



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

PRESS CONFERENCE with Gianni Pittella
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Gianni Pittella

Commission's Investment Plan

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Wednesday 26 November 2014

The S&D Group president Gianni Pittella will react to the investment plan that the European Commission will present on Wednesday. The S&D Group have laid down their proposals and targets. S&D Euro MPs proposed to set up a new €400 billion fund as part of an investment plan to boost growth and create jobs in Europe. We want a shock therapy to be put forward. A shock therapy carried out by new fresh money - public and private - to be invested, a new European investment instrument to be created and finally the adoption of the 'investment clause' associated to Juncker's investment plan: public money put in place by member states for selected European projects should not be calculated in the national deficit. Investments should be targeted towards energy transition and energy efficiency, towards the digital economy and innovation and towards human capital, thus boosting job creation. Europe should focus on projects which could never flourish without a share of public investment.

Lampedusa: situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration

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More than one year after Lampedusa, the situation for migrants in the Mediterranean has still not improved. In the first nine months of this year alone, at least 3072 people died crossing the Mediterranean Sea. We can only deal with the complex challenges of migration through a holistic approach. The Socialists and Democrats are calling for more solidarity, a fair distribution of responsibility between member states, more safe and legal avenues for migrants to reach Europe and the development of a comprehensive framework for legal migration. We need to improve the EU's common resettlement policy and encourage more member states to participate, while ensuring that migrants' rights are always respected when the EU co-operates with third countries, especially conflict zones. Hopefully, the Commission and Council will present an ambitious European vision for the future of EU migration and asylum policy, providing an adequate and humane response to the current challenges.



Birgit Sippel

2014 UN Climate Change Conference - COP 20 in Lima

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This year's Climate Change Conference in Lima needs to set out the main elements of the 2015 global climate agreement which shall include commitments to fight climate change by all countries in order to stay within the "below 2°C" objective. The S&Ds call on industrialised countries to lead by example and present ambitious emission cuts by March 2015 and to provide financial support to help the developing countries achieve their own emission reductions. It is, therefore, crucial to provide clarity on how to scale up the mobilisation of climate finance in order to achieve the joint goal of USD 100 billion per year by 2020 - a goal which has already been agreed on in Copenhagen.



Jo Leinen

Combating violence against women – Oral Question

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Men's violence against women is a structural violation of women's human rights. Counting all forms of male violence against women, 45% of all women in Europe have been subject to and suffered from men's violence. It is estimated that the total cost of domestic violence within the 27 member states could be as high as 16 billion Euros. Violence against women has a huge impact on victims and also imposes a significant cost on society. While the EU is tackling the problem in many ways, there is no legally binding instrument designed specifically to protect women against violence. We demand an European year to fight against violence against women, the ratification of the Istanbul protocol by the MS and the EU as Commissioner Jourova committed herself to, a framework directive with a real strategy on combating violence against women, a new legal act on prevention measures, a revised proposal for a Regulation on European statistics on gender based violence, and the establishment of an European Observatory on Violence against women.



Maria Arena

Employment and social aspects of the EU2020 strategy

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The credibility of the Europe 2020 strategy is at risk. More commitment from EU countries is essential. Since 2010 7 million more people are now threatened by poverty and social exclusion – instead of 20 million less. The member states need to finally take the social and employment targets seriously. This is why it is crucial to put the social and employment targets on a par with the EU economic and fiscal governance targets. The social and employment targets should be made binding and monitored through the European Semester.



Jutta Steinruck



**Gianni
Pittella**

Recognition of Palestine statehood

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We express our strong support for the recognition of Palestinian statehood. We consider that the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and to have their own state is unquestionable, as is the right of Israel to exist within secure borders. We call on EU member states to be united in their support for this legitimate process. Socialists and Democrats will continue their work to ensure that the European Union plays a more effective and genuine role in the peace process; we remain deeply convinced that a single European voice is a key factor in finding a comprehensive solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We believe that the only way to solve the conflict between Israel and Palestine is through the two-state solution based on the 1967 borders, with Jerusalem the capital of both states. In this way, the State of Israel could live in peace and security alongside an independent, democratic and viable State of Palestine. We therefore urge the EU and its member states to play a more active role to this end.



**Patrizia
Toia**

Child under-nutrition in developing countries - Oral Question

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Child malnutrition is one of the most serious side effects of poverty. Without proper nourishment, children are more susceptible to disease, growth defects and even death. Malnutrition can also interfere with children's cognitive development, which can cause them to struggle at school. Our resolution is an important initiative to sensitise the international community and public opinion on this important issue. The resolution should contain a reference to the next Expo 2015 where a joint initiative could be launched to secure commitments and binding targets for combating hunger and under-nutrition.



**Marita
Ulvskog**

Implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin

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The Employment Equality Directive is extremely important. Nobody should have to face discrimination, be it on grounds of religion and belief, age, disability or sexual orientation. That is also why we absolutely need to guarantee all workers in Europe at least the same minimum protection. Today however, there are still a number of challenges on the application of the directive and several infringement procedures are currently pending against member states. This is also why we put forward this oral question. We urgently need to solve the problems of under-reporting and lack of access to complaint mechanisms, and to improve data collection and decrease the gender pay gap. The main responsibility for this lies with the member states but nevertheless we must also keep up the pressure on the Commission to take appropriate action in order to make sure this directive is applied effectively.



**Elly
Schlein**

The EU and the global development framework after 2015

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Monday 24 November 2014

This report will constitute the EP position on the post-2015 development framework and will serve as necessary leverage for our discussions with the European Commission and the Council ahead of the UN summit in September, where the new sustainable development goals (SDGs) will be finalised. The S&D Group insists on the importance of global partnership, the universality of the new framework and the leading role the EU should play in helping to define the new goals and targets with a strong single voice. The key priorities of the report are sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and the fight against all forms of inequality, as well as the need for a human-rights-based approach with a strong focus on gender equality and protecting the most vulnerable groups.

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