



DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 6 JULY

### Council and Commission statements - Presentation of the programme of activities of the Czech Presidency

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



The Czech Presidency of the Council comes at a defining moment for our collective future. Unfortunately, the worst economic and social impacts of the war and inflation are yet to come and we risk facing a dramatic winter. We need to work hard to avoid the risk of a recession in the EU. We welcome the level of ambition in terms of the help offered to Ukraine, the commitment to energy security and the Presidency's willingness to try to find a solution for the integration and management of refugees. However, we are worried by the Presidency's lack of ambition when it comes to the economic and social impact of the war in the EU member states. We expected more on the social dimension at a time when our citizens need it the most. The Czech Presidency's priorities also lack ambition regarding the rule of law, the follow up on the Conference on the Future of Europe and gender equality. We will push the presidency to treat these important issues properly.

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY 5 JULY; VOTE ON WEDNESDAY 6 JULY

### Amending the Taxonomy Climate Delegated Act and the Taxonomy Disclosures Delegated Act

*Simona Bonafè - S&D vice-president and S&D negotiator on the issue in the EP Committee on environment, public health and food safety*  
*Paul Tang - S&D negotiator on the issue in the EP Committee on economic and monetary affairs*



The S&D Group is against defining nuclear and gas as sustainable energy in the taxonomy classification. The proposal made by the European Commission clearly undermines our efforts to fight the climate emergency. Labelling gas as green would also mean increasing our dependency on Russian gas at a critical moment, while doing nothing to solve the problem of skyrocketing energy bills. The S&D Group doesn't approve of the undemocratic approach of the Commission. They're trying to push through this decision in a way that clearly goes beyond their mandate and without any proper public consultation. This is just unacceptable.

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DEBATE ON MONDAY 4 JULY; VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION ON TUESDAY 5 JULY

### Commission statements - US Supreme Court decision to overturn abortion rights in the United States and the need to safeguard abortion rights and women's health in the EU

*Maria Noichl - S&D spokesperson in the committee on women's rights and gender equality*



There is not one single woman in the world for whom the decision to interrupt a pregnancy is an easy one to take. But she herself is the only one who should have the right to decide about this, not her family, nor medical personnel, nor the state. The decision taken by the US Supreme Court is a major setback for women's rights and self-determination for us all. This decision is not about the right to life, it will be responsible for the deaths of women in the long run. As Socialists and Democrats we condemn this decision and stand by the side of our American sisters. We will not give up until our rights are guaranteed everywhere in the world.

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DEBATE ON MONDAY 4 JULY; VOTE ON TUESDAY 5 JULY

### The Digital Markets Act and the Digital Services Act

*Christel Schaldemose - S&D MEP and EP negotiator on the DSA*

*René Repasi - S&D MEP and spokesperson on the DMA in the committee on the internal market and consumer protection*



Our group is really proud to put an end to the Digital Wild West and finally bring EU tech regulation into the 21st century. The Digital Markets Act and the Digital Services Act create a safer, fairer and more transparent online environment while protecting the user's fundamental rights and establishing a level playing field for businesses. Both deals are the result of tough but fruitful negotiations between the European Parliament and the member states in the Council of the EU. We are happy we opened the black box of algorithms, achieved interoperability of messenger services and a ban on targeted advertising for minors, and toughened enforcement of our rules for gatekeepers. These are only a small part of the benefits our group has achieved for Europeans. We built a strong majority among political groups and we are optimistic for the vote next week.

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DEBATE AND VOTE ON TUESDAY 5 JULY

**Common European action on care**

*Milan Brglez - S&D MEP and EP negotiator on the issue in the EP committee on employment and social affairs*

Care is the most genuine form of interpersonal and intergenerational solidarity, as well as a generator of great economic value and a connective tissue of our societies. While indispensable for care recipients, our economies and societies, care work paradoxically remains undervalued, underpaid and unequally distributed. Unpaid informal care and housework, which are still predominantly perceived as 'women's work' and not recognised as 'real work', perpetuate gender stereotypes and the existing inequalities. The recent health crisis with its economic and social consequences has once again revealed deficiencies in our care models caused by the chronic lack of political attention and public investment in care. The upcoming European care strategy is the first step towards common European action on care, which must result in a European Care Deal, encompassing policies and public investment that guarantee universal and effective access to integrated quality care services for all people in need of care and support, from early childhood to older age. The implementation of this right is, above all, dependent on having a sufficient number of well-trained, adequately paid and valued workforce, with decent working conditions, as well as on providing support to informal carers. The Commission has a strong ally in us for a legislative action, programmes and investment at the EU level, which will pave the way for a transition towards a gender-transformative care economy that recognises care as a right and values it as the backbone of our society.

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DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY 6 JULY

**Council and Commission statements - The UK government's unilateral introduction of the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill and respect for international law**

*Thijs Reuten - S&D coordinator for the EU-UK Parliamentary Assembly*

This week, the House of Commons took another step towards unilaterally ripping up the legally binding international agreement on the trading arrangement between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This unacceptable move has unavoidably been met with dismay in the EU and beyond. Next week, the European Parliament will send the UK government a kind reminder: the Northern Ireland Bill breaches international law, jeopardises the Good Friday Agreement and damages relations between UK and its most important trading partner. Before this bill does any damage to people's livelihoods, we strongly urge the UK government to act in good faith, return to the table with Vice-President Šećović and come to a negotiated solution.

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DEBATE ON MONDAY 4 JULY, VOTE ON TUESDAY 5 JULY

**Adoption by Croatia of the euro on 1 January 2023**

*Biljana Borzan - Vice-president of the S&D Group*

The S&Ds welcome Croatia joining the euro area! It has been proven that joining the euro area has had significant positive impacts on the standard of living and on average wages. In this time of crisis, being part of a strong monetary union will strengthen the resilience of Croatia's economy. It is crucial that the transition to the euro is well executed, keeping in mind the best interests of consumers and businesses.

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**S&D Group press conference**  
**Iratxe García Pérez, S&D president**  
**Tuesday 5 July, 10.00 - 10.20**  
**Daphne Caruana Galizia room - Strasbourg**  
**Weiss N-1/201**  
**Webstreaming here:**  
**<https://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/>**

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