



Brussels, 19.09.2008

**Greens/EFA Group highlights for the 22-25 September plenary session in Brussels**

**Plenary FLASH - September II 2008**

**New legislation needed to regulate the financial sector**

*Rasmussen report (Monday)*

Hedge funds and private equity investments lack transparency and are geared towards making short-term gains. These characteristics and the tendency of hedge funds to explore market imperfections create systematic risk in the financial sector. Regulation should be introduced through legislation, not soft touch alternatives, to minimise the risk of financial crisis in future.

**EP efforts to reduce CO2 car emissions: stuck in first gear?**

*Environment committee vote (Thursday)*

To the dismay of all hoping for a positive stance on climate change, the European Parliament industry committee voted earlier this month to considerably water down Commission proposals for a reduction in CO2 car emissions. The fleet average target of 120g CO2/km was postponed several years and penalties for non-compliance were so weakened as to present many producers with a cheaper alternative to investing in technological improvements. On Thursday, responsibility falls to the lead environment committee to deliver a better result.

**Healthcare to top agenda in EU Social Package debate**

*Social Package debate (Thursday)*

Cross-border healthcare will feature prominently in this second part of the debate on the EU Social Package, which was presented by the Commission in July. The Greens support the principle of patient mobility in cases of medical need, but cross-border healthcare provision should not endanger free and universal access for all. Furthermore, a number of legal issues need to be clarified including liability and hospital/non-hospital care.

**Monday 22 September**

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**Hammerstein** report on deliberations of the Petitions Committee (citizens' petitions during 2007)

**Mikko** report on concentration and pluralism in the media in the European Union  
*Greens shadow: Helga Trüpel*

**Rasmussen** report on hedge funds and private equity  
*Greens shadow: Heide Rühle*

Foreign Affairs and Development Committees vote to select three candidates for Sakharov prize shortlist

## Tuesday 23 September

**10.20-10.30 Briefing by Greens/EFA Copresidents Daniel Cohn-Bendit and Monica Frassoni**

**Lefrançois** report on combating terrorism  
**Roure** report on protection of personal data  
*Greens shadow: Kathalijne Buitenweg*

Joint debate: reports on maritime transport  
*Greens shadow: Michael Cramer*

**Lucas** report - International Tropical Timber Agreement 2006

## Wednesday 24 September

### Telecom package:

**Trautmann** report - Electronic communications networks and services  
*Greens shadow: Rebecca Harms*

**del Castillo Vera** report - European Electronic Communications Market Authority  
**Toia** report - Common approach to the use of the spectrum released by the digital switchover

*Greens shadow: David Hammerstein*

**Harbour** report - Electronic communications networks and services, protection of privacy and consumer protection  
*Greens shadow: Heide Rühle*

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Council and Commission statements on the global financial system and its effects on the European economy

## **Thursday 25 September**

Vote in environment committee: Emission performance standards for new passenger cars (CO<sub>2</sub>)

Council and Commission statements - Social package (Second part)

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