

S&D Interparliamentary Newsletter - Connecting with National Parliaments

BRUSSELS, 22/03/23

The S&D Group invited their friends from national parliaments to three political family meetings this month, to discuss important political issues, such as the socio-economic challenges of high inflation and energy prices, gender aspects of energy poverty and priorities of the CFSP/CSDP.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY WEEK 2023

The European Parliament, together with the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU, organised the European Parliamentary Week (EPW) 2023, on 27 and 28 February 2023 in the European Parliament in Brussels. The focus for the meetings was the scrutiny of economic and budgetary policies.

This inter-parliamentary conference brought together parliamentarians from across the European Union, as well as candidate and observer countries, to discuss economic, budgetary and social matters. **The EPW provided a framework for debate and the exchange of information and best practices on implementing the provisions of the Treaty and aimed to strengthen cooperation between national parliaments and the European Parliament.** The conference also contributed to ensuring democratic accountability in the area of economic governance and budgetary policy in the EU, particularly in the European Monetary Union, taking into account the social dimension and without prejudice to the competences of national parliaments and the European Parliament.

Progressives joined forces in the context of the European Semester

The S&D political family met at the beginning of the European Parliamentary week 2023 to exchange information on **best practices in implementing the Semester cycles**, and to **strengthen cooperation** between the European and national levels within the framework of the



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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023

On Wednesday 1 March 2023, to celebrate International Women's Day 2023, the women's rights and gender equality committee in the European Parliament joined with the national parliaments to organise an **Inter-parliamentary Committee Meeting (ICM) on "Gender aspects of energy poverty"**. The purpose of the event was to exchange views on the **explosion of energy poverty and its disproportionate effect on women**. A particular focus was put on the situation of single mothers and how the **existing energy crisis exacerbates the negative consequences of the gender pay and pension gaps**, as well as **overall lower participation in the labour market and disproportionate representation in the informal economy**. This ICM explored ways in which gender equality considerations can be integrated into policies and

initiatives at the EU, national and local levels.



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INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON CFSP/CSDP

The 22nd session of the Inter-parliamentary Conference (IPC) on the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy took place on 2-3 March 2023 in Stockholm in person. Discussions focused around four main items: the Russian aggression against Ukraine; the EU's Strategic Compass for Security and Defence; the Arctic; and the priorities of the CFSP/CSDP.

In a [joint statement](#), [the co-chairs of the 22nd IPC](#) “*continue to condemn in the strongest possible terms the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine, and call for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Russian forces from all Ukrainian territory including Crimea*”.



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PRESS RELEASES

- [S&Ds: apply the same sanctions to Belarus as to Russia](#) 15/03/2023
 - [EU needs a law on minimum income to end poverty](#) 15/03/2023
 - [S&Ds call for an inclusive social-ecological transformation of our economies that benefit all](#) 15/03/2023
 - [We lead overwhelming support for Windsor Framework as a new chapter in EU-UK relations](#) 15/03/2023
 - [Iratxe García on the migration debate: “No wall will stop the human instinct of survival”](#) 15/03/2023
 - [Swift reform of EU fiscal rules key to avoid austerity, realise green and social goals](#) 14/03/2023
 - [S&Ds: Cost of improving energy performance of buildings must not be on the shoulders of vulnerable](#) 14/03/2023
 - [Healthy forests and carbon sinks are key to addressing climate emergency](#) 13/03/2023
 - [“Only a strong PASOK can offer a better future for young people”, say Iratxe García and Nikos Androulakis from Athens](#) 10/03/2023
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WHAT'S NEXT

- **26-27 March** - EP & Swedish Presidency, **12th Meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol**, Stockholm and online.
- **4 April** - Swedish Presidency, **Conference on social inclusion and access to adequate housing**, Stockholm.
- **26 April** - **National Parliamentary Group Leaders meeting with the S&D Bureau and Heads of Delegations**, Brussels.
- **27 April** - **Constitutional Affairs Inter-parliamentary Committee Meeting**
- **2-5 May** - **S&D external Group meeting** - ‘Securing a progressive future for a new generation’, Krakow and online.
- **4 May** - FEPS and FES, **Climate and gender webinar**, online.
- **14-16 May** - **LXIX COSAC Plenary Meeting**, Stockholm.

Our Team



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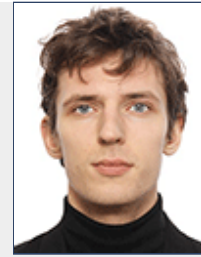
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The Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (the S&D Group) is the second largest political group in the European Parliament with 145 members from 26 EU member states. We stand for an inclusive European society based on principles 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.

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S&D

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