



DEBATE ON TUESDAY, 13 JUNE

**Establishment of the EU Ethics Body****Gabriele Bischoff**, vice-president of the S&D Group and vice-chair of the European Parliament constitutional affairs committee

Without the right to start an investigation, the Commission's proposal for an EU ethics body lacks the teeth to apply the same ethics standards across all EU institutions. During next week's plenary session, we will be telling the Commission that the proposal presented yesterday is not ambitious enough and does not constitute a real ethics body. This is a complete missed opportunity. Business as usual is not an option if we want to strengthen the transparency and accountability of the EU institutions. Given this proposal falls short of our expectations as a Group, as rapporteur for changes to the rules of procedure, my focus will now be on strengthening the work of the European Parliament's advisory committee.

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY, 13 JUNE, VOTE ON WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE

**Artificial Intelligence Act****Brando Benifei**, S&D MEP and European Parliament co-rapporteur of the Artificial Intelligence Act

Next week, the European Parliament will be voting on the world's first-ever regulation on artificial intelligence. As Socialists and Democrats, we remain committed to protecting the rights and freedoms of European citizens while harnessing the potential of this ground-breaking technology. AI is advancing by leaps and bounds and its regulation becomes urgent. We believe that the EU's regulation must ensure its human-centric use. This will be possible, among others: by compelling companies and authorities deploying an AI system to assess its concrete impact on fundamental rights and develop specific measures to mitigate possible problems before the AI system is deployed; by protecting workers and obliging companies to negotiate the use of AI at the workplace; by preventing mass surveillance; and by banning AI for emotion recognition in sensitive areas such as border management, law enforcement, or education.

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DEBATE ON MONDAY, 12 JUNE, VOTE ON TUESDAY, 13 JUNE

**Competition policy and "greedflation"****René Repasi**, European Parliament rapporteur of the annual report on competition policy

Competition policy is a strong tool to protect consumers against unfair prices. In this year's competition report, we are calling on the European Commission to use all means available to fight against 'greedflation', which occurs when companies are propping up profits, exacerbating the cost-of-living crisis. Currently, the Commission applies competition rules horizontally across all sectors. A price increase in yachts is handled with the same priority as an increase in the price of bread. A new study on 'greedflation', commissioned by the S&D Group, offers concrete steps on how the Commission can introduce a 'vulnerable consumer' standard. In practice, this means that, when enforcing EU competition rules, the Commission would have to take into account the needs of low-income consumers.

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DEBATE ON TUESDAY, 13 JUNE, VOTE ON WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE

**Quality traineeships in the EU****Alicia Homs**, S&D negotiator on quality traineeships

On Wednesday, we expect the European Parliament to keep the promise to young Europeans and call for an EU law that would ban unpaid traineeships. Trainees perform a real job so they need to be treated and paid as workers. It is high time to stop abusing them as cheap or free labour. After the Parliament's call for the new law, we hope for an immediate launch of consultations with social partners, which is the first concrete step towards the legislation. We are calling on the European Commission to present the legislative proposal by the end of this year.

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ADDRESS ON WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE

**Address by the President of Kosovo Vjosa Osmani****Tonino Picula**, S&D spokesperson on foreign affairs



We look forward to welcoming President of Kosovo Vjosa Osmani next Wednesday in Strasbourg. The situation in Kosovo is worrying. We condemn, in the strongest terms, the violent acts against citizens, NATO troops, law enforcement, and media in the north of Kosovo. We urge both Kosovo and Serbia to restore calm and refrain from any further uncoordinated actions. We expect both Kosovo and Serbia to act responsibly and engage immediately in the EU-facilitated dialogue to find a sustainable solution that would guarantee safety, security and participatory democracy for all citizens.

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**DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE, VOTE ON THURSDAY, 15 JUNE**

**Investigation of the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware**  
*Hannes Heide, S&D negotiator and spokesperson in the European Parliament PEGA committee*

The spying on, and intimidation of politicians, journalists, lawyers and civil society, is unacceptable. That is why, in our recommendations, we call for a new EU regulation, to prevent abuse. We also call for a de facto moratorium on the use of such spyware in these EU countries that do not respect certain strict conditions. We must shield European citizens from the abusive use of spyware and make sure that such technologies are only used as a last resort in the most serious crimes, with very strict safeguards. As the S&Ds, we also secured that the report calls for a clear definition of national security. Now, all too often, member states invoke national security as a pretext to justify the deployment and use of spyware. This should be the exception rather than the rule.

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**DEBATE ON TUESDAY, 13 JUNE, VOTE ON WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE**

**Batteries and waste batteries**  
*Achille Variati, S&D MEP, European Parliament's negotiator on the regulation*

The S&Ds successfully led European Parliament negotiations to improve the Commission's proposal to make batteries safer and more sustainable. We have extended the regulation to e-bikes and e-scooters as these are increasingly favoured by citizens seeking alternatives to polluting transports. The regulation also bolsters the responsibility of companies, demanding rigorous due diligence in sourcing materials. The regulation not only mandates information provisions, carbon footprint reduction, and recycled content, but also sets ambitious targets for waste battery collection.

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**VOTE IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY ON THURSDAY, 15 JUNE**

**Nature restoration law**  
*César Luena, European Parliament's negotiator on the law*

Next week the Socialists & Democrats will do what we always do: vote for a sustainable future and defend the environment. Over the months, we have worked very hard to close a political agreement that is realistic and pragmatic, and we succeeded. The nature restoration law will set much-needed minimum standards for the member states. To complete the EU Green Deal, it is essential to pass the vote next Thursday. I expect it to be very tight due to the boycott orchestrated by the EPP, but I am confident that we can make it.

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**DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY, VOTE IN JULY**

**The electoral law, the investigative committee, and the rule of law in Poland**  
*Robert Biedroń, S&D MEP and leader of Nowa Lewica*

The PiS government is doing everything possible to keep the power. With the recent legislative changes in Poland, including the electoral law, a lack of judicial independence, and the political capture of public media, we fear that the autumn elections might not be held to the highest democratic standards. That is why we call for a full-scale election observation mission by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Poland (ODIHR). We must make sure that the elections are free and fair! We also urge the European Commission and the Council to use all available tools to defend democracy in Poland. We owe it to Polish people, who - as we saw last Sunday in Warsaw - oppose the autocratic drift by the PiS and want to live in a free, democratic and pro-European country!

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**S&D Group press conference**  
*Iratxe García Pérez, S&D president*  
**Tuesday, 13 June, 10:00 - 10:30**  
**Daphne Caruana Galizia room - Strasbourg**  
**Weiss N-1/201**  
**Webstreaming here**  
**<https://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/>**

**Journalists who want to participate and ask questions can connect via this link**

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