



DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL AND FINAL VOTE ON THURSDAY 29 APRIL

Covid certificates - Juan Fernando López Aguilar MEP, S&D chair of the civil liberties, justice and home affairs committee and rapporteur

Next week, the European Parliament is debating and voting on the proposed Covid-19 certificates that can help restore, but must not hinder, free movement in Europe. By introducing a common certificate as proof of vaccination, proof of a negative Covid test or proof of having recovered from Covid, we want to make it easier for people to travel freely and safely over the next year. For the European Parliament, it is essential that certificates be free-of-charge and equally available to every EU citizen. We must be clear that the certificate will not be a requirement to being able to move freely and must not lead to further restrictions from member states. We also need to reassure people that this is only a temporary measure and that in using these certificates personal information and the right to privacy will be fully protected.

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY 27 APRIL AND FINAL VOTE ON TUESDAY 27 APRIL

Consent vote on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement - Andreas Schieder, S&D rapporteur for the foreign affairs committee

The European Parliament has scheduled the final vote for the Trade and Cooperation Agreement on Tuesday, during next week's plenary session. However, the UK government should not misinterpret this as a sign that we are letting our guard down. Unfortunately, the unilateral breaches of the Withdrawal Agreement and the Northern Ireland Protocol have affected important aspects of trust in our partnership. Solutions need to be found together and the good faith from the UK government needs to be restored. In ratifying the TCA we are strengthening our hand as its terms includes unambiguous measures, such as restricting market access, to enforce what both sides have agreed."

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Terrorist content online - Marina Kaljurand, S&D shadow rapporteur

In today's world, the fight against terrorism is now as much online as it is offline. Next week, the European Parliament will vote on a real breakthrough in the online fight against terrorism, which introduces clear rules that make sure hosting service providers like Google or Facebook remove online terrorist content as quickly as possible. This new law strengthens our security while safeguarding fundamental rights and freedoms. Our Group has made sure that there is no obligation to use automated filtering, that educational, journalistic, artistic or research content will be protected, and that member state authorities where the hosting service provider is located will have the final word on removing content.

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WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL

European Child Guarantee - Brando Benifei, S&D MEP and negotiator for the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

One in five children in Europe goes to bed on an empty stomach, has no roof over their head, or their parents cannot afford to pay for childcare, school supplies or essential medicines. The pandemic is exacerbating the situation even further, making European and national public intervention more urgent than ever. Childhood poverty is not just about countless individual tragedies, it also inflicts long-term damage on our societies as it increases the likelihood of experiencing unemployment, poverty, homelessness and drug abuse later in life. That is why, since 2014, we have been campaigning for a new integrated approach to tackle the multidimensional aspects of child poverty: the European Child Guarantee. EU governments must ensure decent housing and adequate nutrition, as well as free, quality education, childcare and healthcare for all children in need. The S&D Group welcomes the long-awaited Commission proposal, as the European Child Guarantee becomes a key structural reform and it should be considered as an investment in the stability and prosperity of the European Union, necessary for preserving the EU's growth potential. Investment in young children is the most important means of improving economic and social welfare. The European Child Guarantee is a flagship initiative of the S&D Group for the Porto Social Summit May 7 2021.

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TUESDAY 27 APRIL

Establishing Horizon Europe - Dan Nica, S&D chair of the ITRE committee and rapporteur on the file

Our Group has insisted on ambitious investment in research and innovation, and ensured budgetary stability and predictability in order to have a Horizon Europe programme that will deliver on future challenges. The allocation of the money within the programme reflects the ambitions of the EU and the challenges that our society faces, including for the recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The budgets of several parts of the programme have been increased, including the Health cluster (particularly important to fight Covid-19), the Climate, energy and mobility cluster, the Digital, industry and space cluster, the Culture, creativity and inclusive society cluster, the European Research Council, research infrastructures, and also the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions. We look forward to confirming our achievements in plenary.

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Russia, the case of Alexei Navalny, military build-up on Ukraine's border and Russian attacks in the Czech Republic - Tonino Picula, S&D coordinator in AFET committee

Our Group is extremely worried by the Russian military build-up on Ukraine's border and in annexed Crimea. Whatever Russia's intentions are, it must have no doubt that the EU and its transatlantic partners remain unwaveringly committed to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and will not allow Moscow's deliberate destabilisation of neighbouring Ukraine for domestic reasons. We will also call for a strong EU reaction and solidarity over the Russian attack in the Czech Republic in 2014. Last but not least our attention is focused on Alexei Navalny, an imprisoned Russian dissident whose life is in danger. He must urgently be granted medical treatment that he and the international community can trust, and be released. We call for close cooperation with the US administration on these issues.

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WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL

Soil protection - Maria Arena, S&D rapporteur

The EU cannot ignore soil sustainability and the fight against soil degradation. It would be a great mistake to leave this threat to fragmented national measures. Soil protection is essential to tackle global societal challenges such as climate change, food security and safety, human health, protection of natural resources and biodiversity, and migration. Soils play a major role and clearly it doesn't stop at physical and political borders.

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