



## S&D Plenary Times



### DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER

#### Preparation of the European Council meeting on 15 December

*Iratxe García Pérez, president of the S&D Group*

European policy is credible to our citizens only when it delivers. Member states have to agree on concrete measures to bring the bills down. Our Group is calling for a European Cheque to help households pay their electricity and heating bills. We propose a €100 billion Winter Solidarity Package, by using all unspent resources from the 2014-2020 European multiannual budget, through implementing a 15% minimum tax for multinationals, and extending the solidarity contribution on windfall profits. In the eve of the European Council on the 15 December, we insist that it is unfair to keep Bulgaria and Romania out of the Schengen area. These member states have fulfilled the criteria for full membership and they deserve it now!

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### DEBATE ON TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER, VOTE ON WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER

#### Renewable Energy, Energy Performance of Buildings, and Energy Efficiency Directives: amendments (REPowerEU)

*Nicolás González Casares, S&D negotiator on renewable energy*

Next week we vote in plenary to put an end to the lengthy permitting process to build infrastructure for renewable energy. We need to increase the capacity of renewables immediately if we want to reduce our energy dependency from third countries. This has to be shown in actions, and not just in words. More renewables will not only make the EU energy system more sustainable, but also more decentralised, autonomous and thus, resilient against external shocks of all kind. At the same time, we have to ensure public participation and acceptance in the development of renewable energy projects. We need high environmental standards for the protection of biodiversity and we also have to make projects for renewable energy affordable for even the most vulnerable in society.

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### AWARDING ON WEDNESDAY 14, DECEMBER

#### Award of the Sakharov Prize

*Pedro Marques, S&D vice-president for foreign affairs*

The brave people of Ukraine, our nominee, are the natural winner of the 2022 Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought. They are the living embodiment of everything that this prize promotes - respect for international law, freedom of expression, democracy, and the rule of law. This prize, the highest EU's tribute to human rights defenders, goes to them because they are not only fighting for their country, but also for our freedom and democracy. We warmly welcome the European Parliament's choice of this year's final laureate and we will proudly award this prize to them next week in Strasbourg. By doing so, we are reaffirming our wholehearted support to Ukrainians in the war waged by Russia, the most brutal attack on peace in Europe since World War II.

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**DEBATE ON TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER, VOTE ON WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER**

**Prospect for the two-state solution for Israel and Palestine**

*Maria Arena, S&D negotiator on the issue of the two-state solution*

We want to reiterate our strongest support for the two-state solution, as it is the only viable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We need to get back to the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as the capital of both states. All acts of violence between Israelis and Palestinians, including excessive use of force in Israeli military operations, terrorist attacks against innocent civilians, mounting settler violence, and the indiscriminate firing of rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel must be condemned and considered as attempts to boycott the peace process and the two-state solution.

Hence, we demand the European Union to come up with a political initiative aimed at resuming peace talks, but also to use its economic and political leverage on both sides to achieve their genuine engagement in the process. It is in this spirit that the EU should revise its bilateral relations with both parties, including the Association Agreement with Israel. We also urge the adoption of EU legislation banning trade with Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories globally, in compliance with international humanitarian law.

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**DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER**

**The Commission's reports on the situation of journalists and the implication of the rule of law**

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

Next week's debate on the situation of journalists is on the agenda because we wanted the European Parliament to address the persistent hostility against independent journalism in Greece. Recent arrests and harassment of reporters show that a culture of hostility against journalists and constraints on the press is growing under the EPP ruling party in Greece over the last year. This year, Reporters Without Borders named Greece the worst country for press freedom in the EU. With reporters unable to do their job properly, it is time to highlight the damaging setbacks for the rule of law in Greece as a result of the actions and attitudes of the sitting government.

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**S&D Group press conference**  
**Iratxe García Pérez, S&D president**  
**Tuesday, 13 December, 10:20 - 10:40**  
**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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