



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Brussels Agenda

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

EP priorities (full text below):

- **EU budget 2011 discharge (budgetary control committee votes, Mon. - Tues.)**
- **European Parliament seat arrangement under scrutiny (constitutional affairs committee debate, Tues.)**
- **EU banking supervision rules to be finalised (trialogue negotiations, Tues.)**
- **Renewable energy policy in the EU (energy committee vote, Tues.)**
- **Airport ground handling - controversial EU rules (transport committee vote, Tues.)**
- **Tougher EU rules on investment funds (UCITS) (economic affairs committee, Weds.)**
- **Less harmful and environmentally-damaging batteries (environment committee vote, Weds.)**

Other EU priorities:

- **EU economic governance: the next steps (Commission proposal, Weds.)**

Greens/EFA events:

- **Belgian nuclear reactor problems (press conference, Tues.)**
- **Bee population decline - More than honey (film screening, Tues.)**
- **Tobacco lobbying, good governance and Dalligate - proposed EP special committee (press conference, Weds.)**
- **EU data protection rules under reform (press conference, Weds.)**
- **Earth Hour Action (awareness-raising action, Weds.-Thurs.)**
- **Pollinator-friendly farming is possible (conference, Fri.)**

EU budget 2011 discharge

Mon. - Tues. 18-19 Mar. – Budgetary control committee vote (Various reports)

MEPs on the budgetary control committee are set to give their verdict on whether or not the EP should grant discharge to various EU budgets from 2011. The Greens believe discharge should be withheld from the European Food Safety Authority due to persistent conflicts of interest there. The group also believes the European Police College should be merged with Europol in The Hague to realise budget savings. As with previous years, the refusal of the Council to cooperate with the EP and make documents available prevents proper scrutiny and means Green MEPs will vote to withhold discharge of Council's budget.

European Parliament seat arrangement under scrutiny

Tues. 19 Mar. – Constitutional affairs committee debate (**Häfner**-Fox report)

For the first time, the European Parliament is set to explicitly discuss and express its opinion on its multi-seat arrangement, with Green MEP Gerald Häfner co-draftsperson for the initiative report. The report, which will be debated for the first time in the constitutional affairs committee this week, will discuss key issues related to the seat debate. Notably, the legal basis by which the seat arrangement is decided and the role of the EP to have a say on its own location, which is currently not foreseen under the EU Treaty.

EU banking supervision rules to be finalised

Tues. 19 Mar. – Triilogue negotiations with Council and Commission

Negotiations between the European Parliament, Council and Commission on crucial new EU rules on banking supervision - part of the EU banking union - are set to be finalised this week. The Greens have concerns about democratic controls, as well as concerns about potential conflicts of interest with the ECB's mandate and provisions to reflect the diversity of banking models. (see [latest press release](#))

Renewable energy policy in the EU

Tues. 19 Mar. – Energy committee vote (Reul report)

The energy and industry committee will vote on a report on renewable energy policy up to and beyond 2020. Building on the success of the EU's 2020 renewable energy target, the Greens believe the EU should adopt an ambitious and binding 2030 target for renewable energy aiming at a 45% share. This, combined with the right policies on the internal energy market, well-designed individual support schemes and the necessary infrastructure, will ensure we can move towards 100% renewable energy by 2050.

Airport ground handling - controversial EU rules

Tues. 19 Mar. – Transport committee vote (Zasada report)

After having been referred back to committee by the EP plenary, controversial legislation on airport ground handling will again be considered by MEPs. The Greens welcomed the vote to reject the proposed liberalisation of ground-handling services. Bad working conditions for ground-handlers undermine the quality of services, with unacceptable consequences on safety and security. Further undermining working conditions is against the interests of both workers and passengers. The transport committee should recognise this and not seek to send similarly flawed proposals back to plenary.

Tougher EU rules on investment funds (UCITS)

Weds. 20 Mar. – Economic affairs committee vote (**Giegold** report)

Proposals to revise EU rules on investment funds (the UCITS directive) are set to be voted on by the EP's economic affairs committee. The EP's draftsperson, Green MEP Sven Giegold, broadly supports the original proposals from the EU Commission which aim to improve investor protection by changing and adding rules on depositories, sanctions and remuneration. However, he is proposing much tougher rules on remuneration for both individuals and management companies, including an effective ban on performance fees. This would protect investors and act as a disincentive against risky speculation.

Less harmful and environmentally-damaging batteries

Weds. 20 Mar. – Environment committee vote (Panayotov report)

The EP's environment committee is set to vote on proposals to revise EU legislation on batteries. The Greens believe derogations in the existing rules from the EU cadmium and the mercury ban need to be lifted as soon as possible. Safer and better alternatives for cadmium in batteries of power tools and for mercury in button cells are already available. Moreover, EU rules need to ensure that batteries are readily removable from devices.

EU economic governance: the next steps

Weds. 20 Mar. – European Commission proposal

The Commission is set to publish two communications paving the way for further EU measures on economic governance expected to be presented later this year. The Greens believe that any legislative proposals for ex-ante coordination of economic policy must involve the European Parliament through co-decision. It is now time to shift the focus to a broader and more qualitative approach and this means including wider binding EU2020 objectives, beyond narrow fiscal targets. These need to be accompanied by mechanisms to ensure democratic accountability.

Belgian nuclear reactor problems

Tues. 19 Mar. – Press conference - Room ASP 5G2 - European Parliament - 10.30

An updated study on the fissures in Belgian nuclear reactors, which have led to the shutdown of reactors at Doel and Tihange, will be presented by author Dr Ilse Tweer with Greens/EFA co-president Rebecca Harms.

Bee population decline - More than honey

Tues. 19 Mar. – Film screening - Room ASP 5E2 - European Parliament - 18.30

The Greens/EFA group will co-host a screening of the film 'More than honey', which deals with the dramatic decline in bee populations and the wider implications of this. (to register, email: angelique.vanderkerckhove@ep.europa.eu)

Tobacco lobbying, good governance and Dalligate - proposed EP special committee

Weds. 20 Mar. – Press conference - Room ASP 5G2 - European Parliament - 10.30

The Greens have proposed creating a special committee in the European Parliament to investigate the role of lobbying, notably tobacco lobbying, in the aftermath of the Dalligate scandal. Green MEPs José Bové and Bart Staes will outline the mandate for the proposed committee at this press conference.

EU data protection rules under reform

Weds. 20 Mar. – Press conference - Room ASP 5G2 - European Parliament - 14.00

EU legislation on data protection is currently under review, with the EP a co-decider. As EP draftsperson, Green MEP Jan Philipp Albrecht has presented his report. Ahead of a debate in the EP civil liberties committee on amendments to the report, and amidst intense lobbying on the proposals, this press conference will explain the state of play.

Earth Hour Action

Weds. - Thurs. 20-21 Mar. – Awareness action - Ground floor ASP building - European Parliament - 11-14.00

An awareness-raising action ahead of Earth Hour 2013.

Pollinator-friendly farming is possible

Fri. 22 Mar. – Conference - Room PHS 4B1 - European Parliament - 9.00-12.00

Conference on the risks of pesticides and safer farming models for pollinators.
(click for [further details](#))