



DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 15 DECEMBER

EU's response to the global resurgence of Covid-19

Iratxe García Pérez, S&D Group President

Vaccines are the best shield we have against Covid-19, and they have proved effective in saving lives. We must increase our efforts to get everyone vaccinated, not only in Europe. It's clear that we must make sure that third countries can also produce their own vaccines, based for their population, particularly in Africa, and a TRIPS waiver would be the best way to achieve that. We also need to continue the development of new vaccines that protect against the new variants

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER, VOTE ON WEDNESDAY 15 DECEMBER

Digital Markets Act

Evelyne Gebhardt, German S&D MEP, and S&D negotiator on the Digital Markets Act

The Digital Markets Act is a true step towards an open, fair Digital Union and sets the rules of the game for big platforms providing services to citizens and businesses. What mattered most for me and my group, the Socialists and Democrats, was to put citizens at the core of how digital markets work. It is simply not OK to exploit citizens' personal preferences, behaviours and attitudes to make profits. We are all human beings and not fuel for Big Tech. This is why we pushed for a ban on targeted ads for minors and a better enforcement of personal data protection rules. The dominant market power of gatekeepers forces users to accept their terms and conditions, no matter their content. Citizens have no real chance of using the services of more trustworthy, smaller competitors. Interoperability for messengers and social media services will change this. It will enable users for instance to communicate with contacts on WhatsApp using Signal or to share Facebook content on TikTok. If everything goes according to plan, we will enter negotiations with the Council of the European Union in January 2022. I hope the member states will, under the French Presidency, support this ambitious position for fair and open markets, enhanced consumer welfare and protection of citizens' data.

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VOTE ON THURSDAY 16 DECEMBER

Fundamental rights and rule of law in Slovenia, in particular the delayed nomination of EPPO prosecutors

Cyrus Engerer, S&D negotiator on the resolution

We are called to lead by example and uphold the European Union's values of the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights. Next week, as MEPs from all across the House, we must declare our position on the situation of the government that currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Last October, a European Parliament delegation visited Slovenia to hear first-hand about the climate of hostility and distrust that exists, both among the wider public and by public bodies. This can also be seen in the way government dragged its feet and delayed the Slovenian nominations to the European Public Prosecutors Office, which also means interference in the judiciary is now of real concern. The same interference has been extended to the media and freedom of expression, where smear campaigns, slander and funding threats risk doing irreversible damage to the independence of the press and other public bodies. We must uphold and protect our values.

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER, VOTE ON WEDNESDAY 15 DECEMBER

European framework for employees' participation rights and the revision of the European Works Council Directive

Gabriele Bischoff, S&D MEP and author of the parliamentary report

Workers' rights to organise, to meet, to speak up and to call for reforms within their workplaces are fundamental principles of our democratic societies. To ensure a sustainable recovery from the pandemic and to manage the green and digital transitions for the benefit of all, the voices of workers must be heard. Not least, because companies with full worker participation are twice as likely to incorporate sustainability guidelines in their management. Yet, at European level, we are currently confronted with a patchwork of different and sometimes even contradictory rules. This is why we are calling for strengthening worker's participation at workplaces across the EU and are proposing a new framework for information, consultation and board-level representation.

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER, VOTE ON THURSDAY 16 DECEMBER

The situation in Nicaragua

Javi Lopez, MEP and EUROLAT co-president

We condemn the undemocratic election process in Nicaragua that violated all international democratic standards for credible, inclusive, fair and transparent elections. The 7th November elections were a farce and confirm Nicaragua's turn into a cruel authoritarian dictatorship. All political prisoners must be released immediately and unconditionally. The only solution for Nicaragua is a return to the national dialogue the government deplorably abandoned. We stand in solidarity with the people of Nicaragua.

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DEBATE ON MONDAY 13 DECEMBER AND FINAL VOTE TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER

Combating gender-based violence: cyber violence

Robert Biedroń, S&D MEP and negotiator of this file in the women's rights committee

The online world is not a safe space for women. Full of traps and 'opportunities' for perpetrators, predominately because of the prevailing impunity, as well as a slow and inadequate criminal justice response. It is estimated that one in ten women in the EU have been victims of sexual harassment via digital tools since the age of 15. Still, this growing and cross-border phenomenon is not properly addressed. There is currently no common definition or effective policy approach to combating gender-based cyber violence at an EU level. That is why in Strasbourg we will call on the Commission to present without further delay a strong directive covering all forms of gender-based violence, including online. We need minimum rules and sanctions to prevent and combat various forms of gender-based cyber violence, as well as ensure that victims have effective access to justice and specialised support services in all member states.

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S&D Group press conference
Iratxe García Pérez, S&D president
Tuesday 14 December, 10.10 - 10.30
Daphne Caruana Galizia room - Weiss N-1/201
Webstreaming here
<https://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/>

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