



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Brussels Agenda

Weekly preview of the Greens/EFA group - 6-12 May 2013

EP priorities (full text below):

- **Hungary and democratic freedoms (civil liberties committee debate, Tues.)**
- **EU funding for the most deprived (employment and social affairs committee vote, Tues.)**
- **Weak targets for van emissions (environment committee vote, Tues.)**

Other EU priorities:

- **New seeds regulation endangers genetic diversity (European Commission proposal, Mon.)**
- **More transparent bank charging (European Commission proposal, Weds.)**

Greens/EFA events:

- **Alternative responses to the ecological, economic and social crises (conference, Weds.)**
- **Energising Europe and Spain sustainably (external meeting of the Greens/EFA group, Madrid, Fri.)**

Hungary and democratic freedoms

Tues. 7 May – Preliminary debate in civil liberties committee

MEPs will hold an initial debate on parliament's report on the situation in Hungary, following the passage of different reforms affecting basic fundamental rights. The report by Green draftsman/rapporteur Rui Tavares assesses the constitutional reforms, the necessary EU follow-up and wider implications for the EU institutions and their role in upholding the democratic values on which the EU is founded. The Greens were critical of the original anti-democratic reforms and further concerned by new constitutional reforms, which again threaten democratic rights. The group believes the Commission must be empowered to act to defend threats to basic EU values.

EU funding for the most deprived

Tues. 7 May – Employment and social affairs committee vote

A proposal for a new EU funding scheme for the most deprived people will be voted on by MEPs on the employment and social affairs committee. After controversial moves to abolish an existing scheme under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, which provided food aid to the most vulnerable people, the

Greens were to the fore in pushing for the scheme to instead be updated and made part of EU social funds. The Greens believe that this crucial scheme, which provides aid to millions, is more appropriately dealt with as part of EU social policy, instead of as a scheme to use up agricultural surpluses.

Weak targets for van emissions

Tues. 7 May – Environment committee vote

The environment cCommittee will vote on targets for van emissions. MEPs will decide whether to maintain the weak target of 147g/km for 2020 and whether to introduce a target for 2025. The Greens call for a bold decision in order to reap the win-win opportunities, saving money for consumers and European small and medium sized enterprises, saving the climate and making EU manufacturers fit for the van market of the future with an efficient fleet.

New seeds regulation endangers genetic diversity

Mon. 6 May – European Commission proposal

The Commission will propose new EU rules on seed production and marketing which will replace twelve existing directives on seed production, certification and marketing with a single EU wide regulation. The Greens criticise the proposal as it continues to endanger genetic diversity within farming systems due to a more rigid system of certification and very restrictive rules for getting access to the EU Common Catalogue of seeds. The new rules also favour big seed companies to the detriment of small seed producing farmers, small or organic breeders or seed-saving NGOs.

More transparent bank charging

Weds. 8 May – European Commission proposal

The Commission is set to propose new EU rules aimed at improving the transparency and accountability of bank account fees, as well as making it easier for bank customers to switch accounts. The Greens believe strengthening consumer protection in the banking sector is essential and more transparent charging plays an important role to this end.

Alternative responses to the ecological, economic and social crises

Weds. 8 May – Conference - Room ASP 1G3 - European Parliament - 9.30

With conventional solutions to the economic, ecological and social crises we are facing failing, this conference aims to propose alternative responses. Experts and stakeholders will present and discuss these alternative policies and explain how they could lead to greater crisis-resilience and increased sustainability. ([Click for more information](#))

Energising Europe and Spain sustainably

Fri. 10 May – External group conference - Madrid

The Greens/EFA group is organising an external meeting in Madrid. The public conference will focus on sustainable energy, with a look at the case of Spain and the lessons that can be drawn for Europe as a whole. The meeting takes place ahead of a Council of the European Green Party, with a press conference planned at 12.30. ([Click for more information](#))