

highlights



13-17 February '12



Summit for Growth

Debate on Wednesday

MEPs will discuss the upcoming European Council which will be focusing on the first phase of the 'European Semester' economic coordination tool and progress made so far to overcome the crisis. The EPP Group Chairman Joseph Daul will lead the debate.

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Annual Growth Survey 2012

Debate on Wednesday

The survey, setting out the EU's priorities for the coming 12 months in terms of economic and budgetary policies and reforms to boost growth and employment will mark the opening of the second European Semester of economic governance. Jean-Paul Gauzès' Report on the Annual Growth Survey 2012 will be voted on Thursday. The Rapporteur stresses that the solutions should specifically target the current sovereign and financial crisis and should go hand in hand with a major focus on growth-enhancing measures, as well as an overhaul of the general economic framework.

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Food for the needy in the EU

Debate on Tuesday

On Wednesday, MEPs will vote on the Food Distribution Programme for the most deprived persons in the Union. The scheme for distributing food to the EU's most deprived citizens, set up in 1987 under the Common Agricultural Policy, currently provides food aid for 18 million people living in poverty in 19 EU Member States. With the adoption of the Regulation, the programme will run until the end of 2013, with a budget of up to €500 million per year.

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Situation in Syria

Debate on Wednesday

A Resolution on the situation in Syria will be voted on Thursday. The EPP Group urges the Assad regime to stop the bloodshed in Syria and calls on President Assad to step aside in order to make room for a peaceful transition for the sake of his country. The EPP Group calls again on the High Representative to start discussions with Turkey, the Arab League and



the Syrian opposition on arrangements for setting up humanitarian corridors at the Syrian-Turkish border. Europe will continue to support their aspirations with all available means.

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Mobile Broadband

Debate on Tuesday

Parliament is set to adopt the Report on Radio Spectrum Policy on Wednesday. "The new European policy on radio spectrum will optimise the use of frequencies not only to benefit all users of Smartphones and other mobile digital platforms, but it will also add substantially to economic growth. We have now laid the ground for Europe to regain world leadership in wireless communication", underlined Gunnar Hökmark MEP, Vice-Chairman of the EPP Group responsible for the legislative proposal and negotiations with the Council.

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press conference

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Tuesday @ 11.00 hrs: Joseph Daul MEP, Chairman of the EPP Group, gives the regular briefing

Tuesday @ 14.00 hrs: Sari Essayah MEP on the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) Report

Tuesday @ 17.00 hrs: Jean-Paul Gauzès MEP, Rapporteur, on the Annual Growth Survey 2012 and Employment

Tuesday @ 17.30 hrs: Danuta Hübner MEP on Reprogramming of the structural funds to better combat youth unemployment and helping SMEs

Wednesday @ 10.30 hrs: Rapporteur **Giuseppe Gargani MEP** on the Italian delegation of the EPP Group

Wednesday @ 11.30 hrs: Crescenzo Rivellini MEP and **Potito Salatto MEP** on Roccaraso and ski championships in the heart of Europe

Wednesday @ 14.00 hrs: Gunnar Hökmark MEP on Radio spectrum policy

Wednesday @ 15.00 hrs: Czesław Adam Siekierski MEP and others on food distribution to the most deprived persons in the Union



Single Euro Payments Area

Debate on Monday

On Tuesday, Parliament will vote on the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) Report. According to the Rapporteur Sari Essayah MEP, the SEPA is extremely important for Europe's Internal Market: "SEPA will make the payments sector more effective and will increase competition. It creates favourable conditions for Europe-wide implementation of innovations. There will be no need for companies or individuals to have several bank accounts within the single payments area. The payments to and from a single bank account in any Member State will always be treated as a domestic payment."

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Russia

Vote on Thursday

After the debate held on 1 February in Brussels, a Resolution will be put to the vote on Thursday in Strasbourg regarding Russia's December 2011 legislative elections, recent demonstrations and the March 2012 Presidential elections.

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Resolution on Hungary

Vote on Thursday

On Thursday, MEPs will vote on a Resolution on recent political developments in Hungary, after the debate with Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán which took place on 18 January.



The EPP Group calls for the respect of the ongoing dialogue between the Hungarian Government and the European Commission. It is irresponsible to neglect this process, to trigger groundless political hysteria and to threaten with sanctions. The Hungarian Government has made it clear that it was ready for any constructive dialogue and ready to undergo the EC's scrutiny and make changes if necessary. This shows the Hungarian Government's trust in the European Institutions and its commitment to European values and norms.

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Political situation in Latvia

On Wednesday

Inese Vaidere MEP will host the EPP Group Hearing "Why Latvian must remain the only official language in Latvia" with a keynote

speech from the EPP Group Chairman Joseph Daul and Jerzy Buzek MEP to highlight the political and social reality of today's Latvia. The country is to hold a referendum on 18 February 2012 on Russian becoming an official language in Latvia.

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Clarification on structural funds money

Debate on Monday



The EPP Group will request for clarification regarding the European Commission proposal to redistribute European funds. The Commission's announcement to use the unspent 82

billion euro from the current programming period (until 2013) to fight youth unemployment and support SMEs has not been clear. "There is some uncertainty how this amount is composed, if it concerns new or existing money and how this reprogramming will be implemented," declared Lambert van Nistelrooij MEP.

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