





**DEBATE ON TUESDAY, 17 JANUARY** Presentation of the programme of activities of the Swedish Presidency Iratxe García Pérez, president of the S&D Group

The Swedish Presidency comes at a time when the government in Stockholm is supported by far-right populists. This is worrying for us, the Progressives, and over the next six months we will push so that the EU values are respected and the important policies advanced. The closure of the Swedish environment ministry, for example, is alarming. From the Swedish Presidency we expect ambition for the Green Deal and proactive negotiations for the Fit-for-55 package, as well as measures to ensure rule of law in all EU member states. The lack of ambition on the social dimension and the excessive focus on competitiveness can undermine the goal of a sustainable and inclusive EU.

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**VOTE ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY Election of a vice-president of the European Parliament** Marc Angel, S&D candidate for vice-president of the European Parliament

Transparency, fair use of public money, and zero tolerance for corruption are core values and principles for us as socialists and social democrats. This is why we are taking the lead in the necessary reform process, but our mission naturally extends far beyond our tireless fight against corruption. Cooperation and building bridges are the driving forces of my candidacy. If elected vice-president, I will still remain a passionate advocate of the Union of Equality, which means equal rights to all genders, eradicating poverty, protecting minorities and the vulnerable, and eliminating all forms of discrimination. My aim is to put European values and people at the heart of our policies.

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY, 17 JANUARY, VOTE ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY Consumer protection in online video games

Adriana Maldonado López, European Parliament negotiator on the issue in the committee on internal market and consumer protection

The online video games sector is booming in Europe and can be useful in learning and education processes. However, online video games must be safe especially for vulnerable players like minors. Tools, like parental control to monitor time and money spent by kids playing video games is good, but not enough. In my report, our Group calls for the European Commission to consider new rules to better protect young players, including disabling the so-called loot-boxes for minors or even banning them if necessary. Our children's safety is not a game - they can have fun and learn from video games, but this must happen while their mental health remains safe.

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**DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY** Revelations of Uber lobbying practices in the EU

Elisabetta Gualmini, S&D vice-president and European Parliament negotiator on the new EU legislation on improving conditions of aia workers

Next week, the European Parliament is set to endorse its position on the landmark new EU legislation intended to significantly improve social and labour rights of gig earners working for Deliveroo, Helpling, Uber, and other platforms. At the same time, it would protect the genuinely self-employed and 'good' employers. We hope to secure the historic and balanced agreement reached last December by the Parliament's committee, despite huge pressure from platforms. We must not give in to aggressive lobbying by big corporations. We must ensure correct employment classification based on the actual working conditions and transparency of algorithms that cannot stay black boxes. Trade unions and worker representatives must be able to collectively bargain on working conditions. The burden of proof of the employment status must lay with the platforms. This is one of the major challenges of the digital era. Today, over 28 million people in the EU work through digital labour platforms. In 2025, their number is expected to reach 43 million.

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## DEBATE ON MONDAY, 16 JANUARY, VOTE ON TUESDAY, 17 JANUARY Shipment of waste

Cyrus Engerer, S&D negotiator on the issue in the committee on the environment, public health and food safety

Parliament's voice on plastic waste exports to third countries has been loud, clear, and united: We will no longer accept exporting our waste challenges to some of the most vulnerable parts of the world. We will no longer accept compromising their environment and human health to meet our waste demands. It is time to take action and we have a strong negotiating mandate to move forward towards a functioning circular

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## **DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY** The storming of the Brazilian democratic institutions Maria Manuel Leitão Marques, head of the Portuguese delegation of the S&D Group

The assault on Brazil's democratic institutions, perpetrated by extreme-right wing movements, is a stark reminder that these groups pose a great threat to our societies. A recent poll has found that 93% of Brazilian citizens condemn these criminal acts. We stand by their side and in full solidarity with the democratically elected president of Brazil, Lula da Silva.

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## DEBATE ON TUESDAY, 17 JANUARY, VOTE ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY EU response to the protests and executions in Iran Evin Incir, S&D negotiator on the resolution

Majid, Mohammad, Mohsen, Seyyed, Hamed. These are only some of the names out of hundreds of women and young protestors that have been murdered by the Islamic Republic regime in Iran since the 22 years old girl, Mahsa Amini, was brutally killed in police custody. A large number of young protestors are now under detention, sentenced to death, having had mock trials, with no resemblance to fair legal proceedings. We remember their fight for freedom and democracy. Their fight is our fight. No more executions. No more arrests of innocent people struggling for democracy and freedom! We demand an immediate end to the Iranian regime's brutality.

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S&D Group press conference Iratxe García Pérez, S&D president
Tuesday, 17 January, 10:00 - 10:20
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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