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Terrorists aim to sow division in our societies. We must stand united in defiance



PITTELLA
Gianni

Priorities

Next week we're looking forward to our monthly plenary session in Strasbourg. Europe's response to terrorism will be an important debate in the wake of the devastating attacks in Paris but we will also be arguing strongly that this reinforces the need for a humane and coordinated approach to migration following the crucial Valletta summit. Another key topic for us will be 'tax rulings' and the S&Ds will be continuing the battle to stop the tax cheats and build a fairer tax system in Europe - for everyone.

Follow us on www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu for daily media updates, videos, press releases and statements. The S&D Press conference will take place on Tuesday, at 10:10, and it will be [livestreamed!](#)



Outcome of the Valletta summit of 11 and 12 November 2015 and of the G20 summit of 15 and 16 November 2015

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Wednesday 25 November 2015

The EU and member states have finally recognised that we need a common and coordinated response to the refugee crisis. It is unfair and unbalanced to let the countries who receive the majority of migrants and asylum seekers deal with this task alone. Now, institutions and member states see the need to engage with non-EU parties, especially, but not only Turkey, in order to tackle it effectively. This is the right approach but we must make clear that defence of human rights and freedom of the press are non-negotiable principles for us. We believe that this new approach of cooperation with non-EU actors should be enlarged to include Libya, Lebanon and major African countries, all of whom have a role to play in the stabilisation of the region and in controlling the flow of migrants and refugees. Now is the time to set up a real and structured dialogue and to demonstrate that the EU and Africa share a common desire to cooperate on migration. The EU cannot limit itself to building walls around its borders or risk messing up objectives aimed at stabilising countries through development cooperation. The creation of a trust fund to help promote stability and foster growth can be a powerful tool to help African countries develop.

On Terrorism

It's not just France that is targeted by terrorism but all that we stand for in Europe. These terrorists want to destroy our fundamental values and freedoms. We will not let them; we will never give in to terrorism. Terrorism knows no borders. It has hit this year in Denmark, Tunisia, Egypt, Turkey, Lebanon and now again in Paris. We cannot isolate ourselves behind our own borders. We must stand united and find a common response. More than ever we need a united and cohesive Europe. We have expressed our solidarity with France and supported the Defence Ministers' decision for Article 42.7 to provide aid and assistance to France. Now EU member states must define their means to do so. We strongly support the Commission's proposals to strengthen control of firearms across the EU, including a total ban of certain semi-automatic weapons for individuals, tighter rules to stop online sales and common EU rules on marking and authorizing firearms. These are effective measures members states should implement right away.

Tax rulings and other measures similar in nature or effect

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Tuesday 24 November 2015



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The priority of the S&D Group is to secure the adoption of the strongest possible European Parliament report on tax fraud and avoidance."

Next week in Strasbourg, we will back the recommendations of the Ferreira and Theurer report, and afterwards we will demand a new TAXE committee. It was not legally possible to extend the mandate of the committee and to vote next week on this well-advanced final report. We want to look at the future and call for a TAXE committee II. The facts demonstrate that the S&D Group is, and always will be, at the forefront of the battle against tax fraud. We won't accept any lessons from the champions of cheap politicking.

Prevention of radicalisation and recruitment of European citizens by terrorist organisations

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Tuesday 24 November 2015

The fight against radicalisation and terrorist recruitment is one of the fundamental challenges that the European Union is facing and will continue to face in the coming years. It will determine whether we will be able to win the political and ideological fight against terrorism. We need all EUMS to embrace a comprehensive European strategy, coherently mobilizing all external action tools (CFSP and CSDP) and internal policy and legislative action. Upholding fundamental human rights alongside security is crucial - otherwise we would be playing into the hands of terrorists who aim to instil fear and disrupt our democracies. We must get rid of economic policies which have stifled growth and job creation in the EU and abroad and fight marginalization and social exclusion in our societies, precisely to fight home-grown radicalisation and extremism. We must fight radicalisation online and create effective, balanced and proportionate tools for that. We must equip and man adequately our police and intelligence services and make them develop a culture of information sharing and exchange. We reject repressive approaches that enforce a securitarian view of the state at the expense of fundamental rights and freedoms.

Reducing inequalities with a special focus on child poverty

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Across Europe, 21% of children are at risk of poverty. We call on the Commission to introduce Child Guarantee with its specific fund so that every child at risk of poverty can have access to free healthcare, free education, free childcare, decent housing and adequate nutrition. The Child Guarantee must be seen as a long term tool to offer equal opportunities for a whole generation as well as support for parents to come out of social exclusion



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situations and to integrate the labour market. In order to make the Child Guarantee a successful instrument in the fight against child poverty, a new European financial instrument should be created to ensure a coordinated effort towards common goals with binding indicators. We need to offer a future to our next generation by breaking the vicious circle of poverty at the youngest age possible.

The role of the EU within the UN – how to better achieve EU foreign goals

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The report deals with the EU approach and the reforms to be carried out within the United Nations with the aim of strengthening the organisation and better achieving the EU's foreign policy goals. We are satisfied that the report sends a strong message about the need to reform the Security Council and it includes our wish to see a woman elected as Secretary General of the United Nations. We want more focus on the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution. We call for the EU to promote a broad definition of the human security concept, linking it more closely to human rights, gender equality and human development. The EU needs to participate actively in the debate on the term "climate refugee", including its possible legal definition in international law or in any legally binding international agreements. Human rights protection must be the central element in the EU's policy within the United Nations.



POST
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The state of play of the Doha Development Agenda in view of 10th WTO Ministerial Conference

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"The WTO is at a crossroad. A successful Nairobi summit is crucial for the continuation of the Doha Round and for a multilateral system as a whole. The EU should continue to support the negotiations with a view of its conclusion in the foreseeable future. The EU should do its utmost to facilitate the full participation of LDCs in global trade by acting as a bridge between the various positions of the WTO members."



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Presentation of the Court of Auditors' annual report – 2014

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We welcome "the wholly new approach" of the European Court of Auditors towards implementation and audit of the EU budget. We agree that to meet challenges, we need better and faster



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investment of the EU budget. We also insist on a new culture for the discharge procedure and the role of the Parliament. Without undermining the importance of zero tolerance against fraud, we call on a more comprehensive analysis of results achieved by the EU budget for overcoming inequalities, creating jobs and stimulating growth.

EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020

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Every year more than 4.000 workers die due to accidents at work and the number of fatal work-related diseases amounts to more than 150.000 on an annual basis. Even though considerable progress has been made in the area of occupational health and safety throughout the years, workers are still exposed to asbestos and carcinogens as well as many other dangerous substances every day. Many other issues, such as musculoskeletal disorders, the adverse effects on occupational health and safety of precarious employment as well as psychosocial risks also highlight the need for a more ambitious strategy. The Commission must accept its responsibility to promote a safe and healthy working environment. Therefore, we are calling for concrete legislative as well as non-legislative proposals to create a more level playing field and further raise the level of occupational health and safety for all workers across Europe.



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Developing a sustainable European Industry of base metals

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Base metals (steel, copper, aluminium, zinc...) production in the EU has been undergoing a severe crisis which regularly erupts more acutely here and there in Europe (France, Italy, Belgium, and lastly, the UK): Europe is now facing a simple question: does it want to remain self-sufficient for the production of base metals, which are key for many downstream industries, or not? But our message as Social-Democrats is twofold: yes, we want to keep our industrial production and the highly qualified jobs implied, and we can do that while keeping our ambitious environmental goals.

What our producers need is a level playing field in order to compete fairly with extra-European actors: that is why in addition to reinforced trade defence instruments against dumped imports, the EU needs a border carbon adjustment mechanism. However, to remain competitive, our industries also need to invest again in newer and cleaner facilities as well as in R&D&I (for example through the earmarking of the CO2 allocations they



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receive for free), to have access to and predictability reasonably priced electricity (through long-term contracts), and to benefit from a valorisation of scraps (an important raw material for electric steel) in the frame of our circular economy strategy, amongst other ideas contained in the own-initiative report.

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About the S&D Group:

The Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (the S&D Group) is the second largest political group in the European Parliament with 191 members from all 28 EU member states.

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.

