



DEBATE ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

Keep the bills down: social and economic consequences of the war in Ukraine and the introduction of a windfall tax

Iratxe García Pérez, president of the S&D Group

Families and enterprises are struggling to pay their bills this winter. We were still recovering from the effects of the pandemic and the economic downturn, and now we also have to face the impact of the war in Ukraine. Our most pressing issue right now is to take measures to support Europeans and to keep the bills down for food, heating, and transport. This is why we have insisted on having this plenary debate, to address effective and urgent instruments to end the cost of living crisis.

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DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

Whitewashing of the anti-European extreme right in the EU

Gaby Bischoff, S&D Vice President

The state of democracy in the EU is fragile and worrying. Some member states, like Orbán's Hungary, have become autocracies, and in others, pro-fascist parties are making their way into government. The European People's Party used to believe in the common interest of the European Union as a whole. Today, the EPP is embracing the far right and endorsing dangerous nationalism. The conservatives are normalising and supporting the extreme right's efforts to enter European institutions. They support political leaders that flirt with Putin. They forget that our shared responsibility is to stand united in the face of those who seek to divide us. In next week's plenary debate, we will be urging the EPP and conservatives to cut ties with the extreme right in Europe and come back over to those of us that defend European values.

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DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19. NO RESOLUTION

EU-Western Balkans relations in light of new enlargement package

Tonino Picula, S&D spokesperson on foreign affairs and European Parliament rapporteur on the New Enlargement Strategy

Russian aggression towards Ukraine must be a wake-up call for us all: enlargement must once again become an EU geopolitically strategic policy after several years of fatigue. This past year has only given us a single piece of good news regarding the Western Balkans enlargement process: the opening of accession negotiations with Albania and the conditional opening with North Macedonia. Now it is high time to further the enlargement process with other countries. For example, EU member states should finally adopt a visa-free regime for the citizens of Kosovo. But any country aspiring to join the EU must make a clear pro-European choice too - to align with European values and foreign policy. If Serbia wants to progress on its EU path, it must stop making a mockery of democracy, reverse its wilful destruction of the rule of law, and align with the EU sanctions against Russia.

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18. VOTE ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

General budget of the European Union for the 2023 financial year

Victor Negrescu, S&D negotiator on the EU budget 2023 for policies

Europeans throughout our Union live in a time of crisis with a huge social and economic impact on households and businesses, especially SMEs. We have to reflect this by how we spend EU money. Our Group has worked for a budget that tackles the inflation that has hit family budgets and business plans. We are convinced EU money should be spent in a way that fights poverty and this is why I am particularly proud that our Group has achieved an increase of 300 million euros for energy-related matters, as this is one of the most pressing problems for our society. The war in Ukraine causes a flow of migrants to the EU and we need the money to deal with these inflows and help our regions host refugees, especially those bordering Ukraine. The S&D Group put a particular focus on the EU budget for next year on the future - we want to see more money spent on science, research and development, and renewable energy.

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S&D Group press conference
Iratxe García Pérez, S&D president
Tuesday, 18 October, 11:40 - 12:00
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

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