



DEBATE ON TUESDAY 6 JULY

Presentation of the programme of activities of the Slovenian Presidency. Iratxe García, S&D Group President

As long as Prime Minister Janez Janša remains in power, I am afraid that the Slovenian presidency will fail to pursue the ambitious agenda that people deserve. This Parliament has debated the concerning situation in Slovenia several times in the past two years and the European Commission, in its 2020 Rule of Law report, criticised media freedom in the country. We will have the chance to ask the prime minister about this in plenary next week. We will also ask about the presidency's plans to push forward the Next Generation EU, which is urgent. The presidency should also try to make progress in important areas such as adequate minimum wages, equal pay and asylum reform. The Portuguese presidency has managed to make progress on many important fronts. We hope the Slovenian presidency finds leverage to broker key agreements in the Council. We are ready to cooperate to find positive results, but the Slovenian government must urgently appoint its delegate to the EU Public Prosecutor's Office. We expect transparency and accountability from all EU Member States.

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PRESENTATION ON MONDAY 5 JULY AND FINAL VOTE ON WEDNESDAY 7 JULY

Trade related aspects and implications of COVID-19. Kathleen Van Brempt, S&D MEP, spokesperson on trade

We are currently facing multiple crises in trade policy, and these are clearly concentrated in the areas of human rights in value chains, access to medicines, environmental protection and Europe's place in a changing geopolitical environment. In order to tackle the important challenges we commonly face, regain people's trust and ensure fast global recovery, Europe must deliver on a value based trade policy fit for the 21st century. Post-COVID-19 recovery gives us a unique opportunity to make value chains fair, resilient and sustainable: respecting human rights, labour rights and environmental standards are key for a future proof European trade. Our trade policy must fully embody the ambition of the EU Green Deal, making sustainable development provisions enforceable and sanction-based, while engaging with partners to strengthen the global fight against climate change and supporting developing countries in a sustainable transition.

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY 6 JULY AND FINAL VOTE ON WEDNESDAY 7 JULY

The creation of guidelines for the application of the general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget. Eider Gardiazabal MEP, S&D spokesperson on the budgetary affairs

The conditionality mechanism is something positive for the European citizens. Thanks to it, they can be sure their money as taxpayers does not go where the rule of law is undermined. Words from the Commission are good, but deeds would be better. It is high time for the von der Leyen Commission to act - the time for guidelines is long gone. We insist that the European Commission start sending notifications to Member States that do not comply with the conditionality mechanism. Otherwise, our citizens would believe the EU institutions are only able to produce words with no tangible results. In a time of rising populism throughout Europe, this would be not only unacceptable but also unforgivable.

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DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 7 JULY AND VOTES ON THURSDAY 8 JULY

Review of the macroeconomic legislative framework (Reform of EU fiscal rules). Margarida Marques, S&D MEP and rapporteur on reforming the macroeconomic framework

Next week, the European Parliament will vote on reform proposals for the European Union's economic governance, including the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP). The pro-cyclicality and the very narrow space for fiscal stimulus left by the current Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) have severely hampered the EU's economic outlook in the past. To avoid falling in the same trap in the future and prepare for the post-pandemic world, the Socialists and Democrats suggest focusing on country-specific debt adjustment path operationalised by the expenditure rule in order to better tailor to countries' realities and reflect the degree of debt sustainability of countries. Moreover, a reformed framework should include considerations for a special treatment for sustainable public investments as well as an

incentive - rather than a sanction based - approach. A reformed SGP should place social and environmental policies on equal footing with fiscal and economic policies. Instead of debt and deficit instruments being objectives in themselves, they should again become tools to make peoples' lives better.

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JOINT DEBATE ON THE RULE OF LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN HUNGARY AND POLAND ON WEDNESDAY 7 JULY

Breaches of EU law and of the rights of LGBTIQ citizens in Hungary. Marc Angel, S&D MEP and Co-Chair of the LGBTI intergroup

LGBTIQA+ persons don't cease to exist just because you try to erase them from public life. The Hungarian government's recent attempts to do this will not prevent a single LGBTIQA+ person from being who they are. This is not a choice and LGBTI is not an ideology, it is an identity! Instead it will increase the suffering of the people concerned because they are shown that once again their government led by Viktor Orbán, does not accept them for who they are and it will foster an environment of intolerance and aggression against LGBTI-people in Hungary and the rest of Europe. In next week's plenary, the S&D Group will be condemning, in the strongest possible terms, Orbán's latest attempts to attack a vulnerable minority in society and we will call on the Commission and Council to act fast to protect LGBTI people's rights in Hungary.

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DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 7 JULY AND FINAL VOTE ON THURSDAY 8 JULY

European Medicines Agency. Nicolás González Casares S&D MEP and Rapporteur

A stronger European Medicine Agency means a stronger resilience for the EU to tackle possible future challenges of the magnitude of the Covid-19 pandemic. Next week MEPs will vote in plenary for 'the reinforced role for the European Medicines Agency in crisis preparedness and management for medicinal products' report. Led by the S&D Group, the EU can take a crucial step towards turning the Health Union into a reality. The pandemic has shown that the EU, its member states and the EMA did not have the adequate mandate or sufficient resources. This cannot happen again. This report aims at strengthening the EMA's capacity to deal with future emergencies by supporting the role of healthcare professionals and synergies between EU agencies. We also want to avoid possible medicine shortages by providing the Agency with new tools - such as a European medicines supply database - which will always ensure a comprehensive overview of the volume of stock at member state and European level.

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DEBATE ON MONDAY 5 JULY AND VOTE ON AGREEMENT ON TUESDAY 6 JULY

Use of technologies for the processing of data for the purpose of combating online child sexual abuse (temporary derogation from Directive 2002/58/EC). Birgit Sippel MEP, S&D spokesperson on justice and home affairs and EP negotiator

Child sexual abuse is a horrible crime and we have to improve its prevention, the prosecution of offenders and support to survivors. This means preventing the dissemination of online child sexual abuse material and grooming online. Next week, the European Parliament will vote to allow the temporary continuation of certain voluntary measures for detecting online child sexual abuse, for removing it and for reporting it to the police law enforcement and organisations acting in the interest of the children. As Parliament, we fought hard to improve the proposal, ensuring that the text is in line with existing EU data protection legislation and the Charter on Fundamental Rights and further safeguards to inform users properly about the possible scanning of communications. However, these are not permanent measures. Therefore, we are determined to get to work on a future regulation on fighting child sexual abuse online that replaces this interim solution while ensuring even more targeted solutions.

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Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2021-2027. Tanja Fajon, S&D MEP and EP negotiator on the funds

In the next seven years the EU will dedicate more than 16 billion EUR to support key asylum and migration policies of the Union, the biggest amount so far. Socialist and democrats have made sure solidarity, fair sharing of responsibility, as well as developing and supporting a humane Common European Asylum System and integration are again at the heart of policy implementation. The EU will have the means to support member states in their efforts to guarantee the right to asylum – one of Europe's achievements - as enshrined in the treaties and the Charter is upheld and protected.

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