

## Summary of the 22-25 November plenary

### Key votes:

- **ACTA: the Commission narrowly receives the backing of a majority of MEPs on its negotiated agreement. The issue raised strong competition between conservatives and centre-left, with the former getting the upper hand**
- **The closure of uncompetitive coal mines in the EU: Parliament asks for an extension of the deadline until 2018. The liberals, greens and British conservatives opposed**
- **Parliament asks for discussion over new EU own resources since 2014 in exchange for its approval of the 2011 budget**
- **The new Energy Strategy for Europe 2011-2020 proposed by EP**

**All votes are available on [www.votewatch.eu](http://www.votewatch.eu)**



**The Group of the European People's Party (EPP)** is the largest in the EP with 265 members (36,1%). EPP works consistently to consolidate the European Union on the bases of the primacy of law and respect for fundamental rights, on the application of the principle of subsidiarity and an efficient sharing out of power, and on independent democratic institutions.

[www.eppgroup.eu/](http://www.eppgroup.eu/)



**S&D Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats (S&D)** is the second largest political group in the EP with 184 members (24.9%). The values promoted by S&D are directed towards a more effective European economic coordination, basic labour rights for all workers, a resource efficient economy, measures to strengthen EU democracy, and improving EU representation in the G20 and other world organizations.

[www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/](http://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/)



The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) is represented by 85 members in the EP (11,3%). ALDE argues for a political Europe that people can understand and which responds to their needs. The group *seeks* to create a strong and secure European Union with high standards of public health, consumer protection and human rights. We aim to build and safeguard a free, fair and open society.

[www.alde.eu](http://www.alde.eu)



The Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA), is 55 MEPs strong (7,3%) and is working for sustainable development, environmental, cultural and democratic rights, and for solving problems by peaceful means. The Greens also wish to build a European Union of free peoples based on the principle of subsidiarity and solidarity;

[www.greens-efa.org/](http://www.greens-efa.org/)

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**ACTA (Anti Counterfeiting Trade Agreement):** the Commission narrowly receives the backing of a majority of MEPs on its negotiated multilateral agreement that concerns particularly the measures taken to protect intellectual property against illegal downloading from the internet.

The issue raised strong competition between conservatives and centre-left, with the formers getting the upper hand. The conservative forces (EPP and ECR groups) have succeeded in having their form of the resolution adopted in the European Parliament's plenary (click [here](#) to see its text). The text backs the Commission and aims at a better protection of the industry.

The first form of the document, which was more critical to the deal negotiated by the Commission (click [here](#) to see its text), drafted by the center-left forces (GUE/NGL+Greens/EFA+S&D+ALDE) was rejected (306 votes to 321), as 13 socialist (the British labor delegation) and 11 liberal MEPs voted against it, together with the EPP and ECR.

Click [here](#) to see how each MEP voted on the joint motion drafted by the centre-left (the voting lists on 44 separate votes are also available, along with the vote on the final resolution). Also, you can access more information on this topic [here](#).

**Next step:** under the Lisbon treaty, the Parliament has veto rights over the international trade agreements. Consequently, once the Commission finishes all technical requirements, the agreement will be sent for approval by both Parliament and the Council. The vote in the Parliament is expected early next year.



**European Conservatives and Reformist (ECR)** has 54 members in the EP (7,6%) The group stands for the reform of the EU on the basis of eurorealism, openness, accountability and democracy, in a way that respects the sovereignty of the national states. ECR concentrates on economic recovery, growth and competitiveness, as well as a healthy transatlantic security relationship.  
[www.ecrgroup.eu/](http://www.ecrgroup.eu/)

### The closure of uncompetitive coal mines: Parliament asks for an extension of the deadline until 2018. The liberals, the greens and the British conservatives opposed it

A majority of MEPs voted a resolution requesting that the deadline for closing uncompetitive coal mines in the European Union should be extended from 1 October 2014 (as specified in the Commission proposal for a Regulation) to 31 December 2018. The extension was supported by the EPP, S&D and GUE/NGL groups. The ALDE and the Greens/EFA groups opposed, EFD abstained, while the ECR group was divided on this issue: the British delegation voted against, while the rest of the group voted in favor of the extension. Click to see the [distribution of votes](#), [text](#) and [more information](#).

**Next step:** the Council is expected to have its final word on the proposed regulation on 10 December.



**Confederal Group of the European United Left-Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL)** has 35 members in the EP (4.8%). GUE/NGL advocates for a more transparent EU, direct democracy and active participation of citizens. It also fights for more jobs and educational opportunities, for social security and social solidarity.  
[www.guengl.eu/](http://www.guengl.eu/)

### Parliament reiterates its position with regards to 2011 budget

In a new resolution adopted at the November plenary part-session, the MEPs expressed their willingness to adopt the 2011 budget within the limits set by the Council, provided that the Council at its turn commits itself to discuss the possibility of EU having new own resources in the 2014-2020 financial perspectives.

The resolution was supported by the pro-European groups, EPP, S&D, ALDE and the Greens/EFA, while ECR opposed and the GUE/NGL group abstained. Click to see: the [distribution of votes](#), [text](#) and [more information](#).

**Next step:** the Commission is expected to come up with a new proposal for 2011 budget on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The Parliament and the Council will then try to reach an agreement on its final form.



Europe of Freedom and Democracy (EFD) is represented by 30 members in the EP (4,2%). EFD favours a democratic co-operation among sovereign European States, rejecting the creation of a single centralised European superstate. The group opposes further European integration that would accentuate the centralist political structure of the EU, considering that the legitimate level for democracy lies with the Nation States.  
[www.efdgroupp.eu/](http://www.efdgroupp.eu/)

## The new Energy Strategy for Europe 2011-2020, as proposed by Parliament

Energy efficiency, a single EU energy market and ensuring security of supply are the core provisions of the new strategy adopted by a majority of MEPs. While the resolution was supported by most of the political groups in the House, the radical-left (GUE/NGL group) voted against, while the Greens/EFA group abstained. Click to see the [distribution of votes](#), [text](#) and [more information](#).

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