



DEBATE ON MONDAY 8 MARCH AND FINAL VOTE ON WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH

Corporate due diligence and corporate accountability - Lara Wolters, S&D MEP and rapporteur on due diligence

The European Parliament has a historic opportunity to take the lead in setting binding standards on corporate due diligence. Next week, MEPs will vote on S&D-driven proposals that oblige businesses to check their impact on the environment, on labour standards and on human rights, and mitigate any problems in the process. At the moment, responsible companies, doing the right thing by meeting voluntary standards, find themselves at an unfair competitive disadvantage. That is why we have pushed for legislation that shapes a level playing field and brings companies the legal clarity they need to meet the standards that citizens expect them to. Based on next week's vote, we expect the European Commission to come forward with ambitious legislation mid-year that finally puts people and planet before profits.

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DEBATE AND FINAL VOTE ON TUESDAY 9 MARCH

InvestEU Programme - Irene Tinagli MEP, S&D negotiator on the InvestEU

The level of ambition in this report is extremely high, both in terms of the volume of investments to be mobilised and in terms of their quality. Social and environmental issues are at the centre of the stage, as is the need to also use InvestEU for the tasks initially envisaged by the Solvency Support Instrument, unfortunately cancelled by the European Council last July. Special attention was given to sectors particularly in need of support such as tourism, culture and social infrastructure. Women are suffering more than others from the Covid-19 crisis and that is why we wanted special attention paid to projects that see women among the promoters or beneficiaries. I really hope that the plenary will confirm its support for the report and will also confirm its vote last year for a higher InvestEU contribution to achieving the overall EU environmental target.

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DEBATE AND VOTE ON TUESDAY 9 MARCH

EU4Health Programme - Jytte Guteland, S&D coordinator in the environment committee

The unprecedented global Covid-19 pandemic has taken the lives of many thousands of people worldwide. In the face of this formidable challenge, the EU's 27 national healthcare systems have shown their fragility and weaknesses, but also the absolute necessity to accelerate the move towards increasing European responsibility and solidarity on health matters. This is what the EU4Health programme should be about: quality healthcare for all. We must ensure co-operation between member states by making our healthcare systems more resilient and co-ordinated, and ensuring fair and equal access to vaccines and treatments.

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY 9 MARCH

The current political situation in Georgia - Sven Mikser, S&D MEP and the European Parliament's rapporteur on Georgia

On Tuesday we will debate the latest developments in Georgia, following the detention of the leader of the UNM party. The S&Ds call on the government of Georgia, the ruling party as well as the opposition, to take steps to de-escalate political tensions and resolve the current political crisis. Only political dialogue can resolve the political tensions, which were raised after the parliamentary elections of 31 October. The country's aspirations for democratic reforms, economic and social prosperity and Euro-Atlantic integration should not become hostage to party political fights. We support the initiative of President of the European Council Charles Michel to bring the parties to the negotiating table and reach a comprehensive agreement.

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DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH

Council and Commission statements - Government attempts to silence free media in Poland, Hungary and Slovenia - Birgit Sippel, Spokesperson for Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

In Poland, Hungary and Slovenia, free and independent media is being crippled by targeted public funding cuts in concerted efforts to silence opposition voices. In recent weeks, journalists faced direct and personal threats on social media from Slovenian EPP Prime Minister, Janez Janša. Holding governments to account is a journalist's job and we cannot allow any efforts to threaten or undermine the freedom of the press to succeed. The S&D Group successfully made sure that Slovenia is also a focus in next week's plenary debate. We will put pressure on the Council and the Commission to use every tool at their disposal to defend press freedom before the harm spreads elsewhere.

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DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH AND FINAL VOTE ON THURSDAY 11 MARCH

Council and Commission statements - Declaration of the EU as an LGBTIQ Freedom Zone - Cyrus Engerer, S&D MEP and shadow rapporteur on the declaration

With this historic resolution we give our support to denouncing the atrocious creation of "LGBTI-free zones" in Poland, an action which risks dragging Europe back to its darkest ages. In this resolution, we are demanding that the Council and Commission take action against any government which goes against these EU values and denounce all attempts to discriminate against people based on sexual orientation or gender identity, be it in Poland, Hungary or anywhere else in the EU. Thanks to our group, within this resolution we find especially strong language on the need to particularly focus on the challenges faced by the further marginalised communities of transgender and intersex persons when they seek to find recognition, dignity and freedom within the European Union and a clear call for action.

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S&D Group press conference
Iratxe GARCÍA PÉREZ, S&D President
Tuesday 9 March 09:45 to 10:15
Anna Politkovskaya room – European Parliament in Brussels - SPAAK 0A50
[Webstreaming here](#)

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