



DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 9 AND TUESDAY 10 MARCH

**The war in Ukraine***Iratxe García Pérez, S&D Group president*

President Putin's war against Ukraine marks the beginning of a new era in Europe and in the world. Historic times demand historic decisions. Providing financial and military support to Ukraine, disconnecting major Russian banks from the SWIFT platform, activating the Temporary Protection Directive to help refugees, and banning the Kremlin's media machine represent a qualitative leap in our capacity to react as Europeans. The struggle for peace and freedom by the Russian and Ukrainian people demands our commitment: we will not rest until Putin is tried as a war criminal by the International Criminal Court.

**MEP:** **GARCÍA PÉREZ Iratxe** ✉ [iratxe.garcia-perez@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:iratxe.garcia-perez@europarl.europa.eu) ☎ +32 22845646 📞 +33 388175646  
*President*

**President's spokesperson** 👤 **MARTIN DE LA TORRE Victoria** ✉ [victoria.martindelatorre@ep.europa.eu](mailto:victoria.martindelatorre@ep.europa.eu) ☎ + 32 473 23 41 73



DEBATE ON TUESDAY 8 MARCH

**Rising energy prices and market manipulation on the gas market***Dan Nica, S&D MEP, S&D spokesperson in the committee on industry, research and energy*

Finally, the committee on industry, research and energy has adopted the question to the Commission, initiated by us, the Socialists and Democrats, on what are the reasons behind the drastic peak in energy prices; on the ways to lift the burden of unbearable electricity bills off the shoulders of our households and businesses and finally on what is the strategy so that this does not repeat itself next autumn and winter. I expect a very frank debate with the European Commission, especially in the context of the war in Ukraine and the energy supplies we get from Russia. The Russian invasion in Ukraine only made our energy vulnerability visible once more, but even before the war, it was painfully clear. How reliable is Russia under these circumstances? Will the European Commission finally make it a reality something the S&D has long been asking for - the mandatory minimum filling obligations for energy storage throughout the entire EU and not leave the matter to member states themselves? And what about now? The EU's gas storage was only 75% full at the beginning of the cold season, it has now lowered to 28% and is predicted to descend to 18% by April. I am particularly worried we will find ourselves at the end of this winter with depleted gas reserves. Not just me and the S&D Group, but the entire EU expects answers to this timely question we are asking the European Commission. I hope we will get a reply from the European Commission next week in plenary.

**MEP:** **NICA Dan** ✉ [dan.nica@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:dan.nica@europarl.europa.eu) ☎ +32 22845448 📞 +33 388175448

**S&D press officer:** 👤 **STANCHEV Alexander** ✉ [alexander.stanchev@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:alexander.stanchev@europarl.europa.eu) ☎ + 32 470 22 66 25



DEBATE ON TUESDAY 8 MARCH

**International Women's Day Celebration***Robert Biedroń, S&D MEP, chair of the committee on women's rights and gender equality and Maria Noichl, S&D MEP, S&D spokesperson in the committee on women's rights and gender equality*

We, the Socialists and Democrats, fight for women's rights every single day of the week, not only on the 8 March. Yet, the International Women's Day is always an opportunity to remind that discrimination as well as gender-based violence are still a daily reality for women, especially in the times of lockdowns. Too many women are still underestimated, underpaid and discriminated. This has to change and this is a cause worth fighting for. But this year, 8 March in Europe will be in the shadow of crisis. There is war at our border. More than 70 years ago in the peak of World War II Saint-Exupéry dedicated "The Little Prince" to his best friend with the explanation he was in occupied France "where he is hungry and cold and he needs to be comforted" Let us dedicate this year's 8 March to the women who suffer, lost their homes and flee war in terror. Let's find not only the words, but also the means to be on their side and support them. The S&D Group underlines: where crisis and war hit, women's rights are at risk. We will not let this happen.

**MEP:** **BIEDROŃ Robert** ✉ [robert.biedron@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:robert.biedron@europarl.europa.eu) ☎ +32 22845141 📞 +33 388175141

**MEP:** **NOICHL Maria** ✉ [maria.noichl@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:maria.noichl@europarl.europa.eu) ☎ +32 22845448 📞 +33 388175448

**S&D press officer:** 👤 **CZERNY-GRIMM Inga** ✉ [inga.czerny-grimm@ep.europa.eu](mailto:inga.czerny-grimm@ep.europa.eu) ☎ +32 474 62 28 84





DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 9, VOTE ON AMENDMENTS ON WEDNESDAY 9, FINAL VOTE ON THURSDAY 10 MARCH

## A new EU strategic framework on health and safety at work post 2020

Marianne Vind, S&D MEP, negotiator on the report

The 170 million workers in the European Union have a right to health and safety at work. The revision of the EU's occupational safety and health strategy for the years 2021-2027 brings a unique opportunity to set out the key priorities and actions necessary for the post-pandemic world, with old jobs disappearing and new jobs emerging in the context of green, technological and demographic changes. Our goal is to reach zero work-related deaths. We continue our work on protecting workers from hazardous substances such as carcinogens, mutagens and reprotoxics, and removing all asbestos. Mental health needs to be on the top of the EU agenda. This is why we call for a Directive on psychosocial risks and well-being at work aimed at the efficient prevention of psychosocial risks in the workplace, such as anxiety, depression, burnout and stress, and a Directive on the Right to Disconnect and a legislative framework with a view to establishing minimum requirements for telework.

MEP: VIND Marianne ✉ [marianne.vind@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:marianne.vind@europarl.europa.eu) ☎ +32 22845463 ☎ +33 388175463

S&D press officer: 👤 PELZ Silvia ✉ [silvia.pelz@ep.europa.eu](mailto:silvia.pelz@ep.europa.eu) ☎ + 32 478 75 07 12



DEBATE ON TUESDAY 8, VOTE ON AMENDMENTS ON TUESDAY 8, FINAL VOTE ON WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH

## Foreign interference in all democratic processes in the EU

Andreas Schieder, S&D MEP negotiator on the report

In recent weeks, we have witnessed the stepping up of disinformation campaigns by Putin's propaganda machine. Europe is not yet fully prepared to counter foreign disinformation and fight in a disinformation war. The S&D Group insists on the need to better regulate social platforms. We also call for better regulating of political parties financing, including a ban on foreign donations for political activities in the whole of the EU. We do not shy away from naming and shaming and exposing the close links between Russia's disinformation campaigns and the Austrian FPÖ, the French Rassemblement National and the Italian Lega. Our group welcomes yesterday's decision by the Conference of Presidents to continue with the Special Committee on Foreign Interference in all Democratic Processes in the European Union, including Disinformation (INGE), and the important work started with this report on disinformation.

MEP: SCHIEDER Andreas ✉ [andreas.schieder@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:andreas.schieder@europarl.europa.eu) ☎ +32 22845280 ☎ +33 388175280

S&D press officer: 👤 CZERNY-GRIMM Inga ✉ [inga.czerny-grimm@ep.europa.eu](mailto:inga.czerny-grimm@ep.europa.eu) ☎ +32 474 62 28 84



DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 9, VOTE ON AMENDMENTS ON WEDNESDAY 9, FINAL VOTE ON THURSDAY 10 MARCH

## European Semester report

Irene Tinagli, S&D MEP and negotiator on the report

The S&D Group wants to transform the European Semester process into a driver of change towards a sustainable recovery, as well as a green and digital transition. This economic framework must prioritise the well-being for all. To reach this goal, social and environmental objectives must be set for member states. The tough economic and financial sanctions against Putin's regime are the right response, and we are willing to shoulder the economic costs. But we must empower EU countries to rise to these challenges. This is why we welcome the European Commission's willingness to adapt its fiscal guidance for 2023 to the new circumstances. This is no time for going back to outdated fiscal rules, but to put in place all the instruments to keep people safe.

MEP: TINAGLI Irene ✉ [irene.tinagli@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:irene.tinagli@europarl.europa.eu) ☎ +32 22845827 ☎ +33 388175827

S&D press officer: 👤 PELZ Silvia ✉ [silvia.pelz@ep.europa.eu](mailto:silvia.pelz@ep.europa.eu) ☎ + 32 478 75 07 12



DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 9, VOTE ON THURSDAY 10 MARCH

## A European Withholding Tax framework

Pedro Marques, S&D vice-president and author of the report

The succession of tax scandals opened the eyes of many to the loopholes created by the current patchwork of national tax systems in the EU, which are abused for fraud and aggressive tax planning. This report calls for a harmonised withholding tax framework that ensures that all dividend, interest and royalties payments flowing out of the EU are taxed at an effective tax rate, also curbing harmful tax competition. The S&D Group calls on the Commission to put an end to profit shifting to tax havens by introducing an EU-wide system for withholding tax.

MEP: MARQUES Pedro ✉ [pedro.marques@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:pedro.marques@europarl.europa.eu) ☎ +32 22845594 ☎ +33 388175594

S&D press officer: 👤 PELZ Silvia ✉ [silvia.pelz@ep.europa.eu](mailto:silvia.pelz@ep.europa.eu) ☎ + 32 478 75 07 12



THURSDAY 10 MARCH

## S&D event on Thursday 10 March in Saarbrücken, Germany. Borderless work - what will our future look like?

Gaby Bischoff, S&D vice-president

Next Thursday 10 March, the S&D Group will host an event on 'Borderless work - what will our future look like?' in Saarbrücken, Germany. Among the speakers will be Anke Rehlinger, Minister of Economy in Saarland; EU Commissioner Nicolas Schmit, S&D leader García Pérez; head of the SPD delegation Jens Geier, S&D vice-president Gaby Bischoff, and European Parliament vice-president Katarina Barley.

Working in one country, but living in another is the daily reality of more than one million Europeans. The outbreak of the pandemic has hit these workers hard, and has starkly revealed the fragility of free movement in Europe. Two years on from the start of the pandemic, it is clear that even though the freedom of movement within the Schengen area is slowly returning - cross border regions still continue to face many difficulties. During 5 thematic tables, we want to listen to people's experiences and hear their ideas on how to improve cross-border

work in Europe.

[You can find the full programme and how to register here](#)

**MEP: BISCHOFF Gabriele** ✉ [gabriele.bischoff@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:gabriele.bischoff@europarl.europa.eu) ☎ +32 22845548 📞 +33 388175548

**S&D press officer:** 👤 **PELZ Silvia** ✉ [silvia.pelz@ep.europa.eu](mailto:silvia.pelz@ep.europa.eu) ☎ + 32 478 75 07 12

*S&D Group press conference  
Iratxe García Pérez, S&D president  
Tuesday 15 February, 10.10 - 10.30  
Daphne Caruana Galizia room - Strasbourg  
Weiss N-1/201  
Webstreaming here  
<https://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/>*

*Journalists who want to participate and ask questions can connect via this link:  
<https://broadcaster.interactio.eu/join/66e2-hy1p-1w4u>*

**Utta  
Tuttles**  
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

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

**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

**Alexander  
Stanchev**  
S&D  
press  
officer  
+32 470 22 66 25