



DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2022

State of the Union - Statement by the President of the Commission

Iratxe García Pérez - President of the S&D Group



Citizens are worried about what will happen this winter and we have been calling for stronger EU actions for months now. Only a common and coordinated EU response can bring down energy prices and curb inflation. The EU must speed up the adoption and implementation of measures to bring in a windfall tax and cap energy prices, while families and small businesses need stronger support to pay the bills. In the debate on the State of our Union, unfortunately we will also have to address how to address the undemocratic trends that seem to be spreading in our countries, undermining the rule of law, civil liberties and fundamental rights.

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2022; RESOLUTION - OCTOBER I PLENARY SESSION

EU response to the increase in energy prices in Europe

Mohammed Chahim - S&D Group vice-president for energy



The price of electricity will not go down until the EU puts an end to the manipulations with gas on our own internal market. Just changing the architecture of the European electricity market will not bring a tangible and lasting solution to citizens and business - they will keep on paying skyrocketing bills unless we take measures like limiting the profits the resellers of energy commodities can make or suspend transactions on the spot market where we see excessive price fluctuations. In addition, we need concrete social measures, like extending the temporary unemployment scheme (SURE) for people who lose their jobs. We need a recast of the Gas Market Directive in order to make it possible to switch easily from one electricity provider to another and ban the disconnection of consumers from the electricity grids in winter. Our Group wants to see the EU Minimum Wage Directive implemented immediately as the reality has proved how much we need it.

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2022; VOTE ON WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2022

Adequate minimum wages in the EU

Agnes Jongerius - S&D spokesperson on employment and European Parliament negotiator on minimum wages



Next week the European Parliament will finally adopt the new European law on decent minimum wages. This will boost salaries across Europe. Work must pay! Workers must be able to put food on the table, have a roof over their heads and pay for medical care. In times of exploding food, rent and energy prices, this is more important than ever. This is why the new law has to enter into force as soon as possible. Member states should not leave it for the two years that are usually available to implement this kind of legislation. We have to apply it immediately.

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DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2022; VOTE ON THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2022

Existence of a clear risk of a serious breach by Hungary of the values on which the Union is founded

Bettina Vollath - S&D negotiator on the report on Hungary's breach of EU values



By failing to act, the EU is the silent partner that is complicit in Hungary's demise as a democracy. Prime Minister Orbán's racist rant about not wanting to become "peoples of mixed race" was the latest unacceptable attack on EU values and totally undermines the EU's shared commitment to fight discrimination. It is time to wake up and stop Viktor Orbán from doing any more damage. Next week, the European Parliament will vote on a report that sets out a few home truths for the other EU institutions. The Council needs to recognise Orbán's breach of EU values and issue the government in Hungary with concrete recommendations to stop the woeful situation of the rule of law from deteriorating further. The Commission must hold back on approving the Hungarian Recovery Plan due to the real risk that these funds will be misused based on the government's past record of corruption.

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DEBATE ON MONDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER

Surveillance and predator spyware system in Greece - Council and Commission Statement

Hannes Heide - S&D spokesperson in Parliament's inquiry committee investigating the use of Pegasus and other spyware (PEGA)

As requested by our group, on Monday evening, the Parliament will hold a plenary debate on the latest Greek surveillance scandal. For the record: the Greek government admitted it had been spying on journalists and the leader of PASOK, our MEP Nikos Androulakis, while there was also an attempt to hack his phone with Predator spyware, which was detected by the EP services. Illegal tapping of the phone of a leader of the opposition and MEP is a clear breach of the rule of law and principles of democracy enshrined in our Treaty. We urge the Greek prime minister to give a clear explanation on his knowledge of this scandal. If Mr Androulakis, a candidate for prime minister, is a threat for national security, Greek citizens should know why.

The debate in Strasbourg will be an opportunity to put pressure on the Commission and member states, and to hear what they intend to do. We have seen many cases where innocent people such as journalists and lawyers have been targeted by spyware in other countries, mainly Hungary and Poland, and this is a huge problem for democracy and the rule of law.

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2022

The address of Finnish prime minister Sanna Marin to the plenary

Miapetra Kumpula-Natri - head of the Finnish S&D delegation

As prime minister of Finland and chair of the Finnish Social Democratic Party, Sanna Marin has been leading the country successfully despite the exceptionally challenging times after she assumed office in November 2019, just before the COVID crisis. For the past year, she has called for European unity on supporting Ukraine, taken the necessary actions in Finland for national security and found solutions to the energy challenge our continent faces. Through actively building our future as Europe, we can be more strategic, less vulnerable and stronger together.

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DEBATE ON MONDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2022; VOTE ON TUESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2022

Deforestation Regulation

Delara Burkhardt - S&D negotiator on the issue of the protection of forests and animals

We want to ban all products like soy, palm oil, cocoa or coffee from the European market, if their production caused deforestation. Companies will be warned: you ruin our planet, you cannot sell on our market.

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2022; VOTE ON THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2022

Council and Commission statements - Consequences of drought, fire, and other extreme weather phenomena: increasing the EU's efforts to fight climate change

Tiemo Wölken - S&D spokesperson in the environment committee

This summer was a strong reminder that we need to step up our ambition on tackling climate change and getting a progressive Fit for 55 package. The current drought emergency is the worst in 500 years according to the European Drought Observatory and it has had a dramatic negative impact on our health, forests, biodiversity and economy.

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S&D Group press conference
Iratxe García Pérez, S&D president
Tuesday 13 September, 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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