



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Brussels Agenda

Weekly preview of the Greens/EFA group - 21-25 January 2013

EP priorities (full text below):

- Preventing bee decline and EU legislation (petitions committee, Mon.; environment committee, Thurs.)
- CAP reform - EP to vote on future agriculture policy (agriculture committee votes, Weds. - Thurs.)
- Radioactive contaminants in drinking water (environment committee vote, Weds.)
- Recognising professional qualifications and maintaining standards (internal market committee, Weds.)
- Provision of water as a basic public service (internal market committee votes, Weds.)
- EU energy policy towards 2050 and renewables (energy committee vote, Thurs.)
- Access to care for vulnerable groups in the crisis (social affairs committee vote, Thurs.)

Other EU priorities:

- Greening transport or backing white elephants (Commission proposals, Weds.)

Greens/EFA events:

- Protecting bees and beekeepers - will EU legislation deliver? (press conference, Tues.)
- Daily life in occupied Palestine (screening of the film 'Living under occupation' and debate, Weds.)
- Environmental and financial dimensions of gold mining in Greece (press conference, Thurs.)

Preventing bee decline and EU legislation

Mon. 21 Jan. – Petitions committee debate; Thurs. 24 Jan. - Environment committee debate

The alarming decline of bee populations is on the EP agenda next week. The EP's petitions committee will hear petitions on the issue on Monday. The Greens share the deep concern about the bee crisis - notably the impact of human activities, pesticides and GMOs on these essential pollinating insects, which play such a crucial role for biodiversity and the food security. The group will be launching a campaign on the issue on Tuesday. On Thursday, MEPs will debate current EU legislation on honey, as well as considering the evidence on the disastrous impact of neonicotinoid insecticides on bees, for which Greens believe there is enough evidence (notably a new EFSA report) to ban their use.

CAP reform - EP to vote on future agriculture policy

Weds. - Thurs. 23-24 Jan. – Agriculture committee votes (Various reports)

The agriculture committee will vote on a series of legislative proposals aimed at reforming the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. The Greens believe the CAP needs a radical overhaul to promote resilient farming and food systems, based on sustainable use of natural resources and aimed at preserving biodiversity and preventing and adapting to climate change. It should help create fair incomes and decent employment in farming, supporting rural economies. Specifically, the Greens also want a ceiling on direct payments to prevent large farmers and the agro-industry from absorbing the lion's share of the CAP.

Radioactive contaminants in drinking water

Weds. 23 Jan. – Environment committee vote (**Rivasi** report)

MEPs will vote on EU rules on the protection of drinking water against radioactive contamination. Green draftsperson **Michèle Rivasi** believes the EP should have co-decision powers on this crucial legislation for public health, as with standard EU legislation on drinking water (the EP is currently only being consulted as the legislative proposal falls under the Euratom Treaty) and is seeking the change of the legal base to this end. The proposals should be changed to take account of the difference between radiation from natural and human activities, while provisions to ensure the polluter pays are also needed.

Recognising professional qualifications and maintaining standards

Weds. 23 Jan. – Internal market committee (Vergnaud report)

MEPs on the internal market committee will vote on proposals to revise important EU legislation on the recognition of professional qualifications in the EU. The Greens have concerns about the proposed legislation, notably as regards the issue of 'partial access', which could lead to the reduction of standards and the liberalisation of regulated professions by the back door.

Provision of water as a basic public service

Weds. 23 Jan. – Internal market committee (Tarabella, Juvin reports)

Water provision is a fundamental public service that should be guaranteed across the EU. Two separate legislative files being voted on by the EP's internal market committee have implications for this core public service. The Greens are concerned that the proposed legislation on the award of concession contracts would lead to liberalisation of this sensitive sector, undermining the provision of water as a basic service. The Greens also have concerns about EU rules on procurement by entities in the water and other sectors, which could restrict local authorities' room for manoeuvre.

EU energy policy towards 2050 and renewables

Thurs. 24 Jan. – Energy committee vote (Tzavela report)

In response to the EU energy roadmap 2050, proposed by the European Commission, the EP's energy committee will set out its position on EU energy policy to 2050. The Greens believe the priority for EU energy policy should be to transform our economy, so it is based entirely on renewable energy sources by 2050. Studies have shown this is feasible if the right policy decisions are taken and any EU roadmap should seek to make prioritise these decisions, including on ensuring the necessary infrastructure is put in place. (see [press release](#))

Access to care for vulnerable groups in the crisis

Thurs. 24 Jan. – Social affairs committee vote (**Lambert** report)

Access to basic care services for vulnerable groups has been impacted by the current economic crisis. MEPs on the employment and social affairs committee are set to vote on a report by Green draftsperson **Jean Lambert** outlining this issue and suggesting measures that need to be taken to address the problem.

Greening transport or backing white elephants

Weds. 23 Jan. – European Commission proposals

Following on from the Commission's overarching white paper on Europe's transport future, it will set out proposals on transport infrastructure and alternative fuels. The Greens believe the EU should be promoting the shift to a sustainable transport system, which can reduce transport emissions up to 95% by 2050. This implies ensuring the necessary infrastructure is in place, prioritising rail and truly sustainable transport modes. Focusing on costly alternative fuels and white elephants that may never be commercially viable risks diverting attention from this shift. (see [press release on transport white paper](#))

Protecting bees and beekeepers - will EU legislation deliver?

Tues. 22 Jan. - Press conference 10.30-11.00 - Room ASP 5G2, European Parliament

The Greens/EFA group will host a press conference on the decline of bee populations and the urgently needed EU response. The group will use the opportunity to launch a new campaign on this essential issue.

'Living under occupation - Daily life in Occupied Palestine'

Weds. 23 Jan. - Film screening and debate 18.30-20.30 - Room ASP 3E2, European Parliament

Screening of film made on delegation to Palestine and debate with MEPs. (click for [more information](#))

Environmental and financial dimensions of gold mining in Greece

Thurs. 24 Jan. - Press conference 10.30-11.00 - Room ASP 5G2, European Parliament

Press conference with Greek Green MEP Nikos Chrysogelos.