

Issues MEP BSR Sønderborg

1. **Committee on Foreign Affairs (SEDE)** *CP: Thomas Anders Reed*

The question of security in the Baltic Sea Region. The Baltic sea region is a zone of heightened tensions between Moscow and the West. Russia has increased its military capability in its Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad, while NATO has stationed anti-missile shields in eastern Europe. How can conflicts and further escalation be avoided and dialogue between the EU and Russia be promoted? In what ways might international organizations assist in this process?

1. **Committee on Industry, Technology, Research and Energy (ITRE)** *CP: Axel Vide*

The question of climate change and circular economy. At the UN Climate Summit held in Paris in 2015, all participating countries signed to do whatever is in their power to limit global warming. Considering this commitment, what can be done in the EU to enforce and achieve common goals? Should the EU take measures to overcome the lack of co-operation between EU-member states, or should it set its members free to choose to prioritize economic growth over climate change to challenge the competition from the US and Asia?

1. **Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI***)**CP: Sanni Pahta*

The question of smart growth in small towns and rural communities. Many rural communities and small towns are facing challenges, including rapid growth at metropolitan areas, declining rural populations, loss of study- and workplaces e.g. What strategies can be used to protect and preserve the environment and at the same time create growth and development?

1. **Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)** *CP: Arina Zenkina*

The question of data-protection in the digital age. Cyberspace and its underlying infrastructure are vulnerable to a wide range of threats and hazards. Sophisticated cyber actors and nation-states exploit vulnerabilities to steal information and money and are developing capabilities to disrupt and misuse personal data. On the other hand, it also allows for the EU intelligence services to easily access information to prevent criminal actions. How can this dilemma be addressed, and personal data be protected? What are the pros and cons of digitalization?

1. **Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)** *CP: Tudor Ionescu*

The question of empowerment of the civil society and active participation. You see divisions between groups in Europe based on age, race, gender and faith. How might these divisions be overcome, and in what ways can particularly young people be educated to become active citizens and have more say in the solution and decision-making processes in their societies and in the EU heading towards the European elections in 2019.

1. **Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)** *CP: Mervan Vural*

The question of break-away regions in the EU. When the integrity of its nation states comes under threat and attack the EU cannot keep a safe distance from events unfolding. Regions aspiring to independence have already started to ask disturbing questions, e.g. about EU membership. What approaches should the EU take in such situations?

(Links from the cps will be provided)