

S&D Interparliamentary Newsletter - Connecting with National Parliaments

BRUSSELS, 23/11/23

PREPARATIONS FOR EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Dear <<First Name>>,

The European Parliament [Constitutional Affairs Committee](#) (AFCO) hosted an exchange of views with national parliaments on preparations for the European Parliament Elections on 25 October.



This ICM was organised in the context of the ongoing work of AFCO's [own initiative report](#) on the European Elections 2024 under the co-rapporteurship of Mr Sven Simon (EPP) and Mr [Domènec Ruiz Devesa](#) (S&D). The aim of this initiative is to convey the Parliament's key political messages to strengthen the

European dimension of the organisation of the elections in June 2024 and the process leading up to the election of the President of the Commission. Prior to the ICM, the S&D Group offered its national and European Members an excellent opportunity to participate in an in-depth exchange of views on how to strengthen European democracy at the next European Parliament election.

S&Ds call for true European elections

One idea suggested by parliamentarians was that EP elections should embrace a more European perspective, moving beyond a national mindset. Communication should occur through national parties to ensure that voters clearly understand the connection between national and European political powers. In this way, it is essential to highlight the link between the decisions taken at the European level and the daily lives of European citizens.

S&Ds emphasise the crucial role of regional and national parliamentarians

It was suggested at the ICM to communicate more through our local, regional and national-level representatives for the upcoming elections. Regional and national parties could actively contribute to the promotion of European candidates at local level. Despite this active cooperation with national and regional parties and leaders, however, candidates for the European Parliament should clearly identify themselves with European-level politics, not the national level.

A clear call for a strong communication strategy

The EU has become more visible to citizens due to war on the European continent. According to the discussion at the ICM, this has led to an increase in citizen awareness of the impact of EU decision-making at the national level. More attention must be paid to the reasons explaining EU decisions: What? Why? And how they affect daily life. This is indeed a direct motivation for citizens to vote. Furthermore, it was deemed essential to counter disinformation, slander and lies with a strong communication strategy.

RETHINKING EU ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

The [parliamentary dimension of the Spanish Presidency](#) organised the [Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union \(IPC on SECG\)](#) on **October 26 and 27, 2023**, in the [Spanish Senate](#). It brought together **over 150 parliamentarians** from national parliaments, the European Parliament, and observer and candidate countries.

The IPC on SECG, **which was established in 2013, is a regular platform for cooperation between national parliaments and the European Parliament**. This conference offers a platform for discussion, exchanges of information and best practices regarding the implementation of the provisions of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union.



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This IPC took place at a crucial moment in the negotiations on the reform of fiscal rules. On the 26th of April 2023, the Commission adopted a [legislative package to review the EU's economic governance](#). In the discussion, the majority of parliamentarians believed that the **Commission's recent legislative proposal is a step in the right direction**. In the debate, however, social democrats pointed out some **shortcomings in the Commission's reform initiative**.

S&Ds at the forefront of reform on the European economic governance framework

Over 30 parliamentarians from across Europe exchanged in a frank debate their key priorities on the ongoing review of European economic governance. The fight for a real European fiscal capacity and the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights are a common battle for social democrats at national and European level. **A clear shortcoming in the**



Commission's reform initiative for social democrats is the lack of proposals concerning a permanent fiscal capacity to provide macroeconomic stabilisation at EU level. This is something necessary for crisis preparation and for an ambitious public investment agenda to support Member States, and to tackle current and future challenges.

S&D parliamentarians agreed that in **times of multiple crises**, high inflation, and when facing the massive investment gaps needed to finance the green and digital transition, the **European economic policy framework must be transformed**. It was agreed that there must be a **strong tool created to enhance the resilience of the European Union towards internal and external shocks**, whilst also ensuring delivery on common European priorities.

The Spanish Presidency advocates for adapting rules to the current reality

[Javier Alfonso Cendón](#), Deputy Secretary and third Spokesperson of the PSOE parliamentary group in the Spanish Congress of Deputies, reminded parliamentarians about the main priorities of the Spanish Presidency in the area of economic governance. The Presidency is particularly focusing on fostering the green transition and promoting greater social and economic justice. Spain is doing its utmost to **accelerate the legislative files related to [Fit for 55](#)**. At the same time, the Presidency is also working on a **proper revision of the [Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027](#)** for adequate reform of the fiscal rules to overcome austerity, increase transparency, and combine the sustainability of public finances with the proper financing of the green and digital transitions.

The compass for the Belgian Presidency: the European Pillar of Social Rights

For social democrats, it is **indispensable for the future framework to put fiscal stability on an equal footing with investment and to push for a strong social dimension**. The good news is that the Pillar of Social Rights will be one of the four main EU priorities for the investments and reforms for the national plans. While for S&D Members this reference is positive, the criteria for deciding which investments and reforms are eligible for an extension of the debt-adjustment plans should be further clarified.



MEPs: Irene Tinagli, Margarida Marques, Jonás Fernández,
MPs: Kai Jan Krainer, Rachid Madrane, Rumén Gechev, Christiana Erotokritou, Chrisis Pantelides, Priit Lomp, Riita Mäkinen, Bettina Hagedorn, Paraskevas Koukouloupoulos, Zoltán Vajda, Antonio Misiani, Raymond Abela, Anna Paula Bernardo, Paula Reis, Miguel Iglesias, Ioan Mang, Adrian Solomon, Nicu Niță, Ionel-Dănuț Cristescu, Călin-Gheorghe Matieș, Liliana Sbirnea, Bojana Muršič, Javier Alfonso-Cendón, Patricia Blanquer Alcaraz, Pedro Casares Hontañón, José Antonio Rodríguez Salas, María Fernández Álvarez, Claude Reynal, Joris Vandenbroucke

[Mr Joris Vandenbroucke](#), a social democratic Member of the Belgium Chamber of Representatives, announced at the IPC that the **Belgian Presidency will put the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights at the centre of its actions**. Belgium wants it to remain the social compass of the EU agenda for the next Commission. To this end, the Belgian Presidency will **organise a High Level Conference in La Hulpe on the 15-16 April 2024**, where they aim to sign, like in 2017, an Inter-institutional declaration on the Pillar, again with the Commission, the EU Parliament, social partners and civil society.

Progressive Members are looking forward to the Belgian Presidency!

LATEST NEWS

- [S&D Group supports targeted EU Treaty change](#), 22.11.2023
- [European Parliament takes decisive step towards stricter CO₂ standards for heavy-duty vehicles](#), 21.11.2023
- [S&Ds secure 'right to repair' that protects consumers' rights and the environment](#), 21.11.2023
- [European Parliament must reduce pesticides' use to pave the way to sustainable agriculture](#), 21.11.2023
- [S&Ds call on EU member states to intensify efforts to eradicate child poverty](#), 20.11.2023
- [MEPs support new rules to combat child sexual abuse online](#), 14.11.2023
- [EU should lead an international peace conference. Netanyahu's collective punishment of Gaza's people must stop, says Iratxe García](#), 08.11.2023
- [Promoting freedom, democracy, and prosperity on our continent – the S&Ds welcome the new EU enlargement momentum](#), 08.11.2023
- [S&Ds head to Málaga to engage with Europeans for a progressive future](#), 08.11.2023

- [Iratxe García on EUCO: “In every conflict the UN and its Charter must be our roadmap to peace, security and human dignity”](#), 26.10.2023

WHAT'S NEXT

- 26-28 November: **LXX COSAC plenary meeting** - Cortes Generales, Madrid
- 27-28 November: ICM on **European Citizenship Education** - CULT, European Parliament, Brussels
- 4 December: ICM on **the Situation of the Rule of Law in the EU - LIBE**, European Parliament, Brussels
- 4 December: ICM on the **participation of disabled persons in the electoral process** - EMPL, European Parliament, Brussels
- 7 December: S&D - FEPS Conference "**Shaping Europe`s digital model - Building Alliances for a Progressive European Vision**" - European Parliament, Brussels

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The Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (the S&D Group) is the second largest political group in the European Parliament. We stand for an inclusive European society based on principles of solidarity, equality, diversity, freedom and fairness. We promote social justice, jobs and growth, consumer rights, sustainable development, financial market reforms and human rights to create a stronger and more democratic Europe and a better future for all citizens.

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