



# MEP BSR Helsinki 2015/ COMMITTEES & ISSUES

## 1. **Committee on Foreign Affairs (CP: Thibault Moreels)**

### **The question of the EU and its neighbouring areas**

How can the EU assume its international role when it comes to its neighbouring areas? In what ways might political stability and further democracy in these areas be secured?

E.g. pro- Russian militias and pro- European soldiers have been fighting for almost a year in Eastern Ukraine. Based on the ideology upon which the EU was created, it is our role to maintain peace and represent wealth in this part of the world and elsewhere. What measures can the EU take in neighbouring areas to secure good relations and stable development?

[www.eppgroup.eu/our-priority/The-EU's-response-to-the-crisis-in-Ukraine](http://www.eppgroup.eu/our-priority/The-EU's-response-to-the-crisis-in-Ukraine)

## 2. **Committee on Energy and Industry (CP: Vilma Tuononen)**

### **The question of energy production in the EU**

In what ways might the EU maintain global competitiveness while at the same time try to introduce policies to reduce green house gas emissions? How could the EU become a role-model for the rest of the world in the energy field?

How could the EU economically increase and develop different ways to produce green energy? In what ways could the EU try to make EU ETS (European Union Emissions Trading Scheme) a better working organisation?

[http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/finance/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/finance/index_en.htm)



### **3. Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (CP: Nadine Kranck)**

#### **The question of the pollution in the Baltic Sea**

The Baltic Sea is one of the most polluted seas in the world. How could the nutrient load of the Baltic Sea be reduced? In what ways might innovative solutions improve the health and biodiversity of the sea?

The Baltic Sea is one of the most polluted seas in the world. This is a result of the Baltic Sea regularly being a victim of pollution from industries, agriculture as well as from marine traffic. Even though the states surrounding the Baltic Sea have agreed upon effluent regulations, large quantities of untreated effluents are still being discharged into the sea.

[http://www.helcom.fi/Documents/Baltic%20sea%20action%20plan/Baltic\\_Sea\\_Action\\_Plan\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.helcom.fi/Documents/Baltic%20sea%20action%20plan/Baltic_Sea_Action_Plan_brochure.pdf)

### **4. Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (CP: Lena Störk)**

#### **The question of third world refugees**

What policies and reforms should the EU develop to deal with the rising problem of refugees coming to Europe from African and Asiatic countries? In what ways could Northern Europe be supportive and a role model in this process?

- How can the Northern European States grant a special support for the States of the EU's external borders? What could be constructive reforms of the Admission Criterias to unify those criterias for asylum seekers within the EU?
- Should there be a re-thinking about the existing rights for asylum seekers in their applicant country? Are all existing agreements contemporary?

<http://www.ecre.org/media/news/latest-news/breaking.html?limit=0#european-commission-launches-work-on-new-migration-agenda>



## **5. Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (CP: Astrid Ytre-Eide)**

### **The question of establishing a more uniform tax system in future for corporate and capital tax within the EU**

Different levels of taxation of companies and capital within the EU can lead to tax evasion. All EU member states have full autonomy in the field of taxation, this includes the taxation of companies and capital. This leads to companies that operate across EU borders having to deal with different tax systems in each country, which can distort the economic activity and investments and can lead to companies cheating on tax payments, by being selective in the countries they operate from and through tax planning.

[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/taxation/company\\_tax/common\\_tax\\_base/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/company_tax/common_tax_base/index_en.htm)

## **6. Committee on Constitutional Affairs (CP: Anna Zimmermann)**

### **The question of EU integration versus separatism**

In what ways might the European integration process be continued at a time of growing nationalism and separatism in some parts of Europe? How should the EU cope with these conflicting developments?

At present anti-European feelings are taking hold in many EU countries, which has numerous reasons. Through means such as the European Citizens' Initiative direct democracy has improved and citizens can better voice their concerns directly. But is this enough? Amongst many citizens there is a lack of understanding how the EU's institutions work. Furthermore there has been criticism that too much is regulated by the EU. What needs to be done on the European level and what is better regulated at a local level? Are subsidiarity and proportionality mere catch words? How can the EU help member states promote European Values?

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/afco/home.html>  
<http://www.eppgroup.eu/AFCO>