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News | 20.04.2018

Greens/EFA Debriefing

Plenary week, 16-19 April 2018

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Future of Europe: debate with President

Debate Tuesday 17 April

French President Emmanuel Macron delivered a speech in the parliament's series of Future of Europe debates. Ahead of the debate, Greens/EFA MEPs have written to the President, asking him to show leadership in the Council on tax. Greens/EFA are calling on the President to encourage his partners to

reach agreement on proposals for country-by-country public reporting and a common consolidated corporate tax base.

“We share a will to build a political Union that listens to the voice of its citizens. They must be at the core, not at the margin, of the European project.” said Greens/EFA co-president Philippe Lamberts in his speech.

- [Letter to President Macron on tax justice](#)
- [Plenary speech by Greens/EFA Co-President Philippe Lamberts](#)
- [Video – Greens/EFA Co-President Ska Keller](#)

Commission - ethics in question and discharge of 2016 budget

Wednesday 18 April

The European Parliament has today backed a resolution criticising the European Commission for its handling of the appointment of Martin Selmayr as Commission Secretary General. The resolution calls on the European Commission to “reassess the procedure of appointment of the new Secretary General in order to give other possible candidates within the European public administration the possibility to apply” and for the process to be revised so that future appointments are open and transparent.

MEPs also voted on the discharge of the Commission’s budget for 2016. In response to the Selmayr scandal, one of a series of problems regarding ethics and conflicts and interest in the European Commission, the Greens/EFA group called for a postponement of the discharge of the European Commission's budget. This was rejected and the majority of the House granted discharge to the Commission.

The Greens/EFA group has also produced a proposal for future appointments of senior management positions in the European Parliament. The proposals are available [here](#).

- [Press release following the committee vote on the discharge](#)
- [Text adopted](#)
- [Press release](#)
- [Greens/EFA proposal for future appointments of senior management positions](#)

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Money Laundering: New legislation will deliver real benefits for citizens

Debate on Wednesday 18, vote on Thursday 19 April

MEPS gave their approval Thursday on the outcome of negotiations on the update to the anti-money laundering directive. Greens/EFA MEP Judith Sargentini was co-rapporteur. The revised legislation includes a series of important measures for cracking down on money laundering, including the creation of ultimate beneficial ownership registers. This legislation will deliver tangible benefits to EU citizens. These new measures will be tough on financial crime and help prevent money flowing out of the real economy, away from vital public services such as schools and hospitals.

Every year, national governments lose billions to money laundering, with painful consequences for public spending. These new measures will help make sure that criminals can't siphon money away from the real economy.

- [Text adopted](#)
- [Press release](#)

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Organics: parliament seals the deal on new legislation

Vote on Thursday 19 April

The European Parliament voted on the outcome of the trilogue negotiations on a new organic regulation. Greens/EFA MEP Martin Häusling was the parliament's rapporteur, steering negotiations for nearly four years until the final agreement in November 2017. The new regulation will result in clear rules, giving

consumers a better idea of what lies behind the organic label. It will also bring the regulation up to date to support the continued development of the organic sector. This is good news for organic farmers and for consumers!

- [Our leaflet “Organic – it makes a difference”](#) (EN/FR/FDE/ES/IT/NL)
- [Text adopted](#)
- [Press release](#)
- [Social media](#)

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Greenhouse gas emissions

Debate on Monday 16, vote on Tuesday 17 April

MEPs voted on the outcome of trilogue negotiations on two key pieces of climate legislation. The “LULUCF” regulation sets out the rules for how to count emissions from forestry and land use, while the binding greenhouse gas emission reductions set out the commitments to meet the EU’s Paris Agreement commitments. Together, these form a key sign as to whether or not the European Union is on track to deliver on its climate commitments. While the trilogues on the LULUCF actually improved both the Council and the Parliament’s position, the greenhouse gas targets are less satisfactory. The ambition level of the overall 2030 climate target proposed is insufficient so the regulation will merely act as a safety net and will drive little or no additional reduction efforts.

- [Text adopted](#)
- [Read our briefing on greenhouse gas emissions](#)

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The Circular Economy

Debate on Monday 16, vote on Wednesday 18 April

MEPs decided on a series of reports to revise legislation related to waste and packaging, under the banner of “the Circular Economy”. The package includes revision of three pieces of legislation in substance (the waste framework directive, the packaging and packaging waste directive, and the landfill directive) and to bring three other pieces of legislation in line in terms of comitology and reporting requirements (on batteries, end of life vehicles, waste electrical and electronic equipment).

The Greens/EFA group has focussed on concrete preventative action: reduction targets for food waste and marine litter; substitution of hazardous substances; separate collection of biowaste; stronger recycling targets; and an end to incineration of recyclable or compostable waste. While the final result is not as far-reaching or urgent as we would have wished, it still marks a significant improvement on the current legislation. Assuming that Member States will fully implement the new provisions, these measures will be a step towards the EU meeting its climate commitments and will also boost the economy.

Texts adopted

- [Packaging and packaging waste](#)
 - [End-of-life vehicles, waste batteries and accumulators and waste electrical and electronic equipment](#)
 - [Waste](#)
 - [Landfill of waste](#)
-
- [Read our briefing on circular economy package](#)

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Energy performance of buildings

Vote on Tuesday 18 April

The report on Energy Performance of Buildings was adopted by a large majority of the Parliament (546 votes in favour, 35 against and 96 abstentions). The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive is set to provide more efficient and healthier homes for citizen through ambitious building policy.

The report calls for the introduction of national long-term renovation strategies, deep renovations and Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEBS) as standard for all buildings by 2050. It also foresees balanced electro-mobility requirements, strict inspection regimes, tough building automation targets and proposes measures to tackle split incentive dilemmas and worst performing buildings to the benefit of energy poor and the introduction of air quality and fire safety as additional elements to be considered.

However, a 3% yearly renovation rate for existing buildings was not anchored in the legislative part of the text.

- [Text adopted](#)

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Facebook & Cambridge Analytica: Parliament to respond to scandal

Debate on Wednesday 18 April

The debate in the European Parliament responded to the scandalous misuse of personal data. Greens/EFA MEPs Jan Philipp Albrecht and Sven Giegold [wrote to the President of the European Parliament](#), calling for Mark Zuckerberg to be invited to a hearing. The decision to invite the Facebook boss was discussed and approved by the heads of the political groups last Thursday.

“Thanks to the new General Data Protection Regulation, companies such as Facebook will soon face severe penalties for the sort of violations seen in the Cambridge Analytica scandal. Huge internet companies will then have no choice but to realise that they must comply with the rules of the EU market and respect data protection” declared Jan Philipp Albrecht.

- [Press release](#)
- [Video – Jan Philipp Albrecht](#)

Protection of journalists: resolution following recent murders

Vote on Thursday 19 April

The European Parliament passed Thursday on a resolution on the protection of investigative journalists in Europe. Following the murder of Slovak journalist Ján Kuciak and Martina Kušnírová. It calls for a thorough and independent investigation, and for national and EU authorities to look into the cases that Ján Kuciak was working on. There also needs to be reforms at national and European level to provide better protection to journalists and whistle-blowers. Further investigation is also required into the management of EU funds management in Slovakia. A thriving democracy relies on investigative journalism. But that requires funding. To sustain the work of people like Ján Kuciak and Daphne Caruana Galizia, the Commission should create a permanent fund to support investigative journalism.

- [Motion for resolution](#) (joint)
- [Text adopted](#)
- [Press release](#)

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Dieseldate: new legislation on type-approval and market surveillance

Vote on Thursday 19 April

The European Parliament approved Thursday new legislation on type approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles.

The Dieseldate scandal revealed the extent of the shortcomings in the approval of vehicles in the EU. This reform gives the Commission the power to monitor national authorities, greater transparency rules and enhanced market surveillance to organise EU-wide recall procedures and to impose penalties on fraudulent

manufacturers. These are real victories for the public.

- [Text adopted](#)
- [Press release](#)

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Greens/EFA motions for resolutions

- [Belarus](#)
 - [Situation in the Gaza strip](#)
 - [Philippines](#)
 - [Violation of human rights and the rule of law in the case of two Greek soldiers arrested and detained in Turkey](#) (joint)
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