

highlights



21 - 25 march '11

EPP Summit

European (EU and non-EU) Heads of State and Government belonging to the EPP family will be meeting in Meise on Thursday to discuss relevant issues ahead of the meeting of the European Council. The main topic on the agenda is the Pact for the Euro.

Kostas Sasmatzoglou, EPP Spokesman, tel.: +32-2-2854147
Javier Jiménez, Press Officer, Tel: +32-475480446



Pact for the Euro

The future Euro rescue fund needs to respect the Community method and make sure the European Commission is involved in setting-up and implementing the Euro Stability Mechanism (ESM), MEPs from the Constitutional Affairs Committee demand in the European Parliament's draft Opinion on the Treaty change necessary to establish the fund. Parliament needs to adopt the Report, drafted by EPP Group Member Elmar Brok, before the European Council can formally approve the change of Article 136 of the Treaty on the functioning of the EU at its meeting the following day. Vote in plenary on Wednesday followed by a debate with the Council and Commission on agenda topics of the European Council.

Joseph Daul MEP
tel.: +32-2-284-5525

Elmar Brok MEP
tel.: +32-2-284-5323

Antoine Ripoll, tel.: +32-475-856290
Lasse Boehm, tel.: +32-484-656897



Consumer Rights

A major piece of legislation is being discussed in the European Parliament's plenary on Wednesday. To make things easier for consumers and to build trust in cross-border online shopping, the European Parliament will adopt joint EU standards for consumer rights. The main issue for online shopping is the right to withdrawal. Andreas Schwab, the EP Responsible on the EU Consumer Rights Directive, proposes a right of withdrawal for a period of 14 days. It should be explicitly visible on the site by requiring a separate click, the so-called 'button option'.

Andreas Schwab MEP
tel.: +32-2-284-5938

Thomas Bickl, tel.: +32-478-215372

Japan

The plenary of the European Parliament will debate the recent events in Japan on Wednesday and show solidarity with the Japanese people in view of the devastating effect of the strongest earthquake to hit their country in recent years.

Joseph Daul MEP
tel.: +32-2-284-5525

Antoine Ripoll, tel.: +32-475-856290



Alcide de Gasperi

On Wednesday at noon, Joseph Daul, Chairman of the EPP Group, and Mario Mauro, Leader of the Italian PdL Delegation, will hold an inauguration ceremony dedicating a room in the European Parliament (JAN 2Q2) to Alcide de Gasperi, post-

war Prime Minister in eight successive Italian Christian-Democratic Governments and the politician responsible for Italy joining the European Coal and Steel Community.

Mario Mauro MEP
tel.: +32-2-28-45387

Francesco Frapiccini, tel.: +32-473-941652



Final Vote on Single Permit

After many years of negotiation, the European Parliament will adopt on Thursday rules on a single permit for work and residence for legal foreign workers. It is a major improvement in workers' rights and puts in place a single procedure for admitting foreign workers to the European Union.

Véronique Mathieu MEP
tel.: +32-2-284-5220

Marion Jeanne, tel.: +32-479-840293



Iceland

On Tuesday, the Foreign Affairs Committee will be adopting its position on the EU membership bid of Iceland. The Nordic country is already part of the European Economic Area and its legislation is to a high extent aligned with that of the European Union. However, several contentious issues remain which will form part of the EU accession negotiations, notably Iceland's involvement in the Common Fisheries Policy. EPP Group Member Cristian Dan Preda is European Parliament's responsible for Iceland.

Cristian Dan Preda MEP,
tel.: +32-2-284-5261

Eugen Sandu, tel.: +32-472-547584

press conferences

Head of EPP Group Press Service: Robert Fitzhenry, tel.: +32-475-493356
Editor: Lada Jurica, tel.: +32-476-330383

Monday@ 11.00 hrs: Briefing on parliamentary agenda

Wednesday@ 11.00 hrs: **Antonio Cancian MEP** and others on 'Prosecco: more than wine, it's a culture'

Thursday@ 13.30 hrs: **Véronique Mathieu MEP, Rapporteur**, on the single residence and work permit

Thursday@ 14.00 hrs: **Salvatore Iacolino MEP** on sport and food for a balanced Youth lifestyle



Air Agreements

On Thursday, the EP is expected to give consent to three air transport agreements of financial value for EU airlines. The air transport deals with the US and Canada will take the next step towards creating an Open Aviation Area between the EU and the two countries. They offer opportunities for more investment, more market access as well as more cooperation in different regulatory areas. In the air services deal with Vietnam, non-discriminatory access is guaranteed for all EU air carriers.

Artur Zasada MEP

tel.: +32-2-284-5795

Dominique Riquet MEP

tel.: +32-2-284-5266

Joanna Bekker, tel.: +32-476-943388

Marion Jeanne, tel.: +32-479-840293



Cohesion Policy Implementation

A Report by Miroslav Mikolášik on the implementation of cohesion policy confirms the policy contributes to the improvement of the socio-economic environment. It is a progress report highlighting the sectors with the best achievements, the areas with delays, it formulates proposals for better use of the allocated funds and for a more rapid selection of projects.

Miroslav Mikolášik MEP

tel.: +32-2-284-5289

Atilla Agárdi, tel.: +32-475-750272



2009 EU Budget Discharge

The 2009 EU Budget is going through the so-called discharge procedure in which the EP examines the way EU funds have been spent. Ville Itälä takes the lead in assessing Parliament expenditure for that year, while Crescenzo Rivellini looks at the Council figures.



On Tuesday, the Budgetary Control Committee will propose to postpone discharge of the Council budget until there is movement in allowing Parliament adequate access to the Council finances.

Ville Itälä MEP

tel.: + 32-2-284-5647

Crescenzo Rivellini MEP

tel.: +32-2-284-5267

Sarita Rauta, tel.: +32-476-880538

Francesco Frapiccini, tel.: +32-473-941652



Impact Assessments

Impact assessments are a key tool for legislative work as they provide scenarios listing consequences of possible policy options. The Legal Affairs Committee will adopt a set of general requirements on Tuesday guaranteeing the assessments are carried out in an independent, transparent and effective manner.

Angelika Niebler MEP

tel.: +32-2-284-5390

Thomas Bickl, tel.: +32-478-215372



More Financial Supervision

The recent financial crisis has highlighted the usefulness of supplementary supervision of mixed financial holding companies similar to supervision of financial holding companies (banking sector) and insurance holding companies (insurance sector). On Tuesday, the Economic Affairs Committee will adopt a Report by Theodor Dumitru Stolojan which makes certain proposals for making supplementary supervision mandatory.

Theodor Dumitru Stolojan MEP,
tel.: +32-2-284-5670

Eugen Sandu, tel.: +32-472-547584



EU Cooperation with Gulf States

The EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council have been negotiating a free trade agreement for some 20 years with no result, due to a constantly changing context primarily linked to the security situation. In a Report to be voted by the EP on Thursday, Dominique Baudis argues for a swift conclusion of a free trade agreement with the Gulf countries whose sovereign wealth funds were worth more than 35% of the world total in 2009, but also for the need to look beyond trade and cooperate in other areas crucial for the stability of the Gulf region.

Dominique Baudis MEP

tel.: +32-2-284-5841

Marion Jeanne, tel.: +32-479-840293

epp group press and communication service

head of service

robert fitzhenry

♦ gsm: +32-475-493356

press officers

Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany/Luxembourg

daniel köster ♦ gsm: +32-487-384784
greet gysen ♦ gsm: +32-497-028054
statul karabashev ♦ gsm: +32-474-941991
lada jurica ♦ gsm: +32-476-330383
eva mitsopoulou ♦ gsm: +32-475-751574
marek hannibal ♦ gsm: +32-475-753048
peter adler ♦ gsm: +32-474-203005
kaja sorg ♦ gsm: +32-476-541013
sarita rauta ♦ gsm: +32-476-880538
marion jeanne ♦ gsm: +32-479-840293
thomas bickl ♦ gsm: +32-478-215372
lasse boehm ♦ gsm: +32-484-656897
stella mancini ♦ gsm: +32-473-866138
theo georgitsopoulos ♦ gsm: +32-475-750566
miklós panyi ♦ gsm: +32-473-866137
cliona connolly ♦ gsm: +32-475-957874

Greece
Hungary
Ireland

chairman's spokesperson

antoine ripoll

♦ gsm: +32-475-856290

Italy

Latvia
Lithuania
Malta
Netherlands
Poland

Portugal
Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden

elisabetta montano ♦ gsm: +32-478-933978
mariangela fontanini ♦ gsm: +32-475-493345
francesco frapiccini ♦ gsm: +32-473-941-652
girts salmgriezis ♦ gsm: +32-477-800343
giedre uzdilaite ♦ gsm: +32-474-942022
david stellini ♦ gsm: +32-473-541926
eduard slootweg ♦ gsm: +32-475-721280
joanna bekker ♦ gsm: +32-476-943388
katarzyna klaus ♦ gsm: +32-484-138359
sandra carreira ♦ gsm: +32-2-28-32508
eugen sandu ♦ gsm: +32-472-547584
attila agardi ♦ gsm: +32-475-750272
klemen zumer ♦ gsm: +32-498-514589
pedro lopez de pablo ♦ gsm: +32-475-493352
per heister ♦ gsm: +32-496-645530