



S&D Plenary Times



DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY, 4 OCTOBER

Decent housing for all Iratxe García Pérez - President of the S&D Group

Citizens across Europe are struggling to find decent homes and to cope with basic living costs. Housing-related expenditure, such as rents, mortgages and utilities, has increased much faster than wages in the last year. We need to work on a European strategy for decent housing for all; to support people in this cost of living crisis and tackle the root cause of inflation. Fixing the housing market is imperative to achieving social justice.

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

President's spokesperson 👤 **MARTIN DE LA TORRE Victoria** ✉ victoria.martindelatorre@ep.europa.eu
 + 32 473 23 41 73



DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY, 4 OCTOBER

Need for a speedy adoption of the asylum and migration package Gabriele Bischoff - vice-president of the S&D Group

Time is running out before the current legislative mandate comes to an end, so we are determined to do all we can to bring about meaningful and coherent asylum reform as soon as possible. We have been consistent and clear that comprehensive reform of the EU's asylum and migration policy would only be possible if all aspects of reform are addressed, including on solidarity and fair-sharing of responsibility. Parliament's negotiating mandate is based on member states supporting each other through binding solidarity and on guarantees on protecting the individual right to asylum. In the end, we need to reach an agreement on all files to reach an agreement on the Pact as a whole.

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

S&D press officer: 👤 **MACPHEE Ewan** ✉ ewan.macphee@ep.europa.eu ☎ +32 478 96 19 14



DEBATE AND VOTE ON TUESDAY, 3 OCTOBER

Mid-term revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 Margarida Marques - S&D MEP and the European Parliament's co-author of the report

Next Tuesday, we will debate and vote on the long-awaited and much-needed revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027. The European Commission's proposal was a step in the right direction, but it was definitely not enough. We want an additional €10bn for such pressing needs like the EU's strategic autonomy, the Migration Pact, geopolitical challenges, humanitarian crises and natural disasters among others. Our Group is fully committed to a good partnership with the Spanish presidency of the Council of the EU and our aim is to have a revised MFF in force by the first of January 2024. I am confident on the vote in plenary on Tuesday and then the ball will be in the court of the member states in the Council. We hope that they will meet the high expectations of our citizens and businesses.

MEP: **MARQUES Margarida** ✉ margarida.marques@europarl.europa.eu ☎ +32 22845624 📞 +33 388175624

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



DEBATE ON TUESDAY, 3 OCTOBER

Corrupt large-scale sale of Schengen visas

Robert Biedroń - S&D MEP, chair of the Polish Delegation and co-leader of Lewica

We are appalled by the reports that PiS government officials have issued visas to third-country nationals in exchange for bribes. This is an unprecedented corruption scandal jeopardising Schengen – one of the most successful European projects – and one we must defend. It also reveals the hypocrisy of the current authorities in Warsaw. While opposing every effort to find common European solutions to migration, the Polish PiS government is more than happy to use migration as a political tool when it suits them. They have even organised a politically-charged referendum on migration on the same day as the national elections purely in a bid to energise PiS supporters. Now it turns out that the same Polish government institutions have been using migration as a way to fill their pockets through bribes. We urge the European Commission to fully investigate this corruption scandal. We cannot trust any inquiry carried out by the Polish authorities given the high concerns regarding the rule of law. We must avoid at all costs Polish people paying the price for the incompetence of the Polish government when it comes to Schengen membership. Free movement is a priority for the people of Poland and we have to protect this great achievement of European integration.

MEP: BIEDROŃ Robert ✉ robert.biedron@europarl.europa.eu ☎ +32 22845141 📞 +33 388175141

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



HEARING ON MONDAY, 2 OCTOBER

Hearing of Wopke Hoekstra - Commissioner-designate for Climate Action

Tiemo Wölken - S&D MEP and S&D spokesperson in the European Parliament's committee on the environment, public health and food safety

Mr Hoekstra is going to get a fair hearing, the same as all candidates. Our support will depend on whether his answers are convincing – given his record, he has quite a lot to explain, such as his time at Shell, his views on Loss and Damage and the 2040 target, just to name a few.

MEP: WÖLKEN Tiemo ✉ tiemo.woelken@europarl.europa.eu ☎ +32 22845431 📞 +33 388175431

S&D press officer: 👤 **DEROBERT Nicolas** ✉ nicolas.derobert@europarl.europa.eu ☎ + 32 483 62 18 88



DEBATE ON TUESDAY, 3 OCTOBER, VOTE ON WEDNESDAY, 4 OCTOBER

Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh after Azerbaijan's attack

Marina Kaljurand - S&D MEP and chair of the European Parliament's delegation for relations with the South Caucasus

We are appalled by the totally unjustified attack of Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh. We urge Baku to ensure the rights and security of Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians, provide all necessary humanitarian aid and return to the negotiation table. It is the only way to find a resolution of the decade-long conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

A country taking military action cannot be considered an EU 'strategic economic partner', as Baku wishes to brand itself. The EU cannot morally accept to negotiate a future partnership agreement with a country that blatantly violates principles of international law as well as its international obligations. During the debate on Tuesday, we will urge the High Representative and the EEAS to suspend the negotiations for a renewed partnership agreement until Azerbaijan has demonstrated its genuine readiness to respect the rights and security concerns of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, not only by words but first and foremost by deeds. If not, the EU should also consider imposing sanctions against responsible Azerbaijani authorities.

MEP: KALJURAND Marina ✉ marina.kaljurand@europarl.europa.eu ☎ +32 22845394 📞 +33 388175394

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

S&D Group press conference
Iratxe García Pérez, S&D president
Tuesday, 3 October, 10:00 - 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

Utta Tuttlies 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	Silvia Pelz Head of Unit, Press, Social Media & Audiovisual + 32 478 75 07 12	Jan Bernas S&D press officer + 32 471 64 87 77	Inga Czerny-Grimm S&D press officer + 32 474 62 28 84	Nicolas Derobert S&D press officer + 32 483 62 18 88	Ewan Macphee S&D press officer +32 478 96 19 14	Georgina Mombo Rasero S&D press officer +32 489 47 16 30	Alexander Stanchev S&D press officer +32 470 22 66 25	Petra Von Wüllerstorff S&D press officer +32 497 29 11 11
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