



DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 4 MAY, VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION IN MAY II

**Council and Commission statements - The social and economic consequences for the EU of the Russian war in Ukraine - reinforcing the EU's capacity to act**

**Iratxe García Pérez - President of the S&D Group**

Extraordinary times require extraordinary actions; this is the time of "whatever it takes". Our economies and our societies were already hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, and now we have to face the consequences of the severe sanctions we had to adopt to support Ukraine. Some EU member states are more affected than others, but we must remain united and share the burden, always keeping in mind the most vulnerable households and small businesses. This means the EU must increase its capacity for public investments to make it possible to integrate refugees in a humane and safe way and fight poverty, including energy poverty, while continuing our ecological and digital transformation.

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY 3 MAY, VOTE ON WEDNESDAY 4 MAY

**Artificial Intelligence in a digital age**

**Brando Benifei, S&D shadow rapporteur on Artificial Intelligence in a digital age**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) brings many hopes, but also raises many concerns. The Socialists and Democrats made sure the EP's report of the Special Committee on AI in a Digital Age takes all views into account and does not undermine all our achievements in the protection of personal data. What the EU needs is an AI that is human-centric, ethical and respects fundamental rights. When it comes to the use of AI at the workplace, our group is convinced AI-powered surveillance is totally unacceptable. This would be abusive of privacy, data protection and the human dignity of workers. We will continue fighting to ensure this is incorporated in EU legislation.

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY 3 MAY

**Europe's Energy Autonomy: The strategic importance of renewables and energy interconnections and efficiency**

**Dan Nica, S&D MEP and coordinator of the committee on industry, research and energy**

The key to our energy autonomy is to build the necessary infrastructures to sustain a renewables-based energy system. To achieve this, we need to close the missing links to interconnect all EU countries and to have enough storage capacity to compensate the intermittent nature of renewables. Renewables will make us safe in terms of energy security and make us more independent vis à vis third countries. The success of our energy policy is in our solidarity with each other and this has to be demonstrated in practice, especially in dramatic moments of European and world history, like the one we live in now. We have to use all tools at our disposal on an EU level to make sure the attempts of third countries to create shortages of energy resources in the EU has minimum consequences to our citizens and business.

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DEBATE AND VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION ON THURSDAY 5 MAY

**State of play of the EU-Moldova cooperation**

**Juozas Olekas, S&D shadow rapporteur on Moldova**

As promised by our Group leader Iratxe García during her recent visit to Moldova on 12/13 April, the European Parliament will hold a debate on the impact of Russia's war in Ukraine on this small country. This week's attempts at destabilising the situation in Moldova's breakaway region of Transnistria makes this debate even more urgent. Since Russia has started this war, more than 440.000 refugees from Ukraine crossed the border into Moldova, a country of 2.7 million. The people of Moldova opened the doors to their homes and today host 100.000 Ukrainians, more than half of them children. We call on the EU to continue providing effective support to Moldova so that Moldovans can continue to help their Ukrainian neighbours. We must be solidary among Europeans and we also want Moldova to strive as a stable and prosperous European country.


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DEBATE ON MONDAY 2 MAY, VOTE ON TUESDAY 3 MAY


### Election of the Members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage


**Domènec Ruiz Devesa, rapporteur on the Election of the Members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage and S&D spokesperson for constitutional affairs**

Electoral law reforms will strengthen European political parties by making them much more visible to voters and by enabling political parties to campaign across the EU and select candidates for an EU-wide list. As a result, candidates from this list would campaign throughout Europe, not only in their states of origin or residence. With these transnational campaigns, we will be able to create a real pan-European debate and give voters much more opportunity to look beyond the domestic politics that normally fills up their newspapers, TV screens and social media feeds. These reforms would give voters a second ballot that would show voters the logos of European political entities and would include a list headed by the candidate seeking the nomination of the Commission president. In next week's vote, we hope Parliament will send a strong message to the Council that it is high time to change EU electoral law to boost EU-wide debate and have elections that properly reflect today's political realities.

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DEBATE AND VOTE ON RESOLUTION ON THURSDAY 5 MAY


### The impact of the war against Ukraine on women


**Robert Biedroń, S&D MEP and chair of the EP committee on women's rights and gender equality**

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, women and girls are facing terrible situations. Rape and sexual violence are being used as a 'weapon of war' by the Russian aggressors. These are war crimes and the perpetrators must be brought to justice. Unfortunately, the risk of violence does not end once they cross the border to seek refuge in the EU, as human traffickers and gangs profit from the crisis. Member states must improve the registration of all refugees and volunteers and ensure refugees can travel safely. In addition, we must ensure the access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of Ukrainian women both within Ukraine and in host EU countries. It is unacceptable that women seeking refuge in countries such as Poland are denied the right to end pregnancies that are the result of brutal rapes due to the de facto ban in Poland.

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DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 4 MAY, VOTE ON THURSDAY 5 MAY


### Distortive foreign subsidies


**Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero, S&D MEP and negotiator on foreign subsidies**

On Thursday, the European Parliament is set to adopt its negotiation mandate on a new EU instrument to deal with foreign subsidies distorting the internal market, in a vote in Strasbourg. Currently, European companies must comply with strict rules on state aid, while foreign competitors can benefit from foreign subsidies giving them an unfair advantage. This new instrument tries to close this legal loophole and level the playing field by empowering the Commission to investigate foreign companies taking over European companies in mergers and acquisition, those participating in public procurement or when suspicious emerge. Only when fulfilling the conditions established by this instrument can companies subsidised by foreign governments proceed with their business dealings.

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S&D Group press conference  
Iratxe García Pérez, S&D president  
Tuesday 3 May, 10.00 - 10.20  
Daphne Caruana Galizia room - Strasbourg  
Weiss N-1/201  
Webstreaming here  
<https://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/>

Journalists who want to participate and ask questions can connect via this link

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