

S&D Interparliamentary Newsletter - Connecting with National Parliaments

BRUSSELS, 17/01/24

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS BY S&D VICE-PRESIDENT BILJANA BORZAN

Dear Arielle,

Happy New Year! Another eventful year lies ahead with the European Parliament elections in June. **2024 will be a decisive year for Europe!** It is only together that we can win these elections and steer the course of the EU of tomorrow.

In the past year, we have come a long way in terms of our inter-parliamentary cooperation. We have **been active and decisive where it matters.**



Biljana Borzan, S&D Vice-President in charge
of National Parliaments

I am very proud of the tireless **efforts of the S&D Group to strengthen ties with our national parliamentary sister groups.** In 2023, we did not only invite over 150 parliamentarians to our regular political family meetings, but also marked the year with the [first Summit of Socialists and Democrats parliamentary leaders in Brussels](#). In addition, we welcomed national parliamentary groups, set up a [new webpage](#), expanded our network to parliamentary groups outside the EU, and continued staying in touch with you through our monthly newsletters.

Now, with this 20th issue of the S&D inter-parliamentary newsletter, it is a great opportunity for me to **warmly thank** you- Members of national and European Parliaments, parliamentary staff, friends and comrades - for all your efforts, commitment and your dedication to our European political family. A big thank you goes to our **Swedish and Spanish friends** who, during their respective Presidencies, co-chaired all our political encounters with great commitment. A **special thank you also goes to Matilda Ernkrans, Sofia Amløh, Susanna Sumelzo Jordán, Niklas Karlsson, Kenneth G. Forslund, Pere Joan Pons Sampietro, and Javier Alfonso-Cendón.**

I am confident that, together, we will pave the way for **a stronger Socialist & Democratic Europe in 2024!**

1989 - 2023: 34 YEARS OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

LXX COSAC PLENARY MEETING

Since its establishment in 1989 in Madrid, the [COSAC](#) (Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs) brings together national and European parliamentarians four times a year to discuss major European affairs and the role of national parliaments within the EU.

The [Cortes Generales](#) hosted the [LXX COSAC Plenary Meeting](#) between 26 and 28 November 2023 within the framework of the [Spanish Presidency of the Council](#).



Once again, the **S&D family** was very well represented at this **COSAC plenary meeting**, thanks to its **PSOE co-chair** from the Spanish *Congreso de los Diputados*, [Susana SUMELZO JORDÁN](#), its **23 national and European parliamentarians**, **PSOE Foreign Ministers**, [Mr José Manuel ALBARES BUENO](#), and Minister for Home Affairs, [Mr Fernando GRANDE-MARLASKA GÓMEZ](#).

The plenary meeting of the LXX COSAC had a varied agenda covering important topics, ranging from the Spanish Presidency of the EU Council to pressing issues such as the Pact on Migration and Asylum, the energy crisis and green transition, the situation in Ukraine, and relations with Latin America. [Contributions and conclusions of the meeting](#), as discussed and endorsed by the Chairpersons, were adopted by consensus with no amendments presented during the Plenary.

S&Ds joined forces to thank the #EU2023ES and welcome the #EU2024BE

The S&D family meeting was an opportunity to gain insight into the Spanish political situation and to provide an exchange of key foreign affairs and institutional issues before looking ahead at the Belgian Presidency.



[Pere Joan Pons](#), **PSOE co-chair of the S&D Group meeting** updated colleagues on the **successful formation of the new Sanchez government and the fight against Vox**. Whilst ensuring a successful conclusion of the EU presidency, **moving towards full employment, strengthening the welfare state, and improving gender equality** are some of the **objectives** of this new progressive Spanish government.

[Domènec Ruiz Devesa](#), **S&D co-chair of the Group meeting and AFCO coordinator** updated colleagues on the commitment made by the Spanish Presidency **to provide**

a follow-up to the institutional future of the EU as initiated at the Conference on the Future of Europe, and the work achieved by the European Parliament in that perspective. On 22 November, the adopted [Proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties](#) sent a clear signal to the Council that it is time to open a Convention and **strengthen Europe's capacity to act** in areas like democracy, social justice and health.



[Eliane Tillieux](#), **Speaker of the Belgian House of Representatives**, reminded colleagues that the [Belgian Presidency of the Council](#) will take place in a political context marked by the end of the von der Leyen Commission, in the run-up to the European and Belgian elections. In early 2024, it will be essential for the Belgian Presidency to **strengthen global competitiveness, make the environmental transition fair and inclusive, advance international partnerships and heighten the EU's capacity for action in security and defence**. However, in order to implement these various elements, the fight against all forms of discrimination will remain essential. Belgium has often been at the forefront of the fight for equality and will continue this fight during its Presidency.

As the first female speaker of the Belgian Parliament, Ms Tillieux will be particularly committed to promoting gender equality during the country's Presidency.

She intends to invite the presidents of parliaments across Europe to sign a charter of commitment, aimed at making our parliaments more gender-inclusive by 2030.



LATEST NEWS

- [Iratxe García: “We expect the Belgian Presidency to deliver, including on the Green Deal”](#), 16/01/2024
- [Thanks to the S&Ds, consumers will be better protected against greenwashing and early obsolescence](#), 16/01/2024
- [Small investors get better protection through revised EU law on financial markets](#), 15/01/2024
- [Strengthen the European labour watchdog to ensure protection of all workers, urge S&Ds](#), 15/01/2024
- [S&D Group drives EU's efforts to cut harmful emissions by 500 million tons of CO2 by 2050](#), 15/01/2024
- [S&Ds commemorate former EP President David Sassoli's legacy in Rome, together with PD Leader Elly Schlein](#), 10/01/2023
- [Agreement on Migration and Asylum Pact](#), 20/12/2023

WHAT'S NEXT

- 21-22 January – IPC on urban policies in the EU, **Brussels**
- 26 January – **S&D interparliamentary network meeting**, (online)
- 29 January - IPC on artificial intelligence , **Brussels**
- 12-13 February – **European Parliamentary Week 2024, Brussels**
- 14 February - Annual study visit of the Norwegian Parliament, Brussels

Our Team



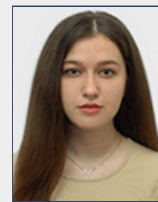
Arielle ROUBY

Political Advisor



Sonia POPOVA

Secretariat



Anastasiia NESTEROVA

Trainee

arielle.rouby@europarl.europa.eu sonia.popova@europarl.europa.eu anastasiia.nesterova@europarl.europa.eu

The Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (the S&D Group) is the second largest political group in the European Parliament. We stand for an inclusive European society based on principles of solidarity, equality, diversity, freedom and fairness. We promote social justice, jobs and growth, consumer rights, sustainable development, financial market reforms and human rights to create a stronger and more democratic Europe and a better future for all citizens.

CONTACT US



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament

S&D

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The Socialists and Democrats Group · European Parliament · Rue Wiertz 60 · Brussels 1047 · Belgium