



Strasbourg Flash

Plenary Session Priorities 15-18 December 2008

Working Time: tight vote

Monday, 15 December 2008

Working Time rules are debated on Monday and go to a vote on Wednesday that is too close to call.

In a context of misunderstanding and misinformation regarding maximum average working weeks, Greens will be voting for a number of amendments that guarantee fair working hours, while allowing sufficient flexibility for people to balance work and family commitments.

If no amendments are passed, a Council position allowing an average 60/65 hour working week would be approved: a dire outcome for legislation supposedly aimed at protecting health and safety.

Flawed climate package

Tuesday, 16 December 2008

The deal on car CO2 emissions offers an easy ride for carmakers with delayed targets and weak fines for non-compliance. On a brighter note, renewables legislation secures a key role for sustainable energy in future, albeit with a flawed but mitigated biofuel clause.

Negotiations are still underway on an emissions trading scheme that we fear will grant windfall profits to 96% of non-power sector emissions & energy companies. Govt. "effort sharing" reduction targets risk being mostly exported overseas. CCS talks meanwhile regrettably hinge only on getting demonstration money. The package is failing.

Sakharov Prize: Hu Jia

Wednesday, 17 December 2008

One person will be particularly noticeable by his absence at the EP Sakharov award ceremony: prize winner Hu Jia himself, who is still imprisoned in China on spurious charges of "subverting state authority".

The Greens are delighted that Hu, also their nominee last year, is recognised for his tireless campaigning for human rights, as well as HIV/AIDS awareness and environmental issues.

However grave concerns remain about a human rights situation that has worsened despite China's pre-Olympic promises.

Greens/EFA Co-Presidents briefing

with **Daniel Cohn-Bendit**,

Monica Frassoni and guest

Jean-Francois Julliard

(Reporters Sans Frontières)

Wednesday, 17 Dec., 10.00-10.30

Press conference room

Greens /EFA Press conferences

Working Time Directive, with **Jean Lambert** and **Elisabeth Schroedter**

Tuesday, 16 December, 14.00-14.30, press conference room

Transfers of defence-related goods, with rapporteur **Heide Rühle**

Tuesday, 16 December, 14.30-15.00, press conference room

Pesticides trialogue results, with rapporteur **Hiltrud Breyer**

Thursday, 18 December, 10.00-10.30, press conference room

Also worth watching - Parliamentary reports, debates and resolutions

Monday, 15 December

Thyssen report on toy safety

Rühle report on transfers of defence-related products

Tuesday, 16 December

French Presidency: address by **Nicolas Sarkozy**

Ehler report on bank deposit guarantees

Vote on statute for European Parliament assistants

Wednesday, 17 December

Catania report on the fundamental rights situation in the EU

Haug/Lewandowski report on the budget amended by Council

Susta report on the impact of counterfeit goods on international trade

Thursday, 18 December

Debates on cases of breaches of human rights

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