



Strasbourg Flash

Priorities for the Greens/EFA group for 15-18 April 2013

Emissions trading scheme: stopping the rot

Mon. 15 Apr. - EP debate; vote Tues. (Groote report)

Regulatory proposals to address the oversupply of emissions allowances, and resulting depressed carbon price, in the EU's emissions trading scheme will be voted on by MEPs. The Greens support the plans to postpone the auctioning of 900 million permits and believe it is important the EP endorses this, but 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.

More transparent banking and the bonus cap

Tues. 16 Apr - EP plenary debate and vote (Karas reports)

A deal reached between the European Parliament and Council on new EU banking legislation is set to be endorsed by the parliament. The deal on the capital requirements directive (CRD IV) provides for an EU cap on bank bonuses and provisions to ensure greater transparency for banks' accounts, on top of key provisions ensuring banks are properly capitalised. The Greens had been to the fore in pushing for these provisions and welcomed the outcome and hope the legislation is now implemented as soon as possible.

Strasbourg priorities press briefing

with Greens/EFA co-presidents **Dany Cohn-Bendit** and **Rebecca Harms**

Tuesday, 16 April, 10.30-10.50 - Press Conference Room EP, Strasbourg

Emissions from flights: off the hook?

Mon. 15 Apr. - EP debate; vote Tues. (Liese report)

An agreement on proposals to freeze the planned inclusion of non-intra EU flights as part of the inclusion of aviation in the EU's emissions trading scheme is set to be confirmed by the parliament. The Greens have expressed regret at the freeze and underlined that it could only be justified if it is used to make progress on the issue regulating aviation emissions at international level. Unfortunately the trilogue agreement fails to deliver this and will fail to ensure emissions trading revenues are earmarked for global climate aid.

Preventing dolphin by-catch

Tues. 16 Apr - EP plenary vote (Romeva report)

MEPs will vote to revise EU legislation aimed at reducing incidental catches of cetaceans in several EU fisheries. The legislative revision is sadly limited in scope, with the Commission proposal heavily focused on the use of acoustic deterrent devices and increasing the information available to solve the problem. The overall effectiveness of these provisions is questionable. For this reason, the Greens are calling on the Commission to prepare a new and more ambitious legislative proposal in 2015 in order to effectively address the protection of cetacean populations.

Protecting airport ground handling employees

Tues. 16 Apr - EP plenary vote (Zasada report)

Controversial legislation on airport ground handling will again be considered by MEPs after being referred back to committee. The Greens believe the revised proposal to further liberalise ground-handling services is senseless, as it will only apply to 5 airports. Bad working conditions for ground-handlers undermine the quality of services, with unacceptable consequences on safety and security. The group is unconvinced that the legislation will not further undermine working conditions and will be voting against the re-tabled liberalisation plans.

Developing countries' EU market access

Tues. 16 Apr - EP plenary vote (Martin report)

Proposals to end the EU system of preferential market access for certain developing countries are set to be adopted by MEPs. The Greens were critical of the final legislative agreement, which will lead to the preferential access being phased out next year already (in 2014). This will leave the affected developing countries with no time to prepare for the disruption caused by the end of this long-standing tool of EU trade policy aimed at supporting developing countries. The group will be tabling amendments to prolong the phase-out.

HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED OVERLEAF



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Hungary and democratic freedoms

Weds. 17 Apr - EP plenary debate

MEPs will debate the situation in Hungary, after its parliament passed a series of constitutional amendments undermining the independence of the constitutional court and the rights of minorities. The Greens hit out at the reforms, which come as the European Parliament is concluding an assessment of previous controversial constitutional reforms, democracy and fundamental rights in Hungary, and called on the European Commission and Council to take action. It seems that no lessons have been learned by prime minister Orban, as he continues his anti-democratic lurch.

EU Arctic policy: a wake-up call

Weds. 17 Apr - EP plenary debate

The decline of Arctic sea ice and the resulting scramble for resources has clear implications for the EU, which MEPs will debate with the EU's foreign policy high representative. The Greens believe that the decline of the Arctic ice cap should be a wake-up call for action to address the manmade causes of climate change driving the melt, and not simply an opportunity to open up the Arctic for exploitation by the extraction industry, notably oil firms. The group wants a moratorium on Arctic exploration and has launched a campaign to this end.

Fall out from the Cyprus bail-out debacle

Weds. 17 Apr - EP plenary debate

The extraordinary circumstances surrounding the recent financial assistance programme for Cyprus and its conditionality, notably proposed levies on deposits, will be debated by MEPs. The Greens strongly condemned the senseless proposals to place a levy on the savings of ordinary depositors, which undermined the spirit of European deposit guarantees. The subsequent reversal was necessary but there are real questions as to how this totally wrong-headed plan could have been proposed and endorsed in the first place.

Ship scrapping and worker protection

Thurs. 18 Apr - EP plenary debate and vote (Schlyter report)

Draft new EU legislation on the recycling and scrapping of ships will be voted on by the EP. Currently, most ships are scrapped on beaches in South-East Asia under unacceptable conditions for human health and the environment, circumventing applicable rules that ban the export of hazardous waste from the EU to non-OECD countries. Green MEP and EP draftsman Carl Schlyter wants to put an end to this practice by establishing a financial instrument that would steer ships that trade with the EU into proper ship recycling facilities.

EU enlargement progress assessed

Weds. 17 Apr - EP debate; vote Thurs. (various reports)

The EU enlargement progress of various EU candidate countries is the subject of a series of reports to be voted by MEPs, including Serbia and Kosovo. The report by Green MEP Ulrike Lunacek, EP draftsman on Kosovo, welcomes the Serbia-Kosovo dialogue but calls for transparency, although this has been overshadowed by Serbia's rejection of an EU-brokered agreement. It calls on the 5 remaining EU member states to recognise Kosovo and urges swift implementation of the EU visa roadmap, whilst opposing partitioning of Kosovo.

Guaranteeing the Responsibility to Protect

Thurs. 18 Apr - EP plenary debate and vote (Brantner report)

The 'responsibility to protect' is a UN initiative setting out principles, based on the idea that sovereignty is a responsibility and notably focuses on preventing and halting four 'mass atrocity' crimes: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing. These should apply to and be applied by states and the international community. MEPs will vote on a report by Green draftsman Franziska Brantner, which aims to ensure a coherent EU response towards implementing the R2P and the necessary steps to this end.

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