



Strasbourg Flash

Plenary Session Priorities 12-15 January 2009

Harmful pesticides

Monday, 12 January 2009

Parliament will debate and vote on the 2nd reading agreements with Council on authorisation (Breyer report) and use (Klass report) of pesticides. Cut-off criteria will prevent renewed authorisation for pesticides that are harmful to health: carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic to reproduction or endocrine-disrupting. This world first is likely to affect only 5% of active substances over a 10 year period, yet industry is lobbying to dilute or obscure them with unfounded claims about higher rates of substances affected, higher food prices or lower yields. This must be resisted to ensure benefits to food and water quality - and above all to the health of consumers and agricultural workers.

Czech presidency

Tuesday, 13 January 2009

The Czech Presidency left a glaring omission when it set out three 'Es' as priorities in its programme: economy, energy and Europe in the world. The missing 'E' is for environment, at a crucial time when the climate package agreed at the 11th hour of the French presidency must now be implemented. The Czech "Europe without barriers" slogan is a thinly-veiled reference to an outdated neoliberal agenda. The biggest lesson of the financial crisis is that a hands-off approach on regulation can have grave consequences. Finally, Greens will also be closely watching Czech stewardship of extending anti-discrimination laws.

Gas crisis

Wednesday, 14 January 2009

A coordinated response is needed from the EU to ensure support for countries in a precarious energy situation.

The EU's initial reaction was sluggish but the proposal to send an EU 'monitoring team' to Ukraine and Russia to check real gas flows is a welcome one.

There is a need to improve interconnection and storage infrastructure. With 40% of gas used in buildings, improving energy efficiency must also be a top priority. Gas contracts with key players must be set for at least three years to avoid annual disruption.

Greens/EFA Co-Presidents briefing

with **Daniel Cohn-Bendit** and
Monica Frassoni

Tuesday, 13 January, 10.20-10.40
Press conference room

Greens/EFA press conference

on **authorisation of pesticides**
with rapporteur **Hiltrud Breyer**
Tuesday, 13 January, following votes (after 13.00)
Press conference room

Also worth watching - Parliamentary reports, debates and resolutions

Tuesday, 13 January

Coelho report on security features and biometrics in passports and travel documents

Lambsdorff report on public contracts in the field of defence and security

Schlyter report on dichloromethane (a highly toxic and carcinogenic substance used in paintstrippers)

Wednesday, 14 January

Napolitano report on the Barcelona process: Union for the Mediterranean
Council and Commission statements on the situation in Gaza

Thursday, 15 January

Oral question: transport of animals

Debates on cases of breaches of human rights: Shirin Ebadi - Iran

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