



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Brussels Agenda

Weekly preview of the Greens/EFA group - 18-22 February 2013

EP priorities (full text below):

- **Future EU budget - MEPs dissect budget summit deal (extraordinary conference of presidents, Mon.)**
- **Horsemeat scandal and EU meat labelling rules (environment committee debate, Mon.)**
- **Emissions trading - repairing the ETS (environment committee vote, Tues.)**
- **Strengthening EU economic governance - 2-Pack (trialogue negotiations, Thurs. - poss.)**
- **Offshore oil and gas drilling - EU rules (trialogue negotiations, Thurs. - poss.)**

Other EU priorities:

- **Social investment in Europe (Commission proposals, Weds.)**

Future EU budget - MEPs dissect budget summit deal

Mon. 18 Feb - Extraordinary conference of presidents

Following the outcome of the EU summit and Council's position on the next multiannual financial framework (2014-20), MEPs will debate the outcome and the forthcoming negotiations with Council president Van Rompuy and Commission president Barroso. The Greens joined with the other major political groups in criticising the Council's position, as agreed at the summit. The group believes that the cuts to the proposed MFF are wrongheaded, as well as criticising the skewed and outdated priorities for spending. (see [press release](#))

Horsemeat scandal and EU meat labelling rules

Mon. 19 Feb - Environment committee debate

The EP's environment committee will host an urgent debate with the relevant EU commissioners on the horsemeat scandal, following an initiative by Green MEPs. The scandal has highlighted deficiencies with the procedures for verifying food quality, as well as shortcomings in EU legislation, notably on meat product labelling. The Greens believe the failure to provide for full origin labelling for all meat products must now be corrected. There are also questions regarding the potential misuse of EU funds, related with this alleged widespread fraud. (see [press release](#))

Emissions trading - repairing the ETS

Tues. 19 Feb - Environment committee vote

Regulatory proposals to address the problems with the EU's emissions trading scheme, notably the oversupply of emissions permits and resulting depressed carbon price, are set to be voted on by the EP's environment committee. While the Greens support the plans to postpone the auctioning of 900 million permits and believe it is important the EP endorses this, the group underlines that further action is necessary. There is a need to permanently retire at least 1.4 billion emissions permits to address the oversupply, as well as to strengthen the EU's 2020 emissions target to a 30% reduction at the least. (see [latest press release](#))

Strengthening EU economic governance - 2-Pack

Thurs. 21 Feb - Trialogue negotiations with Council and Commission

Negotiations between the European Parliament, Council and Commission on key legislative proposals aimed at further strengthening economic governance in the Eurozone are in their final phase, with agreement possible next week. The Greens support moves to strengthen fiscal surveillance and coordination but believe this must be accompanied by proper democratic oversight. Additionally, the 'two pack' needs to be adapted with a view to ensuring more countercyclical flexibility and a qualitative approach to budgetary discipline. It should include a roadmap towards the mutual issuance of sovereign debt to restore confidence in Euro sovereigns.

Offshore oil and gas drilling - EU rules

Thurs. 21 Feb - Trialogue negotiations with Council and Commission

Draft EU rules on offshore oil and gas exploration could be finalised during negotiations between the European Parliament, Council and Commission this week. The Greens believe the overriding goal should be to prevent an accident like the Deepwater Horizon disaster happening in Europe, and ensuring rules provide high safety standards that prevent risky drilling, notably through independent supervision of installations, as well as robust provisions on liability. The group fears this legislation might be a missed opportunity and fall short however. (see [latest press release](#))

Social investment in Europe

Weds. 20 Feb. – European Commission proposal

The European Commission is set to present a series of proposals on social investment in Europe. With social injustice, poverty and unemployment having been exacerbated by the economic crisis, it is clear that more needs to be done to provide support for vulnerable sections of society. With these problems having a cross-border reach, it is clear that there is an EU role to be played.