brussels

This conference will look at how to move Europe towards a sustainable economy based on resource efficiency, zero waste and post-carbon. (see [more information](#) - pdf)

### **EU research and innovation and SMEs**

Thurs. 7 June - Conference, Room ASP 1G3, European Parliament, Brussels

The EU Commission has presented its Horizon 2020 strategy for research and innovation in the EU. This conference will look at the implications for small and medium sized enterprises. (see [more information](#))

### **Culture production and consumption in a changing environment**

Thurs. 7 June - Conference, Room ASP 1G3, European Parliament, Brussels

This conference will look at the latest trends in culture production and consumption, notably via the internet, and the implications for intellectual property rules. (see [more information](#))

### **Turkey and the situation for human rights activists**

Thurs. 7 June 10.30 - Press conference, Press Room, European Parliament, Brussels

Green MEP and chair of the EU-Turkey parliamentary delegation hosts this press conference on the situation of human rights activists in Turkey, together with Yusuf Alatas, vice-president of the human rights NGO FIDH.