



PLENARY SESSION PRIORITIES

24-27 November 2015



Valletta Summit Gabi Zimmer, GUE/NGL President, Germany

At the Valletta Summit, European leaders once again damaged the idea of a cosmopolitan European Union safeguarding human rights. They decided to further externalise EU borders to third countries and increase the fight against refugees. The EU and its member states are pushing African countries, including dictatorships such as in Eritrea and Sudan, to prevent refugees from leaving their countries and to take back those deported from Europe. In return, the EU offers more than €1.8 billion mainly to extend border controls. Instead, we ask for safe and legal pathways for refugees and migrants into Europe and a radical change of the EU's development and trade policy.



Paris terrorist attacks Younous Omarjee, France

We are aware of the trap set by our enemies; by striking harder and harder they hope to divide us. And from this point of view, the worst may be yet to come. We must be clear because if we deny it, the reality will only get the better of us. The reality is that we must eradicate the 'Daesh' monstrosity. It is radical Islam in Europe against which we must fight. We must reject all confusion to save our unity.



TAXE Committee Report Fabio De Masi, Germany

GUE/NGL played a key role in the investigations in sweetheart tax deals with multinational corporations. While the report of the Special TAXE Committee picks up many of our group proposals, it lacks ambition in key areas and the mandate of TAXE remains unfulfilled. TAXE could not access crucial documents and the report does not adequately address the political responsibility of architects of the tax cartel such as Commission President Juncker.



Prevention of radicalisation Barbara Spinelli, Italy

We were able to obtain a number of good results like calls for funding for NGOs and prevention programmes, including support for front-line workers and a call for investment in social and neighbourhood projects. However, the request to adopt the PNR directive, to enhance the EU's border controls, to reinforce EU agencies such as EUROPOL and to cooperate with the League of Arab States, were unacceptable. Extremely problematic for the GUE/NGL group was also the approach taken on the prevention of violent radicalisation on the internet, stating that internet companies and service providers have a legal responsibility to cooperate with member states' authorities on two levels: by deleting any illegal content, and by promoting attractive narratives on the society in which we live.

GUE/NGL Press Briefing, Tuesday 25 Nov at 14.30 in EP Press Room

Paris attacks - Younous Omarjee

Prevention of radicalisation and recruitment by terrorist organisations - Barbara Spinelli

Violence against women, Valletta Summit - Malin Björk

Press conference, Tuesday 25 at 9.30 in EP Press Room

Fabio De Masi, Marisa Matias and Miguel Viegas

1 year after Lux Leaks: Special TAXE committee mission not accomplished"

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Violence against women Malin Björk, Sweden

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the European Parliament sends yet another strong signal that we want to see an EU legal instrument against all forms of violence against women and girls, and that we expect all member states to rapidly ratify the Istanbul Convention. Eradicating gender-based violence is a question of basic human rights, and an absolute central part of the struggle for gender equality.



Reducing inequalities/child poverty Inês Zuber, Portugal

Austerity policies created a situation where one in four children lives at risk of poverty or social exclusion across the EU. This report demands that the child poverty phenomenon needs answers based on policies that promote access to universal, public, free and quality education, health and social security services, promoted by member states, for children and their families. It also advocates tackling unemployment, promoting job security, parenting support, social-educational networks, balanced nutrition and adequate housing.



Health & safety at work Neoklis Sylikiotis, Cyprus

For GUE/NGL, health and safety at work is unthinkable without the participation of workers and the social partners in the procedure of decision-making, both for H&S planning and H&S rulemaking. So our main priority in this report was to secure this participation, applying not only on company level but on a country level as well and without overlooking micro companies and SMEs in this procedure. In this regard we tabled amendments which were taken on board.

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