



Strasbourg Flash

Plenary Session Priorities 21-24 April 2009

Energy package

Tuesday, 21 April 2009

Greens are disappointed with the energy package of legislation on the table. In particular, regarding the Morgan and Vidal-Quadras reports, the failure to agree on "full ownership unbundling" in the internal electricity market, (i.e. separation of control of the grid and supply), overtly favours the elite few companies that already have an excessive stranglehold on the market.

Greens are set to abstain on the Mussa and Paparizov reports relating to the market for natural gas.

The Greens will also abstain on the proposed agency: a weak club of national regulators instead of a real regulatory body at European level. (Chichester report.)

Combating illegal timber

Tuesday, 21 April 2009

Between 20% and 40% of industrial wood production is estimated to come from illegal sources and the EU is a major buyer and consumer. The Commission proposal for regulation against the trade in illegal timber and wood products was therefore long overdue. The report by Green MEP Caroline Lucas, makes several key improvements that were supported in committee in February and are set to be approved by the EP plenary. (No new amendments will be submitted.) Responsibility for the whole supply chain is an important principle, as are independent monitoring and traceability requirements. The power to impose criminal penalties gives real teeth to the proposed legislation.

Cross-border healthcare

Thursday, 23 April 2009

Much is still open on the complex and controversial directive on cross-border healthcare and work is still underway to find a compromise before next week's vote.

Greens believe 'health tourism' must be no substitute for providing the best possible care as close as possible to the patient. They are calling for the best possible balance to be achieved between individual patient rights and safeguarding national health and social security systems. One must not undermine the other.

A poor outcome would be one that ultimately promotes competition (rather than cooperation) between Member States.

Greens/EFA Co-Presidents briefing

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

Wednesday, 22 April, 10.20-10.40
Press conference room

Press conference

On cross-border healthcare
with: **Claude Turmes**

Wednesday 22 April, 16.00-16.30
Press conference room

Also worth watching - Parliamentary reports, debates and resolutions

Tuesday, 21 April

Belet report on labelling of tyres with respect to fuel efficiency

Vălean report on mobile telephone networks and electronic communications (including SMS price cap)

Hökmark report on nuclear safety (condemned by Greens for being primarily a PR exercise)

Romeva report on control measures to respect rules of the Common Fisheries Policy

Lichtenberger report on green paper on future of TEN-T policy (transport networks)

ITRE committee: telecom package (including controversial 'graduated response' to illegal downloads)

Wednesday, 22 April

Lambert report on coordination of social security systems

Crowley report on protecting author rights (seeking to extend music copyright beyond 50 years)

Thursday, 23 April

Staes report on statistics on plant protection products (pesticides)

Beer report on non-proliferation (Conservatives have resisted support for nuclear disarmament)

Friday, 24 April

Frassoni report on monitoring of community law (exposing weak role of Commission as treaty guardian)

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