

S&D Interparliamentary Newsletter - Connecting with National Parliaments

BRUSSELS, 11/04/2025

S&D Political Family Exchange on Affordable Housing



Dear <<First Name>>,

On Wednesday 9 April, parliamentarians from across the Socialists and Democrats political family gathered in the European Parliament for a productive meeting on **EU housing policy**.

Prior to an [Interparliamentary Conference](#) coordinated by the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, socialist and social democrat deputies from across Europe came together for an important dialogue on the European housing crisis, emphasising how the **S&D vision of social justice must guide housing policy**, like all other legislative areas.

Since the start of the new EU institutional term last September, there has been a sharpened political focus on the housing topic, and justifiably so; at present, **over one million people in Europe are experiencing homelessness**. Furthermore, young citizens and students are facing inaccessible housing and rental markets, driving them into deepening financial insecurity and impeding an entire generation from economic independence. Likewise, older citizens, those with disabilities, and other vulnerable communities are facing increasingly hostile housing conditions due to intense financialisation and chronic affordability gaps.

Consequently, the S&D Group welcomed the creation of a [housing-specific portfolio](#) within the new European Commission, led by Danish social democrat **Dan Jørgensen**. In the Parliament meanwhile, a Special Committee on the Housing Crisis has been established, with S&D MEP, Irene Tinagli serving as Chair, and MEP Andreas Schieder as Group Coordinator.

From the S&D perspective, **the housing agenda is inextricably linked to both our social affairs and sustainability agendas**. We believe that, for too long, short-term political thinking and commercial interests have dominated the housing policy domain across Europe, to the detriment of ordinary people and their basic needs.



At our S&D political family exchange this week, many similar policy challenges and trends from across Member States were identified. At the same time, successful case studies, like that of the **Vienna housing model**, were also highlighted. In particular, the question of short-term lets or housing 'touristification' was raised, with cities like Rome, Dublin and Barcelona cited as prime examples of where local citizens are experiencing severe housing insecurity from overheating of the tourist accommodation industry.

Ultimately, the S&D interparliamentary meeting concluded that there must be **greater cooperation among progressive forces** regarding our political advocacy on housing. It was also agreed that having Commissioner Jørgensen on side is a key asset for European social democrats, and that concrete targets in terms of homelessness reduction, robust market intervention, and affordability metrics need to be achieved over the next four years if housing is to become a legislative and political success of the EU.

Progressives focus on an inclusive security agenda at the CFSP/CDSP Conference in Warsaw



From 23-25 March in **Warsaw**, social democrat policymakers from across Europe's parliaments came together to discuss **the most pressing security and defence challenges facing our continent**.

Taking place in the framework of the Parliamentary Dimension of the Polish Council Presidency, the bi-annual [Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy/Common Security and Defence Policy](#) heard many key contributions on renewing Europe's security architecture, addressing US isolationism, and bolstering infrastructural and economic safeguards from external threats.

Notably, the Polish Council Presidency's motto is **"Security, Europe!"** and Warsaw's emphasis on ramping up the EU security framework has played a large part in shaping its Presidency agenda thus far.

In advance of the Conference's main programme, S&D-affiliated parliamentarians met to highlight the progressive family's priorities amid the rapidly developing re-alignment of international security. Co-chaired by **S&D Vice-President Ana Catarina Mendes** and **Parliamentary Group Leader of the Nowa Lewica, Anna Maria Zukowska**, our political family meeting discussed the importance of forming an assertive, but responsible and inclusive foreign affairs agenda.

At the centre of this agenda is a **socially cohesive defence framework**, one that does not abandon investment in welfare, education, and employment, but enhances it. Crucially, living standards and social protections cannot be jeopardised in the move towards a more security-oriented Europe, rather, these should go hand in hand.

International Womens' Day 2025 - Prioritising gender equality in peace-building processes

On 6 March, a delegation of national parliamentarians gathered in Brussels to discuss the Women, Peace and Security Agenda with MEPs to mark the occasion of International Womens' Day 2025.

Directly prior to a FEMM (Committee on Womens' Rights and Gender Equality) [Interparliamentary Committee Meeting](#) in the European Parliament, which focused on **strategies to uph women's rights in defence and peace-building processes**, socialist and social democrat MPs joined S&D MEPs for a valuable and timely discussion.

Here, Committee Chair and S&D MEP, **Lina Galvez**, highlighted the disproportionate impact of international conflict on women and girls - socio-economically, culturally, and inter-generationa. In **Ukraine, Gaza and beyond**, women are significantly more at risk of human trafficking and sexual violence. Furthermore, periods of war and conflict typically exacerbate gender inequal excluding women from decision-making processes and public life generally.

Consequently, this S&D political family meeting and the latter ICM explored how **gender equality measures can be structurally integrated into policies and public initiatives at the E national, and local levels**. Affirmed during this dialogue, women's' rights remain at the top of the European social democratic agenda, and we remain convinced that **there can be no tr conflict resolution without systematic gender equality measures**.



What's Next

- **20 May** - DEVE (Committee on Development) Interparliamentary Meeting: [Global Gateway and the 4th Conference on Financing for Development: Advancing Poverty Eradication and Energy Access in Developing Countries](#), European Parliament, Brussels
- **4 June** - JURI (Committee on Legal Affairs) Interparliamentary Meeting: [The Implementation of the Environmental Crimes Directive](#), European Parliament, Brussels
- **8-10 June** - [LXXIII plenary meeting of COSAC \(Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union\)](#), Warsaw, Poland

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The Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (the S&D Group) is the second largest political group in the European Parliament. We stand for an inclusive European society based on principles of solidarity, equality, diversity, freedom and fairness. We promote social justice, jobs and growth, consumer rights, sustainable development, financial market reforms and human rights to create a stronger and more democratic Europe and a better future for all citizens.

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Socialists & Democrats
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