

# highlights



20 - 24 june '11

## EPP Summit

Ahead of the European Council, EU Heads of State and Government and Opposition Leaders of the European People's Party, along with the Presidents of the European Council, European Commission and the European Parliament - Herman Van Rompuy, José Manuel Barroso and Jerzy Buzek - have been invited to participate in the upcoming EPP Summit which will take place on Thursday in the Académie Royale de Belgique.

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## '6 pack' on Economic Governance

This is going to be a key week for the Economic Governance Package ('six-pack') as negotiations are underway with Council about the finer details of the legislation. Corien Wortmann-Kool, Vice-Chairwoman of the



EPP Group and Rapporteur on the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, welcomes the support received from Council to Parliament's more ambitious approach on a number of topics. "We have made considerable progress on important topics such as the inclusion of the European Semester in the legislative text and a fine for governments that falsify their financial statistics. Nevertheless, the EP will insist on the inclusion of the reversed

qualified majority vote to open up the sanctions procedure in the case that a Member State is unwilling to take the necessary actions. This will be a key item to prevent any future debt or deficit crisis." Rapporteur on the corrective arm of the Stability and Growth pact Diogo Feio continued: "We need a strong Economic Governance framework as a way to avoid future crisis. Europe needs Stability and Growth therefore we should apply smart, concrete and effective measures."

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## CAP Reform

Before the Commission presents its legislative proposal on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy, the EP sets out its priorities for European farmers in a Report by EPP Group Spokesman Albert Dess. Calling for the level of the 2013 budget and the two-pillar structure to be sustained, the Report highlights the need to make Europe less dependent on food imports, have a fair distribution of CAP funds, and cut red tape for farmers and national authorities alike, while introducing measures to enable farmers to contribute more to the protection of the environment. Debate in plenary on Wednesday.

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## Vote on ECB President

After a successful Hearing in front of economic affairs experts of the European Parliament, the candidate for President of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi, is expected to be endorsed by Members on Thursday.

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## Consumer Rights Directive

After a deal was struck with the Council, the Parliament will on Thursday hold on a major piece of legislation aimed at updating and strengthening consumer protection rules in the EU. The EPP Group with Andreas Schwab, who took the lead in negotiations, managed to secure important new improvements to consumer rights by setting out common standards for cross-border online shopping, particularly the right of withdrawal, i.e. the period in which you are entitled to return the goods you have bought.

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## press conferences

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**Monday @ 11.00 hrs:** Briefing on the parliamentary agenda

**Tuesday @ 14.30 hrs: Salvatore Iacolino MEP**, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs on juvenile justice

**Wednesday @ 14.30 hrs: Antonio López-Istúriz White MEP** and Lorenzo Amor, President of the Federation of Self-Employed (ATA) on the situation of self-employed workers in the EU

**Thursday @ 13.00 hrs: Markus Pieper MEP**, Rapporteur, on the Commission's fifth Cohesion Report and the strategy for post-2013 cohesion policy

**Thursday @ 13.30 hrs: Albert Dess MEP**, Rapporteur, on the vote on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy

**Thursday @ 14.00 hrs: Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid MEP**, Rapporteur, on "Objective 3: a challenge for territorial cooperation – the future agenda for cross-border, transnational and inter-regional cooperation"



## Spent fuel and radioactive waste

A legislative proposal is going through the EP pipeline that will require Member States to establish a national regulatory and organisational framework and draw up appropriate national programmes for spent fuel and radioactive waste management, from their generation to their disposal. EP Responsible Romana Jordan Cizelj wishes to strengthen the existing proposal by ensuring that adequate funding is set aside for future nuclear plant decommissioning as well as the management, conditioning and final disposal of the resultant radioactive waste. Debate in plenary on Wednesday, vote on Thursday.

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## European road safety

In the last decade, the number of road deaths in the EU has been reduced by half. In a Report to be voted in the Transport Committee on Tuesday, measures to be taken in this decade to further improve road safety are being discussed. EP Responsible Dieter-Lebrecht Koch calls on the Commission to be more ambitious in drawing up its proposals and calls for more effective enforcement of existing road traffic rules, e.g. enforcement of penalties for breaking the speed limit in another Member State.

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## New EU framework for tourism

Tourism is the EU's third largest socio-economic activity, accounting for 10% of GDP and 12% of total employment figures. The EU is planning to put in place a framework for coordinated action in order to promote competitiveness in tourism. In a Report

to be voted in the Transport Committee on Tuesday, Carlo Fidanza makes suggestions on how to improve the current proposals focusing mainly on investing in human resources (training and professional development) and in innovation and ICT.

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## Future of Cohesion Policy

In the forerun of the EU's financial period 2014-2020 and the corresponding proposal for the general regulation of the structural funds, Parliament is set to adopt a Report by EPP Group MEP Markus Pieper on Thursday on the Future of Cohesion Policy. It calls for a perpetuation of the current system and budget of the EU's regional and cohesion policy. Future funding ought to be subject to more targeted outcomes and defined conditions, such as the compliance with public procurement requirements.

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## European Territorial Cooperation

On Thursday, the Parliament will vote on a Report by Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid on European Territorial Cooperation. Divided into 3 strands, cross-border, transnational and inter-regional, European Territorial Cooperation is the 3rd objective of the Cohesion Policy. It helps territories and regions work together in tackling their common challenges. In her Report, Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid calls for concrete and pragmatic measures to be taken to improve territorial cooperation and make it more strategic.

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## Is EU cohesion delivering?

The Strategic Report 2010 on the implementation of cohesion policy programmes presented by Miroslav Mikolášik provides a first complete overview on the progress of all 27 Member States in delivering agreed EU objectives for the period 2007-2009 with a view to achieving ambitious goals of the Union through the Cohesion Policy. Vote on the Report by Parliament's plenary on Thursday.

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## European Coastguard Service

On Wednesday, Salvatore Iacolino and Crescenzo Rivellini will chair a Hearing on 'The creation of a European Coastguard Service'. On this occasion, major issues like border management and illegal



fishing will be addressed in order to explore future challenges and solutions. Key speakers will be Stefano Manservigi, Director-General of DG Home Affairs, Iilka Laitinen, Executive Director of the Frontex Agency, Serge Beslier, Chairman of the Administrative Board of the Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA), and Ernesto Penad Lado, Director in DG MARE.

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