



DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 19 MAY, VOTE IN JUNE

Meeting the global Covid-19 challenge: effects of waiver of the WTO TRIPS agreement on Covid-19 vaccines, treatment, equipment and increasing production and manufacturing capacity in developing countries – Iratxe García, S&D Group president

In the fight against Covid-19, we will only be safe if everybody is safe, and this means access to a vaccine for all. The global vaccine strategy is an absolute priority for the EU, including the important issue of waiving the TRIPS agreement. Unfortunately, the liberals and the conservatives blocked our proposals for a plenary vote this week. They clearly fail to understand that there is no time to waste in providing affordable vaccines for all.

President's

MARTIN DE LA TORRE Victoria victoria.martindelatorre@ep.europa.eu + 32 473 23 41 73

spokesperson



DEBATE ON MONDAY 17 MAY, VOTE ON WEDNESDAY 19 MAY

A European Strategy for Hydrogen – Jens Geier, S&D MEP and rapporteur on the European hydrogen strategy

With the report on a European hydrogen strategy, we want to give a strong signal on the importance of renewable hydrogen for Europe's decarbonisation. Hydrogen from renewable energy sources is an enabler for the European energy transition. The report therefore underlines that renewable hydrogen is the only long-term sustainable type of hydrogen, but also acknowledges the transitional role of low-carbon hydrogen. This approach is an important step for the Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament. We also stress the importance of a European hydrogen market and the fast deployment of new hydrogen infrastructure. EU member states now need to invest accordingly. Incentives for the demand-side and international partnerships are necessary to create a market for hydrogen.

S&D press officer: **CHIRU Dana**

dana.chiru@ep.europa.eu +32 460 96 33 54



DEBATE ON TUESDAY 18 MAY

Recent deaths in the Mediterranean and search and rescue at sea –

Birgit Sippel, S&D MEP and spokesperson on civil liberties, justice and home affairs

In the first four months of 2021, more than 600 people have died in the Mediterranean. Every single loss of life at sea is a tragedy. Even more so since rescue was an option and the heart-breaking loss of life is preventable and unacceptable. The EU must wake up and bear its responsibility for the increasing death toll at sea. That is why the S&D Group supported a debate with the Commission and the Council on the recent deaths in the Mediterranean and search and rescue at sea. Instead of deterring migrants and refugees, the EU has to step up its efforts in search and rescue operations and take rescued asylum-seekers to safe European ports. As MEPs we have a responsibility to make sure the Commission and member states uphold international and EU law, like an individual's right to asylum, but we also have a duty as co-legislators on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum to build in genuine EU solidarity on policies like search and rescue, and safe disembarkation to prevent further loss of life.

S&D press officer: **MACPHEE Ewan**

ewan.macphee@ep.europa.eu +32 478 96 19 14



DEBATE ON TUESDAY 18 MAY, VOTE ON WEDNESDAY 19 MAY

Reports on Turkey – S&D MEP Nacho Sánchez Amor, EP standing rapporteur on Turkey

The European Parliament is set to debate and vote its annual report on Turkey, which is possibly the toughest EP report ever on the situation in the country. This is just a reflection of the serious and continued backsliding in the areas of the rule of law and human rights in Turkey in the last 2 years, and the unprecedented scale of the crackdown on democratic opposition and any critical voices. The report sends clear messages to both Turkey and the other EU institutions and member states: without urgent progress in the human rights and the rule of law situation in Turkey, there can be no improvement in EU-Turkey relations. We welcome the recent de-escalation and the change of narrative towards the EU from Turkish authorities but now we need facts that will prove their commitment to these words. The European Parliament will not support any EU policy towards Turkey that forsake human rights and the rule of law. This report also renews our firm commitment to keep supporting Turkish civil society, who still largely looks towards the EU with hope.

S&D press officer: CZERNY-GRIMM Inga inga.czerny-grimm@ep.europa.eu +32 474 62 28 84



DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 19 MAY, VOTE IN JUNE

The conflict of interest of the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic – Lara Wolters, S&D MEP

Our Group strongly opposes any case of corruption, fraud and conflict of interests in member states, which undermines the legitimate use of EU funds and their economic, social and environmental contribution to the benefit of European citizens, and of regions more in need. We welcome the Commission's final audit report identifying a conflict of interest of the Czech prime minister with his Agrofert conglomerate. We call on the Commission to ensure all payments to Agrofert are halted and to swiftly conclude the remaining investigation into the Czech Republic's prime minister's conflict of interest.

S&D press officer: CHIRU Dana dana.chiru@ep.europa.eu +32 460 96 33 54



DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 19 MAY, FINAL VOTE ON THURSDAY 20 MAY

New Avenues for Legal Labour Migration – Sylvie Guillaume, S&D MEP and rapporteur on the report

Migrant workers have made up a significant proportion of the brave and dedicated key workers who have allowed essential services to carry on during the pandemic. As we come out of the pandemic, seasonal and migrant workers will also play a huge role in Europe's recovery. The report on new EU-wide legal ways for migrant workers, especially in medium- and low-paid employment, to come and work in the EU received widespread support at the committee stage and the S&D Group is hoping for the same levels of support during this week's plenary session.

S&D press officer: MACPHEE Ewan ewan.macphee@ep.europa.eu +32 478 96 19 14



DEBATES AND VOTES ON THURSDAY 20 MAY

Data Protection Adequacy – Juan Fernando López Aguilar, S&D chair of the committee on civil liberties, justice and home affairs

On Thursday, there will be an important joint debate taking place on data protection adequacy. Firstly, in the context of the invalidity of the US-EU Privacy Shield through the Schrems II case, the S&D Group will be leading the Parliament's calls for the Commission to ensure compliance with GDPR and every aspect of the EU court rulings when it negotiates any new personal data transfer agreements with the US. When it comes to the UK adequacy decision, S&D MEPs will be highlighting our concerns around the UK's laws and practices when it comes to data protection. We expect widespread support from MEPs for our report calling for the Commission to modify its decision and for our demand that there is an action plan in place to allow for the eventual granting of the adequacy decision.

S&D press officer: MACPHEE Ewan ewan.macphee@ep.europa.eu +32 478 96 19 14

Utta Tuttlies
Head of Press & Communications Department, Group's spokesperson
+32 473 85 34 07

Victoria Martín De La Torre
President's spokesperson
President's cabinet
+ 32 473 23 41 73

Solange Hélin-Villes
Head of Unit, Press, Social Media & Audiovisual
+ 32 476 51 01 72

Jan Bernas
S&D press officer
+ 32 471 64 87 77

Dana Chiru
S&D press officer
+32 460 96 33 54

Inga Czerny -Grimm
S&D press officer
+32 474 62 28 84

Ewan Macphee
S&D press officer
+32 478 96 19 14

Silvia Pelz
S&D press officer
+ 32 478 75 07 12