

# S&D Interparliamentary Newsletter - Connecting with National Parliaments

BRUSSELS, \*|DATE:D/M/Y|\*

## PARLIAMENTARIANS STEER EU EXTERNAL ACTION

Dear \*|FNAME|\*,

In the context of the [Parliamentary Dimension of the Spanish Presidency](#), the 23rd session of the [Interparliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy](#) (IPC of CFSP/CSDP), took place on 1-2 October 2023 in Madrid.

**Since its establishment in 2012**, this Interparliamentary Conference brings together representatives of national parliaments and the European Parliament to discuss matters related to the EU's foreign and defence policies.

This time again, the **crucial role of parliaments in the scrutiny, oversight and steering of EU external action** and related instruments was demonstrated. This Interparliamentary Conference brought together **134 representatives from across Europe including; 105 Members from 25 national parliaments, 10 members from the European Parliament, and 19 representatives from observer and candidate countries.**

Discussions at this IPC were centred on four main items: Priorities of the CFSP/CSDP and current challenges, Threats posed by Russia: invasion of Ukraine and global consequences, Latest developments in the CFSP/CSDP sphere and European Defence, and challenges to the CSDP. However, **the main leitmotif across all the debates was Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The Conference Members clearly concluded that Ukraine is the top priority and that the EU should continue to support Ukraine for as long as it takes.**

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**Socialists & Democrats joined forces at the 23rd session of the IPC for CFSP-CSDP**



MP Francisco César, MP Olle Thorell, MEP Eero Heinäluoma, MP Dimitrios Mantzos, MP Antonio Gutiérrez, MP Titus Corlăţean, MP Stewart Wood, MP Dovilė Šakalienė, MEP Sven Mikser, MP Pere Joan Pons Sampietro, MP Amanda Spiteri Grech, MP Paulo Pisco, MP Borco Stefanovic

Twenty-two national Members of Parliament and two Members of the European Parliament joined forces at the IPC. The political family meeting was co-chaired by [MEP Sven MIKSER](#), S&D SEDE coordinator, and [Senator Joan Pere PONS SAMPTERO](#), [vice-president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly](#). The key outcome at this meeting saw S&D parliamentarians state their support for the PSOE and the on-going EU-Presidency, ultimately reaffirming their solidarity with Ukraine.

### **Socialists and Democrats stand firm behind the Spanish Presidency; “Europe, closer”**

The snap general election on the 24th of July this year was a success for [the PSOE](#), with the Socialists winning more seats and a higher percentage of the vote than in the 2019 election- but also, the election importantly halted the rise of the far-right VOX party. Members from other social democratic parties across Europe have expressed their strong support for the PSOE to succeed in forming a government, and share the major challenges and concerns in fighting the extreme right across Europe. The main lines of action during the six-month [Spanish Presidency](#) were also presented at the meeting: reindustrialising the EU and guaranteeing its open strategic autonomy, advancing the green transition, promoting greater social and economic justice, and strengthening European unity. Spain believes in a global, autonomous, digital and ecological Europe that combines innovation and social justice, towards which the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union will work under the motto [“Europe, closer”](#).



### **Socialists and Democrats stand firm behind the Ukrainian people**

The Spanish Presidency sees it as essential to continue to [provide strong support to Ukraine](#), alongside NATO and other EU allies. In fact, the presidency of the Council aims to help maintain unity among member states and international partners in support of Ukraine. This implies the defence of a just peace under the principles of sovereignty and territorial unity. It is of extreme importance to the Spanish Presidency that all those responsible for war crimes in this conflict will be held accountable for their actions in accordance with international law.

Socialists & Democrats Group meeting



S&D Parliamentarians insisted at the IPC on the importance of not falling to the “fatigue of this war”. It is clear for social democrat parliamentarians around Europe that **the war may take as long as it takes, but Europeans will stand behind Ukraine**. It was recalled that NATO allies have reached agreement last July, to raise the alliance's target for military spending to at least 2% of national GDP. While it is certainly hard for Socialists and Democrats to support the granting of funds to the defence industry, participants accepted that this is a part of the cost of peace. Some social democratic Members

even shared their fears, that the EU and its Member States are currently too slow in increasing their expenditure for the defence industry.

## VISIT OF THE NORWEGIAN LABOUR PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

**Strong parliaments are at the heart of our European democracy.** The European Parliament and the national parliaments are key partners in shaping the future of Europe as a peaceful and prosperous place for its citizens. Hence, the importance of the parliamentary dialogue at political level. Bilateral visits from national parliaments to the European Parliament and the S&D Group in particular are an essential form of interparliamentary cooperation.



In this context, the S&D Group welcomed in September a big delegation from [Norwegian Labour Party parliamentary Group](#) headed by its leader, [Rigmor Aasrud](#). These visits saw a productive exchange of ideas and experiences between MEPs, MPs and staff. The importance of mobilising all socialists and democrats across Europe, regardless of whether they are members of the EU or not, was strongly emphasised. To fortify our political community, it is essential for everyone impacted by EU policies to unite, fostering shared perspectives and crafting solutions for our collective challenges. These parliamentary visits play a pivotal role in building bridges and cooperation between the national and



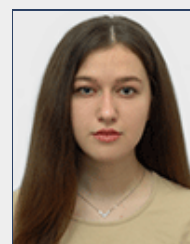
## WHAT'S NEXT

- 25 October, Interparliamentary Committee Meeting **on the preparations of the European elections 2024 – AFCO**, European Parliament, Brussels
- 25 October, Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Taxation – **FISC**, European Parliament, Brussels
- 26-27 October , **Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU** (IPC on SECG) , Senate, Madrid
- 7 November, Interparliamentary Committee Meeting **on Evaluation of Activities of the Eurojust, LIBE**, European Parliament, Brussels
- 7 November, **The Future of Cohesion Policy** : Opportunities, Challenges and Next Steps, **REGI**, European Parliament, Brussels
- 26 – 28 November, **LXX COSAC plenary meeting**, Congress of Deputies, Madrid
- 28 -29 November, Interparliamentary Committee **Meeting on the European Citizenship Education, CULT**, European Parliament, Brussels

## LATEST NEWS

- [S&Ds ready to start the negotiations on their flagship project: forced labour ban](#) (16.10.23)
- [S&D Group's news on the European Parliament's Plenary session in Strasbourg: 16 - 19 October, 2023](#) (13.10.23)
- [S&D Group to suspend Slovak MEPs](#) 12/10/2023
- [Silver Rose Awards 2023](#) (11.10.23)
- [New liability rules for defective products fit for digital age, thanks to S&Ds](#) (09.10.23)
- [New Schengen rules will stop free movement from being used as a political football](#) (05.10.23)
- [S&Ds successfully advocate for the 'polluter pays principle' in treating toxic substances in wastewater](#) (05.10.23)
- [Stop appeasing the Aliyev regime in Baku!](#) (05.10.23)
- [With crisis looming, S&Ds call for a European plan to ensure decent and affordable housing](#) (04.10.23)
- [Socialists and Democrats back Šefčovič and Hoekstra to advance EU Climate Action and the European Green Deal](#) (4.10.23)
- [S&Ds: Media Freedom Act protects journalists from pressure to reveal their sources](#) (03.10.23)

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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.

**CONTACT US**



Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
**Socialists & Democrats**  
in the European Parliament

**S&D**

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