



C/2024/4257

1.8.2024

Euro-Wechselkurs ⁽¹⁾
31. Juli 2024
(C/2024/4257)

1 Euro =

Währung			Kurs	Währung			Kurs
USD	US-Dollar		1,0828	CAD	Kanadischer Dollar		1,4977
JPY	Japanischer Yen		162,76	HKD	Hongkong-Dollar		8,4589
DKK	Dänische Krone		7,4621	NZD	Neuseeländischer Dollar		1,8289
GBP	Pfund Sterling		0,84380	SGD	Singapur-Dollar		1,4491
SEK	Schwedische Krone		11,6125	KRW	Südkoreanischer Won		1 485,96
CHF	Schweizer Franken		0,9533	ZAR	Südafrikanischer Rand		19,7400
ISK	Isländische Krone		149,90	CNY	Chinesischer Renminbi Yuan		7,8194
NOK	Norwegische Krone		11,8175	IDR	Indonesische Rupiah		17 634,43
BGN	Bulgarischer Lew		1,9558	MYR	Malaysischer Ringgit		4,9749
CZK	Tschechische Krone		25,457	PHP	Philippinischer Peso		63,218
HUF	Ungarischer Forint		395,78	RUB	Russischer Rubel		
PLN	Polnischer Zloty		4,2908	THB	Thailändischer Baht		38,629
RON	Rumänischer Leu		4,9749	BRL	Brasilianischer Real		6,0874
TRY	Türkische Lira		35,9085	MXN	Mexikanischer Peso		20,3317
AUD	Australischer Dollar		1,6635	INR	Indische Rupie		90,6250

⁽¹⁾ Quelle: Von der Europäischen Zentralbank veröffentlichter Referenz-Wechselkurs.



AUSFÜHRLICHE SITZUNGSBERICHTE VOM 27. MAI 2020

(C/2024/4767)

EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT

SITZUNGSPERIODE 2020-2021

Sitzung vom 27. Mai 2020

BRÜSSEL

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AUSFÜHRLICHE SITZUNGSBERICHTE VOM 27. MAI 2020

PRESIDENZA DELL'ON. DAVID MARIA SASSOLI

Presidente

1. Wiederaufnahme der Sitzungsperiode

Presidente. – Dichiaro ripresa la sessione del Parlamento europeo interrotta venerdì 15 maggio 2020.

2. Eröffnung der Sitzung

(La seduta è aperta alle 13.35)

3. Mitteilung des Präsidenten

Presidente. – Onorevoli deputati, vorrei ricordarvi che la sala SPAAK 3C050 è pienamente collegata all'Emiciclo, al fine di consentire ai deputati che non trovano posto in Aula di partecipare pienamente ai lavori e quindi garantire il giusto distanziamento.

I deputati il cui nome è nell'elenco degli oratori sono invitati a prendere posto nell'Emiciclo, dove troveranno nel posto che è stato loro attribuito un cartellino con il loro nome. I deputati che non sono nell'elenco degli oratori saranno invece guidati dagli uscieri verso gli altri posti disponibili.

Vi informo che un registro delle presenze è collegato in entrambe le sale.

Vi ricordo inoltre che l'uso di maschere che coprono la bocca e il naso è obbligatorio ma gli oratori che preferiscono intervenire nella discussione senza la mascherina saranno autorizzati a farlo per la sola durata del discorso.

4. Genehmigung der Protokolle der vorangegangenen Sitzungen: siehe Protokoll

5. Zusammensetzung der Ausschüsse und Delegationen: siehe Protokoll

6. Unterzeichnung von nach dem ordentlichen Gesetzgebungsverfahren angenommenen Rechtsakten (Artikel 79 GO): siehe Protokoll

7. Arbeitsplan: siehe Protokoll

8. Vorlage von Dokumenten: siehe Protokoll

9. Aufbaupaket der EU (Aussprache)

Presidente. – L'ordine del giorno reca la discussione sulla dichiarazioni del Consiglio e della Commissione sul Piano europeo di ripresa economica dell'UE (2020/2659(RSP))

Desidero salutare la Presidente von der Leyen, che è presente in Aula con tutto il collegio dei Commissari, e ringraziarli per la loro presenza.

Nikolina Brnjac, President-in-Office of the Council. – Mr President, honourable Members, thank you for giving me the opportunity to say a few words on the EU Recovery Package submitted by the Commission today.

This is still very fresh and the delegations are studying it as we meet. You will therefore understand that I am not in a position to address the substance of the proposals. There will be other occasions for that. At this stage, I would like to recall the delegations' expectations and tell you how the Presidency intends to take the work forward.

First, I will start with the expectations. At the end of April, leaders agreed to work towards establishing a Recovery Fund, and I quote, 'which is needed and urgent'. Their expectation is that this fund should be of sufficient magnitude and targeted toward the sectors and geographical parts of Europe most affected and be dedicated to dealing with this unprecedented crisis.

The Commission was therefore tasked with analysing the exact needs and to urgently come up with a proposal that is commensurate with the challenge we are facing. The Commission was expected to clarify the link with the MFF, which, according to the leaders, will need to be adjusted to deal with the current crisis and its consequences.

As a response to this tasking, the Commission prepared a comprehensive package of horizontal proposals, which is presented today. The political guidance was clear. Delegations will assess the package in this light, and work on the details starts now.

Turning now to how the Presidency intends to organise the work, the key word is urgency. Last month the leaders emphasised their commitment to reaching an agreement as soon as possible. We all know that time is running out, and we need to move ahead as fast as possible. Our economies require it; our citizens expect it. It is therefore the Presidency's responsibility to take work forward on the Commission's proposal without delay.

In line with that, the Ministers of European Affairs held a discussion on the comprehensive economical and social recovery of the EU, including an adjusted MFF and a recovery instrument, at an informal video conference yesterday. Furthermore, we put this as a topic on the agenda of COREPER for a first discussion immediately after the presentation of this package today. Technical work will also be required to understand the proposals before leaders can have a meaningful discussion. To that end, we will mobilise the Council at all levels, both physically and with help from technology.

Throughout, we will be attentive to the Parliament's views. In this spirit, we reviewed carefully the resolution you adopted at the last plenary on the new MFF, own resources and recovery plan. As mentioned on that occasion, continuous cooperation between the Council and the European Parliament will be an essential part of the process, either at horizontal level or at sectorial level.

I take this occasion to remind you that, beyond the MMF agreement, there are dozens of other negotiations. They concern programmes that turn EU support into actions on the ground. There too, time is of the essence. We have to make as much progress as possible at sectorial level. We need to make the most of the time available now.

We owe it to all the future beneficiaries of these programmes, including students, small businesses, local authorities and others. Now more than ever, they will need our support to get their projects off the ground. This will help the recovery of our economies, our regions and our cities, and we look forward to working with you to meet these expectations.

Ursula von der Leyen, *présidente de la Commission*. – Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les députés, l'Europe est une histoire de générations et chaque génération européenne a sa propre histoire.

Pour la génération fondatrice de notre Union, l'histoire parlait de la construction d'une paix durable là où il n'y avait rien que de la peine, de la douleur et de la destruction. Pour la génération d'après, il s'agissait de poursuivre la prospérité et la liberté, en choisissant l'unité de notre marché intérieur et notre monnaie unique. Ensuite, nous nous sommes attachés à rassembler notre famille européenne en sortant nos frères et nos sœurs du grand froid et en accueillant nos frères et nos sœurs ici, chez eux, en plein cœur de notre Union.

Toutes ces générations et tous ces succès historiques ont été bâtis sur ceux d'avant et ont inspiré ceux d'après. Et le choix a toujours été, soit de prendre la voie de la moindre résistance tout seul, soit d'aller de l'avant, ensemble, avec une vision, une ambition et dans la même direction. Dans ces moments décisifs, nous avons toujours choisi de faire le saut en avant ensemble car, pour l'Europe, les mesures les plus audacieuses seront toujours les plus sûres. C'est cela qui nous a permis de construire une Union de paix et de prospérité sans égale, sans précédent dans le monde.

Honourable Members, today we face our very own defining moment. What started with a virus so small your eyes couldn't see it has become an economic crisis so big that you simply cannot miss it. Our unique model, built over 70 years, is being challenged like never before in our lifetime or our Union's history. The common European goods we have built together are being damaged. Things we take for granted are being questioned. There's the single market that needs to recover. There's the playing field that needs to be made even again. There are four freedoms that need to be fully restored. The crisis has huge externalities and spill-overs across all countries and cannot be fixed by any single country alone.

A bankrupt company in one Member State is a reliable supplier gone for business in another. A struggling economy in one part of Europe weakens a strong economy in another part. This is about all of us, and it is way bigger than any of us. This is Europe's moment. We see the economic, fiscal and social fallout across all Member States. Divergences and disparities widen. Complex questions of sovereignty and burden-sharing have to be balanced. And so, in front of us once again is that same binary choice: we either all go it alone, leaving countries, regions and people behind and accepting a Union of haves and have-nots, or we walk that road together. We take that leap forward. We pave a strong path for our people and for the next generation. And for me the choice is simple. I want us to take a new, bold step together. Europe is in a unique position to be able to invest in a collective recovery and a common future. In our Union, people, business and companies depend and rely on each other. In our Union, cohesion, convergence and investment are good for all. And in our Union, we know that the boldest measures truly are the safest for the future.

This is why the Commission is today proposing a new recovery instrument called NextGenerationEU, worth EUR 750 billion. It will sit on top of a revamped long-term EU budget of EUR 1.1 trillion. NextGenerationEU, together with a core Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), amounts to EUR 1.85 trillion in today's proposal. It goes alongside the three safety nets of EUR 540 billion already agreed by Parliament and Council. In sum, this would bring our recovery effort to a total of EUR 2.4 trillion.

Honourable Members, allow me to explain how Next Generation EU will work. The money will be raised by temporarily lifting the own resources ceiling to allow the Commission to use its very strong credit rating to borrow money on the financial markets. This is an urgent and exceptional necessity for an urgent and exceptional crisis. NextGenerationEU will invest in repairing our social fabric, protect our single market and help rebalance balance sheets across Europe. And while we are doing this, we need to press fast forward towards a green, digital and resilient future, because this is the future of Europe's next generation – this generation that is globally connected and feels responsible for our world, our planet, with a clear vision to promote human dignity and the rule of law, determined to hold governments more accountable for fighting climate change and saving our nature, driven by the idealism for Europe and the belief that our Union must strive for better.

So beyond showing solidarity to overcome the crisis of today, I want to propose a new generational pact for tomorrow. Yes, the effects of this crisis mean that we need to make investments on an unprecedented scale today, but we will do it in a way that Europe's next generation will reap the benefits tomorrow – investments that will not only preserve the outstanding achievements of the last 70 years but will ensure that our Union is climate neutral, is digital, is social and a strong global player also in the future. To make this happen, NextGenerationEU will direct its massive financial power to invest in our common priorities through European programmes.

Honourable Members, I am always keen to ensure that this House has its full say on crucial decisions of our Union. My proposal to invest these funds via programmes in our European budget achieves exactly that. NextGenerationEU will restore and rebuild our single market, that great generator of innovation, prosperity and opportunity. All Member States need to invest in technologies that will spark the recovery through new innovation and clean industries. NextGenerationEU strengthens the European Green Deal and Horizon Europe and will invest in key infrastructure, from 5G to housing renovation. At the same time, we must ensure that the transition to a climate-neutral economy leaves nobody behind. NextGenerationEU will therefore multiply the funding for the Just Transition Fund.

In the same vein, n° Member State should have to choose between responding to the crisis or investing in our people. Therefore, NextGenerationEU increases Erasmus and youth employment support. It makes sure that people get the skills and the training and the education they need to adapt to this rapidly-changing world.

NextGenerationEU will help those perfectly healthy companies that have made the right decisions and investment over decades but that find themselves at risk now because competitors in other Member States have better access to public or private money to get fresh capital. It will invest in key European industries and technologies to make crucial supply chains more resilient. It will ensure Europe remains cutting-edge in key areas like artificial intelligence, precision farming or green engineering. And NextGenerationEU will help make our health systems more resilient for future crises.

This investment will be a new European common good. It will show the true and tangible value of being part of the Union. And it will be owned by us all. In total, the Commission will raise EUR 750 billion for NextGenerationEU. Of that total, EUR 500 billion will be distributed in grants and EUR 250 billion in loans passed onto Member States.

Meine Damen und Herren Abgeordnete! Lassen Sie mich ganz klarstellen: Diese Zuschüsse, diese *grants*, sind eine gemeinsame Investition in unsere Zukunft. Sie haben mit den Schulden der Mitgliedstaaten aus der Vergangenheit nichts zu tun. Die Zuschüsse gehen durch den europäischen Haushalt, und dieser begrenzt die Zahlung eines jeden Landes nach einem festen Schlüssel. Die Zuschüsse gehen klar als Investitionen in unsere europäischen Prioritäten: die Stärkung unseres Binnenmarktes, die Digitalisierung, den europäischen Grünen Deal, die Resilienz.

Und mehr noch: Der europäische Haushalt hat immer aus Zuschüssen bestanden. Das ist nichts Neues. Zuschüsse für gezielte Investitionen und Reformen, Zuschüsse für mehr Zusammenhalt, Zuschüsse für eine Annäherung der Lebensverhältnisse in Europa. Unsere Europäische Union ist der lebende Beweis dafür, dass es funktioniert. Durch die Europäische Union sind die Wettbewerbsfähigkeit, der Wohlstand und der Lebensstandard eines jeden Mitgliedslandes gestiegen.

Diese Investitionen über das europäische Budget haben sich für alle um ein Vielfaches ausgezahlt. Und so ist auch *NextGenerationEU* für uns alle. Wir investieren gemeinsam in Europas Zukunft und zahlen die Gesamtsumme nach einem bekannten und erprobten Schlüssel über zukünftige Haushalte zurück.

Und zusätzlich wird die Kommission dazu eine Reihe neuer, eigener Einnahmequellen vorschlagen. Diese könnten zum Beispiel auf dem geplanten Ausbau des Emissionshandels basieren oder auf einer CO₂-Grenzsteuer, die als Ausgleichsmechanismus gegen den Import billiger klimaschädlicher Produkte aus dem Ausland fungiert, und/oder auf einer neuen Digitalsteuer, damit dort, wo Milliarden Gewinne gemacht werden, auch ein Beitrag zum Gemeinwohl erfolgt. Hier müssen wir ambitioniert sein, und hier zähle ich auf Ihre volle Unterstützung.

Meine Damen und Herren Abgeordnete! Jetzt ist die Zeit, die richtige Entscheidung zu treffen. Denjenigen, die heute die mutige Investition scheuen, sage ich, dass uns morgen die Kosten des Nichthandelns in dieser Krise viel teurer zu stehen kommen. Hier geht es darum, gemeinsam Grundlagen für unsere Zukunft zu legen, und zugleich darum, auf eine klar umrissene, unverschuldete, außergewöhnliche Krisensituation angemessen zu reagieren.

Deshalb lasst uns diese alten Vorurteile beiseitelegen! Lasst uns stattdessen die Kraft wiederentdecken, die von dieser großen Idee eines gemeinsamen Europas ausgeht! Die Krise, mit der wir jetzt umgehen müssen, ist gewaltig. Aber ebenso gewaltig ist die Chance für Europa und unsere Verantwortung, in dieser Situation das Richtige zu tun. Wir können jetzt die Grundlagen legen für eine Union, die klimaneutral ist, die digital ist, die robuster ist und die sozial ist, die besser aufgestellt ist als je zuvor.

Vor siebzig Jahren unternahmen unsere Gründungsväter und -mütter den ersten mutigen Schritt, um eine Union des Friedens und eine Union des Wohlstands zu schaffen. Heute ist der Moment, das Kapitel unserer Generation hinzuzufügen und einen weiteren mutigen Schritt in eine Union der Nachhaltigkeit zu tun. Wir sind der nächsten Generation schuldig. Lang lebe Europa!

(Beifall)

Manfred Weber, *on behalf of the PPE Group*. – Mr President, Madam President, dear colleagues, solidarity is back. European solidarity is back. The spirit of Robert Schuman is back.

European flags burned a few weeks ago on the streets in Italy, for example. Millions of people inside of the European Union are still concerned, even afraid, about the future, about their jobs, about their families. And Europe is giving today a strong answer: you are not alone. We together will pick up the challenge and give a good answer with a fundament of solidarity. We open even a new chapter for the European Union.

Some call it a Hamilton moment – the current situation. Frankly speaking, as an EPP politician, I don't like it, because I don't want to see Europe based on making debts, on borrowing money – that is not my dream about Europe. But having the situation in mind, the economic crisis in mind, in the middle of the biggest economic crisis since the Second World War, we see no alternative but to invest now, to give our economy a new boost.

And the key question for us is not, first of all, how massive the investment must be – how much money do we spend? That is not the first question for us. The first question is: what is it for? And one of our principles is (and that is guaranteed now) with the proposal: we guarantee that we are not having fresh money for the old problems of the continent. We have to guarantee that we use fresh money for the new ideas for the fresh future for this continent.

Another element, which was crucial for us in the debates and the preparatory process was the democratic procedures, and I thank the Commission President for the clear statement.

Now we have to go to the Council and also clarify with the Council that the principle that no money can be spent at European level without the approval of the European Parliament is also guaranteed from the Council side.

The proposal is now on the table and we have still to argue, to convince. 27 Member States' parliaments are needed to support this general idea, and it's funny to see that in my camp, in the EPP, we have one government, we have two socialist governments, we have one liberal government – the Netherlands – and even the Greens are part of the problem this time, because in all three of their governings – so it's really good to see that all of us have the same challenge now to convince the others to support the general idea that is still in front of us. And to the frugal four, let me be clear with three main arguments.

First of all, our companies, or your companies, cannot be successful without a successful single market, so it's in your interest to make the whole European Union successful. The second argument is: we see a redistribution of the global economic power going on, and I don't want to see that China is the big winner and that Europe is the big loser. And the third argument is that in 2008, 2009 and 2010, we had already faced the phenomenon of a lost generation, and Europe cannot accept another lost generation in this crisis. That is why I think we have good arguments for convincing some.

For us, solidarity goes always hand-in-hand with responsibility. That is always two sides of the same coin for us in the EPP. And having this in mind, I tell you that when we go to the markets now, to borrow money, we have to be clear to have a full and strong and serious idea – an honest idea – about how to pay it back. And to say that in the next MFF, having the debates in March in mind, when the Council tried already to find a common understanding about the MFF of today, I don't believe that this will be so easy. That's why, as EPP – let's be honest, let's be clear. And that means we need own resources for paying back the debt we have now installed. The big winners of the crisis are the digital giants, and that's why I think it's fair to ask the digital giants to pay part of the debt we are creating now.

And another part of this solidarity, responsibility, is for us all the national perspective. You can call it semester. You can call it the need of internal reforms. I think it is simply fair, if you ask your neighbour to help you, to practise solidarity. It's simply fair to do your homework, to be better prepared for the future, and in a globalised world, we need still reforms.

There are thousands of other principles which are important: rule of law; a key issue the EPP supports is the grant-loan debate: I think we have now a good compromise on the table. The health programme is upgraded – a big signal, an important signal, in today's Corona time. And the MFF – there we will still have further discussions, and it is about agriculture and cohesion.

So the plan goes in a good direction. It's an important moment for the future of the European Union, and the EPP will generally support the ideas from the Commission.

(Applause)

Iratxe García Pérez, *en nombre del Grupo S&D*. – Señor presidente, señora von der Leyen, un mes después de que este Parlamento Europeo aprobara una Resolución, está usted hoy aquí presentando el plan de recuperación de la Comisión Europea, y debo decir algo: es un plan ambicioso, es un plan europeísta y es un plan que va en la línea de lo que nosotros habíamos reivindicado.

En primer lugar, gracias por dar al Parlamento Europeo el papel que le corresponde, poniéndonos en el mismo lugar que al Consejo al situar este plan de recuperación dentro del marco financiero y los recursos propios a los que usted se está refiriendo. Y, en segundo lugar, porque este plan incluye la deuda de la Unión, la emisión de bonos por parte de la Comisión Europea, que permite a los Estados miembros poder financiarse de manera justa para afrontar esta crisis.

Y es que es evidente que algo ha cambiado. Algunas de las propuestas que usted incluye, y a las que varios Gobiernos ya han mostrado su apoyo, habrían sido impensables hace unos meses. La Comisión y este Parlamento y muchos de los Gobiernos nacionales comprenden perfectamente lo mucho que nos estamos jugando. Nos jugamos el futuro y la credibilidad del proyecto europeo. No se trata ya solo de solidaridad, sino también de la supervivencia del euro y del mercado único y, por ende, de la supervivencia del proyecto europeo.

Porque algunos quizás no han comprendido que aquí no estamos para hacer mercado —por lo menos mi Grupo político no está para hacer mercado—, sino para construir una unión política. Algunos, en el Consejo, hablan como si aquí no hubiera pasado nada, como si en los últimos meses no hubiera ocurrido la gran crisis que ha ocurrido, como si no hubieran muerto más de 160 000 personas en Europa, como si no se hubiera puesto en peligro el trabajo de más de sesenta millones de europeos y de europeas, como si no supiéramos que esta crisis va a provocar una gran recesión y que el PIB de la zona del euro se va a contraer casi un 8 % este año.

Si esto no nos empuja a actuar, verdaderamente no sé a qué están esperando algunos. Este es el momento de la verdad, de poner las cartas sobre la mesa. Queremos seguir construyendo una unión política porque esto va más allá de la solidaridad y porque, además, debemos asumir que en este mundo cada vez más convulso merece la pena trabajar por defender el proyecto europeo.

La crisis de la COVID-19 es una crisis simétrica pero con efectos asimétricos. Y la cuestión fundamental que se plantea hoy es si pensamos que la Unión Europea debe corregir esas asimetrías. Lo que no es de recibo es decir que trabajamos en un proyecto común, pero luego se deja que algunos Estados miembros salgan en ayuda de sus empresas, mientras las empresas de otros Estados se dejan morir por la falta de recursos. Porque aquí o salimos todos o no sale nadie.

Ahora, si alguno en el Consejo no cree en las soluciones europeas y en la convergencia, lo que debería hacer es no entorpecer la marcha de los que sí que apostamos por Europa. Seamos sinceros, el problema no es poner más dinero, el problema es avanzar en Europa. Por eso, el Consejo debería cambiar el procedimiento para poder adoptar el presupuesto multianual por mayoría cualificada y no por unanimidad. Porque es injusto que veintitrés países proeuropeos sean rehenes de cuatro que prefieren las respuestas nacionales.

A mí, aparte de la insolidaridad, me parece una actitud realmente miope; miope, porque no hay más que mirar a nuestro alrededor para darnos cuenta de que el multilateralismo está en riesgo y que necesitamos una gobernanza global. Es hora también de fortalecer el pilar social, de proteger a quienes más lo necesitan. Por eso me alegra ver que ha incluido la Garantía Infantil. Y también es nuestro deber mostrar solidaridad con las futuras generaciones, invirtiendo en las políticas claves para mañana: la transformación verde y digital, porque no podemos destrozar el medio ambiente, acabar con la biodiversidad y, encima, poner sobre sus espaldas deudas masivas.

Por eso es fundamental, señora von der Leyen, que mantenga su propuesta de cambiar el Semestre Europeo. Hay que superar la lógica de la consolidación fiscal. No podemos poner condiciones para recortar las pensiones. Hay que poner condiciones para avanzar en la sostenibilidad medioambiental y la sostenibilidad social. Este futuro que queremos construir juntos debe sustentarse, además, en el respeto al Estado de Derecho. Señorías, debemos asumir nuestra responsabilidad.

Señora von der Leyen, ya ha visto que aquí, en el Parlamento Europeo, tiene un proyecto dispuesto a trabajar siempre por el bien de la ciudadanía. Ahora le toca convencer a los amigos del Consejo. Sea firme, sea ambiciosa y nos tendrá de su lado. Se lo debemos a las próximas generaciones de la Unión Europea.

(Aplausos)

Dacian Cioloș, *on behalf of the Renew Group*. – Mr President, this health and economic crisis we face is a game-changer unprecedented in the history of European Union. The magnitude of this crisis and its extraordinary challenges require a sizable and rapid response. There is no alternative. Either we find a solution to invest massively in our economy or we accept that we will be hit even harder.

Let me be clear, this is a package for all Member States, and all Member States need this package, irrespective of how badly they were affected by the health and economic crisis because the internal market is at stake. If the internal market fails, every citizen and business in the European Union will suffer.

The solution by President von der Leyen for the Commission to borrow money from the market is a remarkable one, we have to recognise this. Our opinion may differ in some details, but I really welcome the approach – a European solution for a European problem. It also avoids the major difficulty we had during the last crisis: creating more debt for some Member States when in fact they need money to inject immediately in their economies.

Decisions that we take now will define Europe's road for the next 20-30 years, because we are investing massively now not only to recover but to relaunch and to modernise our economy, so we are creating debts for the generations to come. And that is why the Multiannual Framework (MFF) and the recovery package should focus on the future, not stay fixed on ideas from the past.

First, we need to restore economic perspective. We need to safeguard and create new jobs. We need to focus on investment with real economic and European added value. The Green Deal and digital agenda should be the building blocks of a resilient and sovereign European economy.

Second, solidarity is key. The fight against territorial divides and inequalities across Europe will be the breeding ground for our Union or the seeds of our future division, so that's why we must stand united.

Third, the European Union is not a cash machine. It's a common project where solidarity comes with values and the shared vision for our future. And that's why Renew Europe Group will only support MFF where the rule of law and respect of European values are a condition to receiving European funds: not to penalise people but the politicians who do not play by the rules.

Fourth, certainly there are many lessons to be learned from this crisis, reasons to reform and improve areas where the European Union needs to be more present. And that is why the Conference on the Future of Europe: our common future, should get underway.

The road to recovery will be long and hard. The decision we take these days will affect the future of millions of people, the future of the internal market and the future of our European Union. And that is why the European Union must stay united and fight as one.

(Applause)

Jörg Meuthen, *im Namen der ID-Fraktion*. – Herr Präsident, Frau Kommissionspräsidentin! Kanzlerin Merkels Versprechen war unmissverständlich: Es wird weder Euro-Bonds noch Corona-Bonds geben. Und nun? Nun stimmt sie einem sogenannten Wiederaufbaufonds mit einem Volumen von 500 Milliarden Euro zu. Die supergroße, zunächst kreditäre, dann steuerlich zu refinanzierende Geschenkeießkanne für die Europäische Kommission. Ohne Rechtsgrundlage einstweilen, denn der EU ist aus gutem Grund eine eigene Kreditaufnahme bislang verwehrt – was im allgemeinen Irrsinn dieser Tage aber niemanden mehr zu stören scheint.

Und nun kommen Sie, Frau Kommissionspräsidentin, heute hierher und fordern. Dieser vollendete Wahnsinn sei Ihnen noch nicht genug, Sie wollen noch einmal eine Schippe von 250 Milliarden Euro mehr zur Verfügung haben. Das ist, so sage ich das ganz deutlich, komplett irre. Der für diesen Irrsinn von den Bürgern der Union zu entrichtende Preis wird gigantisch sein.

Sie werfen mit dem Geld – nicht Ihrem, sondern dem der Steuerzahler – nur so um sich, als gäbe es kein Morgen. Was Sie tun, ist vollständig verantwortungslos. Es ist erkenntnisbefreite Voodoo-Ökonomik, die Sie hier den Bürgern aufbürden. Es ist sowohl geld- als auch finanzpolitisches Harakiri.

Noch verstehen die meisten Menschen das nicht, weil ganz andere Sorgen sie plagen und weil sie auch nicht gewohnt sind, in so großen Zahlenkategorien zu denken. Das machen Sie sich mit Ihren absurden Absichten zunutze, die Sie auch noch so heuchlerisch wie falsch preisen. Es wird ein bitterböses Erwachen geben.

Ich flehe die Regierungen Österreichs, der Niederlande, Dänemarks und Schwedens an, diesem Wahnsinn die Zustimmung zu verweigern.

Ska Keller, *on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group*. – Mr President, we have indeed a very deep crisis in Europe, and we need to react to that. It's a big moment of responsibility, of thinking together, that were joining hands and we're thinking of how to get together out of this crisis.

This Parliament, with a broad majority, has shown a way forward with a substantial recovery fund, a strong MFF – a strong budget – and a Green Deal that helps the economy while addressing the climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis which have gone nowhere. I'm very glad to say that Greens all over Europe are actually supporting that, so I'm afraid Mr Weber, dear Manfred, that it is a bit cheap to hide behind the Greens when we actually have a strong support, also public support from the Austrian Greens who are supporting our position and the position of this Parliament.

Maybe it is rather your best friend in Vienna who is causing the problem. But I'm glad to see that you're also ready and willing to convince them, and try to convince them, and I am glad we can join forces there and try indeed our common job to convince governments all over parties, all over. Because that is what we need to do now, because I do believe that the Commission proposal is a very big step forward and we welcome the focus that you've put on grants to make sure that No Member State is left behind in this crisis.

The overall volume might not prove sufficient in time, but in any case, what we need to make sure is that we don't lessen the ambitions on the MFF because we also need to think further ahead.

You have mentioned – colleagues have mentioned – conditions attached to the fund, and I would urge us all to not repeat the big mistakes of the past and force countries into austerity and blind market ideologies that have never worked, and will not work. Instead, we need to make sure that the money is well invested into projects that will help in the long term, that create jobs and that save the one planet that we have.

To be meaningful in the long term, both the Recovery Fund and the MFF need to incentivise the social and ecological transformation of our economy and promote gender equality – a big problem we've seen in this crisis. They also need to follow our minimum common rules such as the rule of law and democracy.

Some governments think that they can do it all alone, but I think they should think again. They have all benefited as much as and even more than other Member States from the single market, from freedom of movement and some, unfortunately, also from a bit too lax tax rules.

Europe needs a strong step ahead. It needs courageous action like that of Schuman 70 years ago, and this Parliament has shown it is ready to do its part. I hope the Member States will follow.

(Applause)

Johan Van Overtveldt, *namens de ECR-Fractie*. – Voorzitter, ik ben zeer onder de indruk van de manier waarop onze burgers en onze ondernemingen op een flexibele, veerkrachtige en efficiënte manier met deze toch wel zeer diepe crisis omgaan. Wij moeten daar een voorbeeld aan nemen, en ook onze maatregelen moeten efficiënt zijn. Dat wil zeggen, als wij leningen en/of subsidies toestaan, moeten daar duidelijke voorwaarden aan verbonden zijn zodat het geld daar terechtkomt waar het ook het meeste nodig is.

We moeten zeker ook in het oog houden dat er heel wat maatregelen kunnen worden genomen die niet onmiddellijk geld kosten. De interne markt versterken is absoluut noodzakelijk in deze crisis en we moeten ervoor zorgen dat ons bedrijfsweefsel beschermd is. Internationale groepen verzamelen fabuleuze bedragen waarmee ze duidelijk niet de beste van alle intenties hebben. We moeten daartegen beschermingsmechanismen in het leven roepen.

Het gaat nu vooral over het besteden van het geld, maar ook over de financiering moet natuurlijk nagedacht worden. En ik denk dat het daarbij – maatschappelijk gezien – van zeer groot belang is dat we de mensen die werken en sparen niet laten bloeden bij die financieringsinspanningen. Bovendien moeten we ook goed beseffen dat er limieten zijn aan de wijze waarop of de intensiteit waarmee we steunen op de faciliteiten van de Europese Centrale Bank. Soms hebben we de illusie of wordt de illusie gewekt dat dat eindeloos is, maar dat is het natuurlijk niet, al was het maar omwille van de nadelige gevolgen die duidelijk merkbaar zijn en worden. In het kader van die gevolgen doe ik een oproep om een langlopend debat te beslechten. De bijdrage van de grote internetreuzen aan de inkomsten in Europa is te klein, veel te klein, en zij dienen een correcte bijdrage te leveren. Dat dient efficiënt te gebeuren, bij voorkeur op OESO-niveau, maar het is zeker aan Europa om op dit vlak het voortouw te nemen.

Manon Aubry, *au nom du groupe GUE/NGL*. – Monsieur le Président, Madame von der Leyen, depuis des mois, nous vous avons mise en garde: cette crise n'est pas une parenthèse, elle s'enracine dans des années de politique hors sol qui ont épuisé nos systèmes de santé, détruit notre tissu industriel et détricoté nos protections sociales.

Vous ne cessez de parler de générations et de pacte générationnel et je suis précisément de cette génération qui a subi les ravages des politiques libérales de l'Union européenne ces dernières années, qui ont augmenté les inégalités et détruit la planète.

Le plan de relance que vous présentez aujourd'hui aurait dû assumer une rupture franche avec ces dogmes du passé et, là-dessus, je regrette qu'il s'arrête au milieu du gué. Vous laissez d'abord penser que la rigueur et l'austérité étaient derrière nous, en suspendant le contrôle budgétaire, ce qui a été le cas au début de la crise, mais vous vous empressiez de les faire revenir par la petite porte avec le Semestre européen, en conditionnant les aides aux États au respect d'une trajectoire de retour à l'équilibre budgétaire dans laquelle la droite s'est tout de suite empressée d'ailleurs. Comprenez: encore et toujours davantage d'austérité.

Bien sûr, tout n'est pas à jeter, évidemment. Nous nous félicitons de la création de ressources propres, comme la taxe plastique ou la taxe carbone qui, en plus d'avoir des objectifs écologiques louables, viendront alléger en partie la charge des États. Mais comment accepter que l'on refuse en parallèle de taxer les ultra-milliardaires, les grandes fortunes et ceux qui ont profité de la crise, je pense, par exemple, au secteur de l'hypermarché dont les bénéfices ont augmenté de 35 %?

Nous saluons également l'embryon de solidarité européenne que vous tentez d'instaurer, en permettant que les États les plus affectés par la crise bénéficient d'un soutien renforcé. Mais honnêtement et, disons-nous les choses franchement, cela ne change pas grand-chose à l'équation globale: ce seront toujours les États qui paieront la majorité de la note et donc, in fine, les peuples européens.

Maintenant sur le fonds de relance: 750 milliards d'euros, c'est bien, mais c'est à peu près un tiers de ce que notre Parlement européen, de la droite jusqu'à notre camp de la gauche, avait demandé il y a deux semaines. Et puis, sur les 500 milliards supplémentaires qui sont présentés comme des subventions directes, il est très improbable que les ressources propres, dont vous n'avez pas mentionné le montant espéré, soient suffisantes. Ce sera donc probablement encore aux États de s'endetter davantage pour rembourser à travers le budget européen. Et, franchement, quelle ironie d'appeler ce fonds un Fonds de nouvelle génération, quand on va demander précisément à ces générations de payer le coût de cette dette qui va s'ajouter.

Votre plan, au final, occulte un outil central qui pourrait pourtant nous permettre d'éviter l'austérité pour tous: l'annulation de notre dette de la crise et la possibilité pour la BCE de prêter directement aux États sous forme de dette perpétuelle pour les protéger face aux spéculations du marché.

Libérons les États du fardeau de la dette pour prendre le temps de décider sereinement de la direction que nous souhaitons donner à nos sociétés face à la crise du climat et des inégalités. En effet, il est absurde de discuter aujourd'hui du moyen le plus rapide de renouer avec les mythes de la croissance infinie et de l'équilibre budgétaire. L'enjeu est de savoir vers quel horizon nous voulons nous diriger. Pour nous, c'est clair: pas un euro d'argent public ne doit permettre de supprimer des emplois, comme Renault en France, pas un euro d'argent public ne doit être dépensé pour maintenir sous perfusion un système productiviste en déliquescence.

Le *greenwashing* qui consiste à sauver sans condition des industries dépassées appartient précisément à votre génération et aux générations passées. Conditionnons plutôt le soutien public à des contreparties sociales, écologiques, de partage des richesses, de maintien de l'emploi, de gel des dividendes ou de reconversion écologique.

Notre groupe de la Gauche unitaire européenne propose cet autre chemin dans notre plan de sortie de crise. Il ne faudra pas moins qu'une transformation radicale de notre modèle pour sortir de la crise et rendre nos sociétés résilientes face au choc à venir.

Isabella Adinolfi (NI). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, Presidente vor der Leyen, quello che ci sentiamo di dire, fin da ora, è che alcuni elementi della sua proposta ci fanno davvero ben sperare: ci riferiamo ai trasferimenti a fondo perduto, che nel complesso sono superiori ai prestiti; bene l'emissione di titoli di Stato europei a lunga scadenza; benissimo l'accelerazione per una transizione verde digitale – che noi chiediamo da sempre.

Ma ora inizia la sfida più difficile: vedremo come andrà la partita in Consiglio, dove alcuni Paesi proveranno a imporre delle politiche di austerità. A proposito, non chiamate questi Paesi frugali, ma egoisti!

Oggi il Presidente Conte ha annunciato un piano strategico che guarda al futuro, a partire dal rilancio degli investimenti. Per fare questo il Movimento 5Stelle si aspetta un forte aiuto dall'Europa e il piano che lei oggi ha presentato ci auguriamo serva proprio a questo.

Per decenni l'Europa si è rifiutata di cambiare il suo modo di agire e spiace che solo una catastrofe come quella che stiamo vivendo abbia fatto emergere quello che idealmente conta: lo spirito di solidarietà europea.

Stiamo scrivendo la storia? Forse sì! Speriamo sia una vera svolta per i cittadini di questa vecchia ma resiliente Europa.

Siegfried Mureșan (PPE). – Mr President, I welcome President von der Leyen to the European Parliament, and thank you for your proposal. Dear colleagues, today is an important day, because the citizens of Europe expect help and support from the European Union, and today we can tell them help is coming. We are creating a package. The European Union is delivering. This is a new instrument. The support which it grants will be concrete. It will make a difference for people, for companies, for regions and for countries.

What are the next steps? Today is only the beginning. We need to create the best recovery package possible, and for this, the European Parliament needs to be fully involved in this recovery package. The colleagues here in the room, they are coming from all regions of Europe. They are in direct contact with the citizens. They know exactly what the needs on the ground are, what hospitals need, what companies need, what people need. This is why we say the European Parliament has to be fully involved in how the money of the recovery package is being spent, but also in how the money of the recovery package is being paid back. The involvement of the European Parliament will ensure that the recovery package is the best recovery package that we can jointly and together create. This recovery package will have an impact upon the future of the citizens, and this is why this House, which represents the citizens of the European Union, needs to be involved in all aspects.

We also need to see the whole picture. President von der Leyen was speaking about the budget as a whole. We need to create a recovery package which supports the people and the economy to come out of the Corona crisis, but we should also not forget about the old priorities of the EU budget. We should not forget about farmers, about students. We should not forget our new priorities: the Green Deal, the security of citizens, digitalisation, and we should have enough reserves to respond to still unpredictable crises that will, for sure, occur in the next seven years. These are the principles of our work. We are ready to work with the European Commission on this basis, and we expect the Commission to work with the Parliament on this basis.

Brando Benifei (S&D). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, Presidente von der Leyen, oggi il mondo ci guarda: ci guarda per sapere se la nostra Unione, fondata su valori fondamentali, sullo Stato di diritto e su un modello sociale unico al mondo, frutto di decenni di lotte sociali, è in grado di sopravvivere o no alla crisi che stiamo vivendo.

La sua proposta è ambiziosa e sembra dare una risposta, finalmente adeguata, al livello della sfida: la studieremo a fondo ma 750 miliardi, di cui una parte importante a fondo perduto per spingere la ripresa, sembra dare finalmente una risposta a quell'urgenza che poneva il Parlamento europeo di una solidarietà comune, che abbiamo noi abbiamo auspicato fin dall'inizio in quest'Aula.

Riprendo le parole del Presidente Sassoli: noi laosterremo,osterremo questo sforzo nel momento in cui manterrà questa ambizione.

Per questo i governi oggi devono essere conseguenti rispetto alla necessità di sostenere una nuova generazione europea. Oggi serve quindi rapidità e semplicità, perché gli europei non possono più aspettare.

Valerie Hayer (Renew). – Monsieur le Président, Madame la Présidente, chers collègues, cette proposition est une avancée majeure de par l'emprunt qu'elle propose.

Cependant, je vais être directe: franchement, on se demande encore où est l'argent pour financer cette relance, mais on le sait tous où il est cet argent. Cet argent il est chez Google, chez Amazon et chez Facebook. Cet argent est chez toutes ces multinationales qui pratiquent l'optimisation fiscale. Faisons-leur porter la charge de cet emprunt. Même chose pour les grandes industries chinoises qui polluent et qui n'ont que faire de nos normes.

Ayons enfin le courage d'utiliser cette arme que sont les ressources propres et faisons-le dès maintenant, pas en 2024. Une fois que cet argent sera récolté, nous pourrons donner ce nouveau souffle à notre projet: des voitures propres, des habitations bien isolées, un retour de nos emplois délocalisés.

Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Commissaire, chers collègues, ce virus ne propage pas seulement la mort, il propage aussi le désespoir. Évitions la fatalité et donnons à l'Europe la grandeur à laquelle les citoyens aspirent.

Je vous remercie pour cette proposition, nos demandes sont complémentaires.

Alessandro Panza (ID). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, Presidente von der Leyen, prendo atto che oggi è venuta a presentarci ciò che è stato stabilito, seppur con un altro nome, la settimana scorsa da Angela Merkel ed Emmanuel Macron, dimostrando ancora una volta la subalternità della Commissione europea al duopolio franco-tedesco. Spiace vedere sminuito il suo ruolo.

Non le nascondo che ho apprezzato sentire ambizione nelle sue parole ma vede, noi italiani con il governo Conte in questi mesi abbiamo visto tanta ambizione, ma pochi fatti: basti pensare ancora a quanti da noi aspettano la cassa integrazione e, quindi, mi perdonerà la diffidenza.

Diffidenza dovuta a tanti fattori ma ne cito solo alcuni per questioni di tempo: per finanziare il *recovery fund* si vogliono introdurre nuove tasse, tasse che inevitabilmente ricadranno su piccole imprese e consumatori, aggravando ancora di più la crisi che volete combattere. Non ho sentito nulla per quei settori non considerati strategici ma che sono essenziali per l'economia di molti Paesi: penso al turismo, solo per citarne uno.

E soprattutto preoccupano i tempi: se sarà in grado di mettere tutti d'accordo, olandesi in primis, gli effetti concreti li vedremo solo il prossimo anno. Nel frattempo l'economia europea muore o di coronavirus o di inedia burocratica.

Però poi non date la colpa a noi populistici se l'Europa non è ben vista dai cittadini: noi non facciamo altro che raccogliere ciò che voi seminate.

Bas Eickhout (Verts/ALE). – Mr President, first of all I would like to thank the Commission for its proposal, because this is creating room for an investment plan, and an investment plan that Europe badly needs and which should also come from Europe, not only from the Member States, because we do know if we leave it to the Member States, we will get an imbalance that is bigger and bigger in this internal market. What we see already: half of the state aid is coming from Germany at the moment, just showing the imbalance, and that is why we need a European investment programme. And that is why this is so important, and I would like to thank you for that.

It's really also being thanked by all the different political Greens, and we do hope that from the other political families, including my government in the Netherlands, that they are seeing how badly needed such a new modern investment programme is.

But this for the Commission also means that we need to be sure that the investments are going to the Green Deal and digitalisation. And that is there in words, but really it now boils down also to how to put it into action.

And there I have one question to the Commission. We are talking about EUR 750 billion now. But in state aid, we are talking about more than EUR 2 000 billion, and there – still – the support is without conditions.

European Commission, Madam Vestager, make the rules to also condition the state aid, because conditions are needed here but also for the national investments, and then we can prosper and get to the new economy that Europe so badly needs.

Beata Szydło (ECR). – Panie Przewodniczący! Europa potrzebuje dzisiaj solidarności, a Europejczycy potrzebują nadziei. Z satysfakcją odnotowuję wystąpienie Pani Przewodniczącej, która zwróciła uwagę, że fundusz będzie większy, ale oczywiście jak zawsze musimy znać szczegóły. Na tej sali mówiono już o konieczności zwiększenia środków własnych. Wydaje mi się, że to jest też dobry czas, by rozpocząć walkę z oszustwami podatkowymi.

Biorę też za dobrą monetę wypowiedź Pani Przewodniczącej o tym, że nadszedł czas, by odsunąć stereotypy i uprzedzenia. I wierzę, że teraz Unia Europejska będzie rzeczywiście kierowała się przede wszystkim zasadami traktatowymi, że będzie solidarna, że będzie brała pod uwagę sytuację we wszystkich państwach członkowskich i każde z nich będzie traktowała zgodnie z jego potrzebami.

Europejczycy potrzebują dzisiaj pracy i nadziei, a my jesteśmy zobowiązani im to dać.

Márton Gyöngyösi (NI). – Mr President, regardless of substance, it is quite appalling that the European Union once again, in such a critical time, hammers out a deal behind closed doors. Everyone that criticises the European Union for a lack of transparency is quite right. And I think if the EU wants to appear democratic it had better start acting like it.

I can only hope that, unlike the last Merkel-Macron deal back in June 2018 about the fiscal union, that this deal will fare much better. That one vanished into thin air, and we haven't heard anything of it since its announcement and declaration.

I can only hope that this package will deliver, but however, I have certain concerns. I am concerned that this EUR 500-billion fund is not acting like a eurobond. It is not going to transfer debt from Member States to the level of the European Union. And it is only going to add to the unbearable debt level of certain Member States, which will bring about austerity in the upcoming years, which will be crushing for these economies.

Also, I can only hope and seek that I will see guarantees in this recovery package that the funds don't go to the big multinational companies and corporations, but to SMEs – small and medium-sized companies, which are the backbone of the European economy.

Esther de Lange (PPE). – Voorzitter, laat mij in het Nederlands beginnen want ik denk dat dat belangrijk is. Ik wil het voorstel van de Europese Commissie verwelkomen. In de vorige crisis heeft Europa te lang gewacht met reageren, dus het feit dat er nu een voorstel ligt, lijkt me zeer belangrijk. En natuurlijk, er zal gesproken worden over de verhouding tussen *grants* en *loans*, de hoogte daarvan, de manier waarop het geld besteed moet worden, maar het feit dat het voorstel er is, dat verwelkom ik. En ook omdat het de sfeer ademt van “we zitten allemaal in hetzelfde schuitje, laten we er samen de schouders onder zetten en laten we er samen uitkomen”. En natuurlijk, veel van dit voorstel staat of valt met eigen middelen. Over digitale belasting is al veel gezegd, dat kan ik verwelkomen. Een deel van het ETS. Maar het kernpunt voor mij is dat uiteindelijk het geld goed besteed wordt. En ik heb wel één punt van zorg.

My main concern is the fact that we're now entering into debt that is unavoidable in this crisis, but it's unclear how and when it is going to be repaid. And my concern is that, if we don't get own resources – because if one Member State opposes, we won't get them – in the end we will have to use our European budget to actually repay this debt, having less money at our disposal to do actual politics and policies. Therefore, I would like to see a real commitment from the Council that we will get own resources in time or that we start a repayment plan within this MFF already. We need clarity for this programme to work.

And then let me say one thing to Madame García Pérez. I've just said in Dutch, my mother tongue, because I think it's important, that we need to shoulder this proposal all together, that we're all in the same boat, and that we need to work together. But if you propose making this a matter of 23 against four, we won't succeed. You will push those four countries into the arms of the extreme right if you say: let's do this without unanimity. Count on the pro-European forces in those countries, among which I include myself, to get this done, but we will have to do it together.

(Applause)

Jens Geier (S&D). – Herr Präsident, liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen, sehr geehrte Frau Präsidentin von der Leyen! – Ich glaube, sie hat uns schon verlassen, sehe ich gerade. – Erstmal sende ich Ihnen einen Dank hinterher, dass Sie hierhergekommen sind. Ich glaube, wenn die europäische Exekutive einen Plan vorlegt, dann ist es richtig, das am Ort der europäischen Demokratie zu tun, hier im Europäischen Parlament. Für diese Geste danke ich Ihnen.

Ich beglückwünsche die Kommission auch zu dem Vorschlag, den sie gemacht hat. Ich glaube, er ist angemessen im Umfang und auch in der Zielsetzung. Ich bin ein bisschen enttäuscht über Ihre Mutlosigkeit bei den Eigenmitteln. Auf einer ganzen Seite lese ich eine Anhäufung von guten Vorschlägen, über die wir auch alle schon diskutiert haben, die wir alle kennen, aber sie sind alle im Konjunktiv gehalten. Wenn ich mir die Situation im Rat vorstelle, glaube ich, dass es etwas mit Verhandlungsspielräumen zu tun hat, die man sich schaffen kann.

Ich hätte mir gewünscht, dass Sie klar sagen, welche Eigenmittel Sie befürworten und welche Sie dem Europäischen Parlament und dem Europäischen Rat vorschlagen. Sie wissen, hier haben Sie dafür sehr viel Unterstützung, und es wäre klar gewesen, wo die Bremser und die Bremserinnen in dem Fall liegen werden.

Ein anderer Punkt, der mir Sorgen macht, ist: Wo geht das Geld hin? Ich glaube, die Prioritäten müssen klarer benannt sein. Innovationen, sozial-ökologischer Umbau, Wasserstoffwirtschaft, Digitalisierung, Stärkung der Sozialsysteme – dazu lese ich zu wenig.

Luis Garicano (Renew). – Señor presidente, estos días, los europeos salimos, por fin, con cautela de nuestras casas. Hemos sido responsables y la situación sanitaria mejora. Pero la situación económica es dantesca. Quienes viven de una pequeña tienda, de un pequeño negocio o del transporte no saben si tendrán empleo a finales de mes. El tiempo apremia. Mientras discutimos la propuesta de la Comisión, millones de ciudadanos europeos temen por su futuro.

Celebramos, señores comisarios, que la Comisión Europea haya atendido a lo que hace unas semanas les pidió el Parlamento Europeo. La Unión Europea emitirá deuda conjuntamente para financiar un plan de recuperación económica ambicioso. Pero, señora presidenta, señores comisarios, quiero hacer una llamada de responsabilidad y también llamar a la responsabilidad a los Estados miembros. Este plan es urgente. Cada día que pasa, más de dos mil empresas cierran sus puertas para siempre en mi país. Cada día que malgastemos en discusiones estériles se medirá en empleos perdidos y vidas truncadas.

Actúen ya, actuemos ya todos y hagamos que este plan sea realidad. Los europeos nos contemplan y no les podemos decepcionar. Este es el momento de la Unión y el futuro de la Unión depende de nosotros.

Herve Juvin (ID). – Monsieur le Président, 540, 1 800, 2 400 milliards d'euros, quel boulet au pied de la future génération!

Quand autant d'argent est sur la table, il ne s'agit pas d'économie, il s'agit de pouvoir. Et nous redoutons que la crise sanitaire soit utilisée comme un moyen de faire avancer l'agenda fédéraliste, d'imposer une taxe européenne, de faire avancer un projet de gouvernement économique européen, de rompre avec la règle de l'unanimité; mais nous craignons davantage encore que ce plan soit le rêve impossible du retour au monde d'avant. Il n'y aura pas de retour. Nous devons préparer le monde d'avec, le monde dans lequel les futures générations vivront avec la perspective d'un effondrement sanitaire ou écologique proche.

Ce monde d'avec, que nous voulons préparer, c'est un monde où la qualité compte plus que la quantité, c'est un monde où en effet l'égalité devant l'impôt compte plus que le libre-échange, c'est un monde où le privilège du marché intérieur, la préférence aux produits d'origine doit être assurée dans toutes les dimensions. Bref, le monde d'avec est un monde qui doit rompre avec l'idée de la mobilité infinie et de la croissance sans fin. Cet usage insensé du monde a préparé la crise dans laquelle nous sommes. Attention aux effondrements politiques et sociaux à venir dans les prochains mois.

Damien Carême (Verts/ALE). – Monsieur le Président, Madame la Présidente, la solidarité européenne est indispensable face à cette crise sans précédent. La mutualisation des aides et le respect du Parlement sont donc bienvenus. C'est une avancée majeure, j'aurais même pu la qualifier d'historique, si elle avait été plus ambitieuse, si nous avions des garanties concrètes d'avancer sur le chemin d'une véritable transformation de nos économies, de la transformation écologique, sans risque qu'on reprenne le chemin d'avant, celui de la fuite en avant.

Madame la Présidente, votre plan est largement sous-dimensionné et sous-conditionné. Il ne réglera pas les difficultés sociales qui étouffent tant de nos concitoyens, il ne suffira pas non plus pour respecter l'accord de Paris, ni pour lutter contre la sixième extinction des espèces.

Vous parlez beaucoup du Pacte vert européen mais pardonnez-moi, c'est peut-être un biais français: je me méfie des beaux discours, je préfère les actes. Il faudrait beaucoup plus de fonds consacrés au climat. Vous l'avez dit vous-même l'inaction nous coûterait beaucoup plus cher. Alors pourquoi ne pas agir massivement dès maintenant? On meurt de l'air qu'on respire, on craint l'eau que l'on boit, on s'intoxique de ce qu'on mange. Aujourd'hui ces masques défigurent la société.

Quel après, quel demain choisit-on, quelle est la place de l'humain et du vivant dans nos choix? Écoutons enfin les climatologues, les cancérologues, les paysans, les écologues, les soignants, la jeunesse, plutôt que ceux qui parlent austerité, déficits et croissance. Ça suffit, cette crise est historique, notre réponse doit l'être vraiment.

Derk Jan Eppink (ECR). – Voorzitter, het voorstel van de Europese Commissie is een politieke staatsgreep. Het gaat niet om corona maar om de macht in de eurozone en de macht van Brussel. We staan op de drempel van een onomkeerbare transferunie waarin het ene deel van Europa de portemonnee wil gijzelen van een ander deel. Maar mevrouw von der Leyen – die nu vertrokken is, overigens –, u bent er nog niet. Veto's zijn mogelijk vanuit 27 lidstaten, over de hoogte van de meerjarenbegroting, over nieuwe Europese belastingen, waar naar ik hoor het CDA in het Europees Parlement voor is, en over gezamenlijke schulden via de Commissie, wat trouwens in strijd is met artikel 311 van het Verdrag. De EU is Icarus op weg naar de zon. Wij gaan in verzet. Er is een ratificatieprocedure, namelijk in 27 lidstaten via meer dan 50 parlementen. We brengen het debat naar de mensen, de mensen die moeten betalen, en we roepen Duitse professoren op om naar het Bundesverfassungsgericht te stappen. Ik zou dat graag zelf doen, maar helaas, ik ben geen Duitse professor.

Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó (NI). – Mr President, Europe is defined as a political project by the answer it gives to its crises. Many citizens have bad memories about how we managed the last financial crisis. They were made guilty of the excesses of their governments and their incompetence in planning economic and industrial change. We cannot allow this to happen again.

We must take this opportunity for Europe, through Next Generation EU, to work more directly with citizens and enterprises, to really overcome national frontiers, to empower a network of regions and metropolitan areas that can be effective, quick to react and close to the people.

We must choose: a Europe as an enormous manager of some obsolete state unable to deal with the future or a Europe as a cooperative of citizens, equal in rights and freedoms, that brings back to the people returns in terms of social, cultural and democratic progress.

Next Generation EU is a first step. Go ahead without hesitation.

Esteban González Pons (PPE). – Señor presidente, estamos ante un momento decisivo: o somos ambiciosos, o no sobreviviremos.

Este plan de 750 000 millones de euros que presenta la Comisión es ambicioso, y por eso representa también una esperanza. Sin embargo, queda mucho trabajo por hacer.

Primero, el Parlamento debe participar en el diseño del plan de recuperación. Europa, además de este Plan Marshall económico, necesita un Plan Marshall democrático que defienda el Estado de Derecho y nuestros valores con tanta fuerza como defendemos nuestra moneda única.

Segundo, requerimos garantías de que este fondo se repartirá de forma justa y equitativa y que llegará a los ciudadanos; que los miles de millones de euros que hoy anunciamos serán reales. Los ciudadanos ya no nos creen cuando pronunciamos la palabra «billones». Demasiadas veces no ha significado nada para ellos.

Tercero, es urgente que este fondo esté disponible lo antes posible. Millones y millones de personas en Europa no pueden esperar. La ruina mata más que el virus.

Cuarto, este plan no puede hacerse a costa de reducir el presupuesto europeo. No tenemos diferentes necesidades, simplemente ahora tenemos más necesidades.

Quinto, el fondo no puede servir para blanquear las políticas de los malos gobiernos. Si regamos el populismo, es una planta que crecerá y arraigará.

Sexto, somos 27 Estados que ponemos el dinero y 27 Estados que recogemos el dinero. No nos engañemos: el dinero no llueve del cielo, tarde o temprano lo tendrán que poner los ciudadanos. Por eso, este plan debe pensar en los ciudadanos y no en los gobiernos. Es la hora de que el Estado social muestre su músculo.

Séptimo, el marco financiero no puede comprometer el próximo marco financiero. Los Parlamentos nacionales al final tendrán que aprobar este plan.

Termino: la economía no va de números, la economía va de confianza. Estamos hablando de seres humanos. Estamos hablando de la vida de todos nuestros conciudadanos, no de los políticos que los gobiernan.

Jonás Fernández (S&D). – Señor presidente, estamos hoy ante un día histórico. Porque ciertamente puede ser el inicio de un cambio trascendental e irrevocable en el proceso de construcción de la Unión Europea. Un cambio similar, por cierto, a lo que significó la entrada en vigor del euro. La emisión conjunta de deuda supone un cambio fundamental en el diseño económico y social de nuestra Unión. Supone un paso por el que llevamos trabajando décadas y hoy tenemos una propuesta de esta Comisión que apunta en esa dirección.

Creo que esta comunicación, que esta revisión, que este diseño del fondo de recuperación es una propuesta razonable, es una propuesta sólida, que necesita ser analizada, porque, obviamente, no hemos tenido tiempo de conocer los detalles, pero me gustaría aprovechar este momento para solicitar al Consejo y para solicitar a los miembros de este Parlamento un esfuerzo último, un esfuerzo adicional para dar este paso histórico en beneficio de todos los europeos.

VORSITZ: KATARINA BARLEY

Vizepräsidentin

Malik Azmani (Renew). – Madam President, yes, in the midst of this unprecedented health crisis no one is left untouched. People are falling ill, losing loved ones, seeing their businesses suffer and losing their jobs. It's cause for people to reflect, to question what is really important and what should our priorities be.

In the same way, we should re-evaluate the European budget, facing this crisis and knowing we still have other challenges to address. People look to us for a unified response, to invest money wisely, be accountable and not to pass the burden to the new, future generations.

To achieve this, we need to prioritise what is important. We should ask ourselves: how can we refocus and reform our economies to come out of this crisis stronger but together?

Just like our citizens are trying to adapt in this crisis, we need to adapt so we can recover and build a renewed resilience.

Roman Haider (ID). – Frau Präsidentin! Während in Europa Millionen von Menschen um ihren Job zittern, nicht wissen, wie sie den nächsten Monat finanzieren, wie sie ihre Familien ernähren sollen, während Millionen von Menschen um ihre Existenz bangen, wird dieses Parlament hier zu einer Sitzung zusammengetrommelt, die zigtausende Euro kostet. Und wofür? Es geht hier nicht um eine Budgetdebatte. Das Budget gibt es noch gar nicht. Das Budget liegt uns nicht vor, es ist ein Phantombudget. Darum geht es nicht.

Es geht nur darum, einer völlig planlosen Kommissionspräsidentin hier eine Propagandabühne zu bieten. Die heutige Sitzung dient allein der Selbstdarstellung von Präsidentin von der Leyen. Und dafür werden tausende und abertausende Euro hinausgeschmissen, mitten in der größten Wirtschafts- und Gesundheitskrise der EU.

Im Kern geht es um zwei Punkte: Erstens soll die Schuldenunion durch die Vermögensumverteilung von Nord nach Süd verwirklicht werden. Und zweitens soll jetzt der Traum aller Eurokraten Wirklichkeit werden: eigene EU-Steuern, um die nationalen Parlamente ihrer Budgethoheit zu berauben. Das ist das Ziel!

Sie wollen die Krise nicht bekämpfen. Sie wollen die Krise ausnutzen, um Ihr Ziel eines von Brüssel regierten Superstaats zu verwirklichen.

Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE). – Señora presidenta, este es un paquete muy importante. Es un salto muy relevante en la integración de la zona del euro, y es un mensaje político a nuestros ciudadanos: vamos a endeudarnos juntos para hacer frente juntos a la crisis que tenemos por delante.

Evidentemente, queríamos más, queríamos un paquete mayor, que tuviera mayor impacto macroeconómico. Me atrevería a decir que esto probablemente es lo mínimo para salvar nuestra zona del euro y nuestro mercado interior.

Y un mensaje muy claro para el Consejo: el futuro de miles de ciudadanos europeos no puede quedar rehén de lo que quieren cuatro Gobiernos —y digo bien cuatro Gobiernos, no cuatro países— que no están a la altura del momento.

Sobre la cuestión de la condicionalidad, que va a ser objeto de un debate muy importante, quiero decir tres cosas que creo que son muy relevantes. La primera, sí a la transición digital, por supuesto; sí a la transición ecológica. No olvidemos el componente social en sociedades que salen muy tocadas aún de la crisis anterior.

Segundo, democraticemos el sistema de diseño de las reformas. No puede ser que las recomendaciones tecnocráticas lleguen sin control parlamentario a los Estados.

Y, tercero, sobre todo no volvamos rápidamente con reformas antisociales y austeridad, que tanto daño han hecho a nuestras sociedades en el pasado.

Hagamos de esto un instrumento útil para el futuro de nuestros ciudadanos.

Carlo Fidanza (ECR). – Signora Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, dopo settimane, anzi mesi, abbiamo finalmente una proposta nero su bianco ma non è tutto oro quello che luccica. Anzi, ci sono molti punti critici.

Primo, l'entità dei contributi, perché 500 miliardi di euro a fondo perduto sono un segnale, sì, ma non basteranno.

Secondo, la tempistica di erogazione, perché questi fondi servono subito, nei prossimi sei mesi e nel 2021: avere uno strumento tardivo e spalmato su sette anni non servirà a rispondere alla crisi.

Terzo, la destinazione, perché non fate altro che mettere risorse aggiuntive su priorità spesso ideologiche pensate prima del virus, come se il virus non fosse mai esistito.

Quarto, le condizionalità, perché un conto è spendere queste risorse con accuratezza, e ci mancherebbe, un altro è farsi dettare da Bruxelles le riforme da attuare a casa nostra.

Quinto, le risorse proprie, cioè le nuove tasse europee: ragioniamo su come recuperare le risorse da soggetti esterni ma guai a pensare che anche un solo centesimo di tasse in più possa gravare sulle nostre piccole e medie imprese.

Su questi punti, Presidente, vi staremo col fiato sul collo.

Evelyn Regner (S&D). – Frau Präsidentin! Die Kommission zeigt mit ihrem Vorschlag zum Wiederaufbau, dass es nur eine Lösung gibt: mehr Mut, mehr Solidarität, und vor allem mehr Europa. Kein Land ist eine Insel. Das möchte ich insbesondere den egoistischen Vier mit auf den Weg geben, zu denen auch die österreichische Bundesregierung gehört. Hören Sie endlich auf mit der engstirnigen Kleinstaaterei! Europa gelingt gemeinsam, oder es scheitert.

Erinnern Sie sich an die eigenen Versprechen im Zuge des österreichischen Ratsvorsitzes: ein Europa, das schützt. Ein Europa, das schützt, das schützt die Kranken. Ein Europa, das schützt, das schützt die Jungen, das schützt die Frauen, die ganz besonders stark von dieser Krise betroffen sind. Deshalb erinnern wir uns an unsere Versprechen, die wir vor einem Jahr, als die Europawahlen stattgefunden haben, auf den Weg gegeben haben! Schützen wir all diese Menschen!

Dazu gehört auch, dass die Hälfte der Mittel, die nun auf den Weg gegeben werden, den Frauen gewidmet wird, dass die Hälfte der Mittel der Hälfte der Bevölkerung zugutekommt, die ganz besonders stark von dieser Krise betroffen ist.

Gerolf Annemans (ID). – Voorzitter, u hebt misschien gezien – u hebt allemaal gezien – als u van Zaventem hierheen rijdt, dat tijdens een of andere nacht van de lockdown een ecologische minister van het Brussels Gewest een rijstrook heeft weggenomen van de Wetstraat. Dat was de aloude droom en het is zogenaamd omwille van corona dat dat moest gebeuren. Wat ik maar wil zeggen is dat politici aan de macht corona misbruiken. En dat is ook hier vandaag weer gebeurd. De aloude federalistische dromen, centralistische dromen, paradepaardjes als het ware, waarbij wordt gedebatteerd over de mutualisering van de schuld, over de eigen belastingen van deze Europese Unie, die worden hier achter de coulissen van het virustheater *overnight* gewoon doorgedrukt en ingevoerd. Mevrouw von der Leyen heeft gezegd “corona is Europe’s moment”. Ja, inderdaad. Het is misschien voor haar en voor de elite hier *Europe’s moment*, maar voor de Europese volkeren is het een *dark moment*, een donker moment. Het wordt beschouwd als een brutale overval op de bevolking en dat is iets wat ik vandaag hier zeer wilde betreuren.

Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the Commission. – Thank you very much Madam President, honourable Members of the European Parliament, my dear colleagues from the European Commission.

First, I really would like to thank you for what I felt was very strong, overwhelming support in most of the interventions for the ambitious proposal the Commission has tabled today. And I really would like to thank you for the inspiration, which on many occasions we have drawn from this House, from your resolutions, from the debates that we had with you, when we’ve been looking for ways to best respond to your calls for demonstrating more solidarity, for using this crisis as an opportunity to modernise the European economy and for consolidating the position of Europe as a global actor and global player.

We put forward proposals, which was never done before. It’s really without precedent, because what we wanted to do was to adapt the initial multiannual financial perspective proposal to the current needs and because we fully realised that the economic crisis is so sharp and so deep, we knew that we need to come up with a new instrument, which we named Next Generation EU.

Altogether, we are talking about EUR 1.1 trillion of the proposal for MFF, an additional EUR 750 billion for the Next Generation instrument, which would be divided between grants and loans, as you suggested in your resolution.

I very much appreciate that Mr Weber, Ms García Pérez and Mr Ciolos supported this approach and I would like to reassure you that we know that the success of the results – if we invest the money in the right areas, and we definitely want to do that – we fully realise that if we want to modernise the European economy, we have to invest in green, sustainable technologies. We have to be much more digital than we are right now, and we have to learn our lessons for improving the resilience of the European economy, because we learned how difficult it is to be dependent on some global value chains or single supplier of such sensitive health materials as we have seen over the last few months.

So what we have put on the table is that the proposal has to not only overcome the crisis, but has to modernise, has to respect the important social aspects of our policy and has to make Europe really ready for the post-COVID 21st-century world.

A lot of questions – and some of them presented with a great vigour – have been linked to debts and also to own resources – Mr Meuthen, Ms Aubry, Mr Van Overtveldt. Here again, I would like to tell you that we did our homework. We studied the issue very carefully and we have come up with different options for own resources, which you want to, of course, explore with you and with the Member States.

We want to use the new ETS revenues, which will be coming eventually from the aviation and maritime sector, to use them for financing parts of the MFF in the future.

We are considering the so-called ‘single market tax’, especially from those companies which are benefiting from the fact that the single market is so big and functions that well.

We will be following carefully how other countries and powers on this planet are respecting the Paris goals and if they are really reducing the carbon footprint of their products and their economy, and we will be ready to proceed if necessary with a carbon adjustment tax which, again, could be revenue for the European budget.

And we are, of course, not forgetting about the possibility of digital taxation where, of course, we want to have a global agreement, preferably within the OECD or G20, but if this did not work, we are ready to consider to go alone.

And Ms Szydło and Mr Azmani have highlighted the importance of tax evasion and unfair tax practices. This is, of course, one of the priorities upon which we are going to focus, and for us, the proper execution of the European budget and proper tax collection is, of course, one of the key priorities.

To be quite honest, I didn’t quite get the comment of the honourable Member, Mr Gyöngyösi, who was criticising us for lack of transparency. At 12 o’clock, we in the College adopted these very important proposals, and at one o’clock the whole College was here. The European Parliament was the first audience where we presented our proposals, where our President went into great detail about what we want to do and how we want to accomplish it. And therefore, I think that that tradition where we fully respect the democratic scrutiny of the European Parliament would be, of course, maintained in the future, and we will be debating with you all of the legislative proposals, which are very complex and where we need close cooperation and very close consultation.

There’ve been several questions linked with state aid. I have to say that my colleague, Executive Vice-President Vestager, is known for her vigour in reviewing and assessing every single application, and we also have to agree that these last three months have been totally exceptional. At first, we had to fight for the lives of our citizens, then for the livelihoods and for jobs, and this is what we’ve been, with your help, doing since the beginning of this year.

If you allow me, Madam President, to conclude with a plea, with a request. Because I think that we are at a truly historic European moment where we need – all of us – to show clear political leadership.

We would very much appreciate the strong support of the European Parliament, as Mr González Pons has highlighted. But we also need your help to convince your compatriots back home. Therefore, I’m also addressing this request towards the Council and towards the Member States, because we need a good decision. We need a quick decision, and of course we need to work very closely with all national parliaments as well, because in the end, when we are talking about the head-rooms, ceilings and own resources, we need also the positive ratification of the national parliaments. Therefore, what we need is true political leadership, which would help Europe to overcome the crisis and really to prepare it for the next phase.

So my last sentence would be directed to all of us: let’s do this effort for the European Union. Let’s do it for the next generation, and let’s do it to demonstrate to our citizens that we know how to overcome the crisis and how we can prepare Europe for the 21st century.

(Applause)

Nikolina Brnjac, *President-in-Office of the Council*. – Madam President, first, I would like to thank the House for this debate and I will convey its views to my colleagues and to the President of the European Council and his team.

As I said in my opening intervention, the Council has started preparatory work on the Commission proposals so as to create the conditions for the agreement as soon as possible.

As I already mentioned, yesterday, in a video conference, the EU affairs ministers, have discussed the principles and the elements that needed to be addressed in shaping the instruments that will help to kick-start the European economy and achieve its medium and long-term priorities, such as cohesion, convergence, solidarity, flexibility and inclusiveness, as well as restoring a functioning single market and strengthening the resilience and strategic autonomy of the EU in face of future challenges.

They stressed the need to make the funds available immediately and in a sufficient amount. Offsetting the immediate negative impact of the crisis is important for the EU's credibility.

These discussions will continue in the coming days and weeks at all Council levels. We are hopeful that the Member States' positions would be converging in order to have a timely agreement on the next EU budget, which will also be discussed by the European Council. The Council will need guidance from the European Council before it can form its position.

The European Parliament shares our sense of urgency on the MFF, whose speedy adoption has far-reaching consequences for our citizens, our businesses and our local and regional authorities, as mentioned here.

The Presidency will continue to listen carefully to Parliament's position and look forward to the continued cooperation between our two institutions to prepare the ground for an ambitious, forward-looking MFF and to provide a strong response to our current and future challenges.

Die Präsidentin. – Die Aussprache ist geschlossen.

Schriftliche Erklärungen (Artikel 171)

Christine Anderson (ID), *schriftlich*. – Wir sehen hier auf großer Bühne die drei Bruchstücke, aus denen sich diese EU mittlerweile zusammensetzt: Vertrags-, Rechts- und Vertrauenbruch! Dabei sind Recovery-Bonds nur eine Umetikettierung der Eurobonds unter dem Deckmantel der COVID-19-Krise, mit einer gewissen Haftungsbeschränkung; die greift aber sofort. Deutschland muss 27 % des 500-Milliarden-Wiederaufbaufonds stemmen, stolze 135 Milliarden. Im Gegensatz zu Eurobonds, bei denen die Mitgliedstaaten lediglich über den Ausfall von Bürgschaften in Anspruch genommen werden, muss bei Recovery-Bonds der jeweilige Mitgliedstaat direkt Zinsen und Tilgung seines Anteils übernehmen. So erhöht sich daher auf mittlere Sicht direkt die deutsche Staatsverschuldung. Dabei sind die Deutschen ohnehin schon stark gebeutelt. Kein Land hat mehr Flüchtlinge aufgenommen, die er mit Sozialleistungen alimentiert, kein Land zahlt mehr Kindergeld ins EU-Ausland, teilweise sogar unabhängig davon, ob die Kinder dort tatsächlich existieren. Und fast kein Land hat niedrigere Vermögenswerte; Italiener und Franzosen besitzen deutlich mehr als der Durchschnittsdeutsche. Wer Kinder in Deutschland allein erziehen muss, löst damit schon die Eintrittskarte zur Unterschreitung der Armutsgrenze. Wir sagen deshalb Nein zu allen Maßnahmen, die dem deutschen Steuerzahler immer tiefer in die Tasche greifen.

Marc Angel (S&D), *in writing*. – Health policy is national competence and the EU only supports national crisis management, but we have to admit Member States' Governments and the European Union itself missed the opportunity to coordinate the national public health responses in the initial stage of the COVID-19 outbreak. The effect of these uncoordinated national responses undermined the core European value and principles. Fortunately, the Union and Member States still have the chance to change their attitude when realizing their exit strategies. The effective operation of the Single Market depends on how we exit from this crisis. The asymmetric COVID-19 policies have already created conflicting interests. The suspension of the free movement of persons undermines citizens' sense of belonging to the EU.

Moreover, the dissonance of the national regulations also undermine our common European values, such as well functioning cross-border co-operations and unnecessarily reduces interstate labour mobility. Such rules put in very difficult situation businesses offering cross-border services, also based on them production might be halted or reduced because of disrupt supply changes. This can be even more harmful for smaller Member States such as Luxembourg which is more affected by closing borders in the Single Market. Therefore, Member States' reactions must be better coordinated.

Pablo Arias Echeverría (PPE), *por escrito*. – La confianza en las instituciones europeas para las grandes crisis no siempre es plena por parte de nuestros conciudadanos. Por otro lado, siempre se espera por estos ciudadanos que sean estas mismas instituciones las que lleven la iniciativa para salir de la crisis. Grandes retos aguardan a la Unión en los años venideros, de mayor envergadura que la crisis financiera del 2008.

En este caso, tenemos la oportunidad de que el plan de recuperación de dos billones de euros sea un balance entre solidaridad y disciplina para con nuestro marco financiero plurianual. Del mismo modo, esta ayuda no debe suponer en ningún caso un perjuicio para las cuentas anuales de los Estados miembros; todo se debe financiar con recursos propios de la Unión, un concepto —el de los recursos propios— que tomará, sin duda alguna, mayor importancia conforme se desarrolle la crisis que se avecina.

En medio de un mundo en el que los nacionalismos, los discursos fáciles sin nada detrás que los respalde y la falta de planes a largo plazo están triunfando, Europa puede volver a ser ese faro de sensatez y de referencia a largo plazo para el resto de países, cómo lo ha sido siempre.

Άννα-Μισέλ Ασημακοπούλου (PPE), *γραπτός*. – Στηρίζουμε την πρόταση της κας von der Leyen για τη δημιουργία του Ευρωπαϊκού Ταμείου Ανάκαμψης, που είναι ένα σημαντικό βήμα στη σωστή κατεύθυνση. Τα κράτη μέλη της ΕΕ χρειάζονται σήμερα περισσότερο από κάθε άλλη φορά οικονομικές ενισχύσεις χωρίς αποκλεισμούς με ταχύτητα και ευέλικτες διαδικασίες. Ο συμμετρικός χαρακτήρας της κρίσης και το βάθος της επερχόμενης ύφεσης δεν αφήνουν περιθώρια για κωλυσιεργίες. Η πανδημία χτύπησε την πόρτα όλων μας, αλλά δυστυχώς για κάποιους οι επιπτώσεις της θα είναι βαρύτερες, χωρίς να φταίνε. Για παράδειγμα, κράτη μέλη όπως η Ελλάδα, που μόλις πρόσφατα άρχισε να βγαίνει από μια μακροχρόνια δημοσιονομική κρίση, όπου η οικονομία στηρίζεται σημαντικά στον τουρισμό, προφανώς χρειάζονται και δικαιούνται μεγαλύτερη υποστήριξη από το νέο Ευρωπαϊκό Πακέτο Ανάκαμψης. Τα κριτήρια κατανομής της χρηματοδότησης πρέπει να περιλαμβάνουν το ύψος της ύφεσης που προκάλεσε η πανδημία ως ποσοστό του ΑΕΠ, το ύψος της ανεργίας καθώς και τη γενικότερη κατάσταση της οικονομίας του κάθε κράτους μέλους. Τα κριτήρια κατανομής πόρων από το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Ανάκαμψης πρέπει να είναι δίκαια και να λαμβάνουν υπόψη τις ιδιαιτερότητες αλλά και τις ανάγκες του κάθε κράτους μέλους. Μόνο έτσι η Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση θα δείξει την αλληλεγγύη της στην πράξη.

Dominique Bilde (ID), *par écrit*. – D'un point de vue français, le plan de relance est une véritable escroquerie, puisque la France s'y retrouve à nouveau contributrice nette – comme elle l'est, du reste, de longue date au budget européen.

Ce constat rappelle l'écueil de cette Union européenne, bâtie autour d'un nombre restreint d'États en mesure d'y apporter une contribution financière. Ce déséquilibre ne fera que devenir plus prononcé avec le départ du Royaume-Uni et l'élargissement prévu aux Balkans occidentaux. À n'en pas douter, les prochaines tractations entre États membres s'annoncent périlleuses.

Par ailleurs, il est inacceptable que l'Union européenne profite d'une situation de crise pour s'arroger de nouvelles prérogatives et de nouvelles ressources au mépris de l'opposition farouche de l'opinion publique dans certains États membres. On voit ainsi resurgir dans les paroles de Madame von der Leyen le serpent de mer de la taxe numérique.

Il est donc illusoire de voir dans ce plan de relance un nouvel élan pour l'Union européenne, puisqu'il ne fera qu'aiguiser les clivages existants entre le Nord, l'Est et le Sud. Il ne saurait y avoir d'union entre des États si disparates, et la prochaine vague d'élargissement aura tôt fait de souligner à nouveau cette évidence.

Milan Brglez (S&D), *pisno*. – Načrt Komisije za okrevanje, znotraj strukture naslednjega večletnega finančnega okvira (VFO), je z makro ravní Unije soliden predlog kompromisa med političnimi težnjami držav članic, ki si prizadevajo za bolj solidarnostni pristop, ter tiste skupine, ki svoje zahteve utemljuje na pogojevanju.

S tega vidika pozdravljam razmerje med predvidenim obsegom nepovratnih sredstev in posojil, pri čemer bi nepovratna sredstva predstavljala večji delež (500 milijard EUR) skupne ovojnice v višini 750 milijard EUR. Pozdravljam tudi dejstvo, da so nad pogojevanjem prevladale politične prioritete, ki finančne tokove usmerjajo v zeleno tranzicijo, digitalno transformacijo in krepitev družbene odpornosti, kar je možno razumeti kot zagotavljanje ustreznih socialnih in zdravstvenih sistemov v državah članicah. Prav tako je pohvalno, da je Komisija na ta način v pretežni meri upoštevala vsebinsko orientacijo iz predhodnih dveh resolucij Parlamenta. Z gledišča mikro ravni nekaterih držav članic pa preseneča in vzbuja določeno mero skrbi neugodno razmerje med posojili in nepovratnimi sredstvi, ki je v primeru Slovenije, za razliko od razmerja teh dveh komponent na ravni celotne EU, dejansko enakovredno.

Zato je toliko bolj pomembna previdnost, skrbnost in gospodarnost pri načrtovanju nacionalnih programov za črpanje in porabo teh sredstev ter ustreznost fiskalnih politik, da se tudi na ta način prepreči zdrs v recesijo zaradi zadolževanja ter dodatno izpostavljenost najbolj ranljivih skupin prebivalstva.

Joachim Stanisław Brudziński (ECR), *na piśmie*. – Dzisiejsza nadzwyczajna sesja plenarna Parlamentu Europejskiego została zwołana, by wspólnie z Komisją i Radą Europejską rozpocząć dyskusję na temat pakietu naprawczego dla UE. Miliony Europejczyków czeka na realną pomoc w tej wyjątkowej sytuacji. Czekają nie tyle na deklaracje co na konkretne narzędzia, które będą mogli wykorzystać do ratowania dorobku często całego swojego życia. Realia wokół nas pokazują nam dobitnie, że nic nie jest nam dane raz na zawsze, a poczucie bezpieczeństwa dziś jest dalekie od tego, którym cieszyliśmy się jeszcze na początku tego roku.

Musimy wspólnymi siłami powrócić jak najbliżej stanu, w którym byliśmy przed wybuchem obecnej pandemii, i już samo to jest ogromnym wyzwaniem. Jednak tego oczekują obywatele Europy. Bezpieczeństwo ekonomiczne jest niezwykle istotne. Nie możemy pozwolić na ekonomiczną zapaść zarówno w naszych krajach, jak i w całej UE. Niezbędna będzie tu z pewnością weryfikacja priorytetów budżetu Unii, zwłaszcza po to, by być przygotowanym na podobne sytuacje w najbliższej przyszłości.

Liczmy na to, że realne będą deklaracje pani von der Leyen, która wzywa dziś do odrzuceniu uprzedzeń i stereotypów. Niestety mój kraj doświadczał dotychczas wielokrotnie takiej dyskryminacji i wciąż jej doświadcza, właśnie w tym gmachu i w tej instytucji. Oby aktualne wspólne wyzwania pomogły to zmienić.

Caterina Chinnici (S&D), *per iscritto*. – Con le sue risoluzioni del 17 aprile e del 15 maggio 2020, il Parlamento europeo ha invitato la Commissione a presentare un massiccio pacchetto di misure e investimenti per la ripresa e la ricostruzione, a sostegno dell'economia europea. La crisi economica e sociale senza precedenti, innescata dalla pandemia di Covid-19, infatti, rappresenta il momento più difficile per l'Europa negli ultimi settanta anni, e richiede quindi risposte immediate e all'altezza delle sfide che ci troviamo ad affrontare. La Commissione propone oggi il «Next Generation EU», un nuovo strumento di ripresa da 750 miliardi, che si aggiungono ai 1100 miliardi del nuovo QFP e agli altri strumenti, per un impegno di ripresa di 2400 miliardi complessivi. Si tratta di un piano ambizioso, che denota la consapevolezza che nessuno Stato membro può affrontare da solo questa grave crisi e la necessità quindi di un'autentica solidarietà europea, e che riconosce inoltre il ruolo del Parlamento nell'affrontare l'emergenza. Occorre ora che i negoziati sulla proposta si svolgano all'insegna dell'urgenza riconosciuta dalla Presidenza croata, perché possa immediatamente farsi fronte ai bisogni e alle esigenze di cittadini, lavoratori e imprese, garantire la coesione sociale e favorire una ripresa e uno sviluppo rapidi e sostenibili.

Johan Danielsson (S&D), skriftlig. – Coronapandemin har skakat om Europa och omvärlden. Det råder ingen tvekan om att vi tillsammans måste hjälpas åt för att få Europa på fötter igen. Om det är något som denna kris visat så är det att ensam inte är stark. Det är brådskanie, och riktade insatser behöver göras. EU-kommissionen har nu presenterat en gigantisk återhämtningsplan för att möta behoven hos medlemsländerna. Oavsett den slutgiltiga storleken på återhämtningsfonden är det viktigt att resurserna går till rätt åtgärder. Vi behöver inte bara investeringar, vi behöver smarta investeringar. För att återhämtningsplanen ska ge ett tydligt mervärde behöver den fokusera på sociala och hållbara investeringar. För att ta ansvar för framtida generationer är det avgörande att återhämtningsplanen prioriterar klimatomställningen. Vi behöver säkerställa att pengarna används till att minska klimatavtrycken från våra transporter oavsett trafikslag. Sist men inte minst måste vi se till att EU-medel inte hamnar i händerna på auktoritära regimer. Inte en euro av dessa pengar bör betalas ut till länder som bryter mot rättsstatsprincipen och grundläggande demokratiska värden.

Tanja Fajon (S&D), pisno. – Evropa se spopada z eno najhujših kriz od svojega nastanka, zato je odločen odziv ključen za hitro okrevanje.

Zadovoljna sem s predlogom Komisije, ki za spopadanje s krizo predlaga dodatnih 750 milijard evrov. Denar bo prvenstveno namenjen okrepitvi obstoječih programov EU. Še posebej pa me veseli, da je kompromisni predlog dober tudi za Slovenijo, kateri bo iz skladov namenjenih več kot 5 milijard evrov. Pozdravljam tudi zgodovinsko odločitev, da se bo za financiranje dolga EU lahko sama zadolževala na finančnih trgih tudi preko obveznic ter dolg financirala z novimi lastnimi sredstvi, kot sta oglični in digitalni davek. A bojim se, da novi lastni viri ne bodo zadostni. Socialisti in demokrati se že vrsto let zavzemamo tudi za uvedbo evropskega davka na finančne transakcije, enotno obdavčitev kapitala, zlasti multinacionalk, ter dokončno odpravo davčnih oaz in kapitalu davčno močno prijaznih režimov, kar bi tako evropskemu kot nacionalnim proračunom prineslo dodatna prepotrebna sredstva.

Zaveze o pravični Evropi do ljudi, in ne do kapitala, ki jih že vrsto let v SD zagovarjamo, so s to krizo postale bolj nujne kot kdaj koli prej. A nikakor ne smemo dovoliti, da bi se dodatno zadolževanje prevalilo na ljudi ali prekomerno obremenilo prihodnje generacije.

Laura Ferrara (NI), per iscritto. – La presentazione di «Next Generation EU», un piano di 750 miliardi di euro, di cui 500 a fondo perduto, non è solo un segnale importante per contrastare l'emergenza Coronavirus è anche un risultato storico per l'Europa e per l'Italia, a cui si dovrebbe assegnare la parte più consistente delle risorse. La risposta della Commissione europea rappresenta l'evoluzione della proposta all'epoca avanzata dall'Italia, su iniziativa del Presidente del Consiglio Giuseppe Conte, il quale sin dall'inizio ha chiesto all'Europa, un piano ambizioso, in grado di rispondere realmente alla grave crisi dovuta al contingente ed eccezionale momento storico che stiamo vivendo. Un piano in cui gli aiuti ai Paesi ed ai settori maggiormente colpiti dalla pandemia si traducevano nella migliore e meno egoistica delle soluzioni. Esso contiene proposte concrete ed obiettivi storicamente cari al Movimento 5 Stelle: Green New Deal, transizione energetica, digitalizzazione. L'ultima parola ora spetta al Consiglio europeo. La crisi sanitaria, sociale ed economica dovuta al Coronavirus richiede tempi ristretti per i negoziati e mi auguro che in sede di Consiglio prevalga la solidarietà e l'unione di intenti anche da parte di quei Paesi, che ancora oggi, chiedono misure e soluzioni che vadano solo nella direzione del prestito.

Kinga Gál (PPE), írásban. – Magyar szempontból siker, hogy a javaslat szerint az új Helyreállítási Eszközt nem a regionális fejlesztési programok és a közös agrárpolitika rovására hoznák létre. A többéves pénzügyi kerettervvel kapcsolatban ugyanakkor a tagországok kétharmada, köztük Magyarország által megfogalmazott korábbi kritikák az előző javaslatokhoz képest szinte változatlan új előterjesztés kapcsán is megalapozottak. Magyarország az elmúlt években kiemelkedő gazdasági sikert ért el és a járvány kezelésében is élen jár. Indokolatlan lenne, ha azért nem részesülhetnének kellő mértékben a helyreállítási forrásokból, mert egyrészt sikeresen kezeltük a járványt, másrészt fegyelmezett költségvetési politikánk révén éveken át csökkentettük államadósságunkat. A kohéziós politikához hasonlóan a Helyreállítási Eszköz esetében is fontos, hogy a források elosztásánál figyelemmel kell lenni a tagállamok közti gazdasági fejlettségbeli különbségekre is, valamint a válság által érintett gazdasági szektorok állapotára.

Az nem fordulhat elő, hogy a szegényebb tagállamok finanszírozzák a gazdagabbakat. A Helyreállítási Eszköz 750 milliárd eurós forrását az Európai Bizottság hosszú lejáratú hitelek felvételével fogja előteremteni. A hitelt a tagországok fogják 30 év alatt visszafizetni, az uniós keret költségvetéshez történő befizetések arányában. Magyarország az 1 %-os befizetési arányával a 750 milliárdos tartozásból, 7,5 milliárd eurót kell visszafizessen. Ehhez az adóssághoz képest elfogadhatatlan, hogy annak összegét alig meghaladó, csupán 8,1 milliárd eurós vissza nem térítendő támogatást kapna hazánk.

Enikő Győri (PPE), írásban. – Ambiciózus közös költségvetésre és Helyreállítási Eszköze van szükség a járvány miatti válság leküzdéséhez és gazdaságaink fellendítéséhez. Fontos, hogy a játékszabályokat csak konszenzussal lehessen megváltoztatni; új feltételek bevezetéséről kizárólag teljes egyetértés mellett lehessen dönteni. A Helyreállítási Eszköznek többletforrásokból kell származnia, és nem áthatja alá az olyan hagyományos politikákat, mint a kohéziós vagy az agrárpolitika. A kohéziós politika a belső piac megfelelő működésének kulcsfontosságú eleme; a fejlettségi különbségek csökkentése nélkül nincs versenyképesség, ezért fontos, hogy a finanszírozása ne csökkenjen. Magyarország élen jár a járvány és hatásai kezelésében. Ennek köszönhetően a koronavírus okozta válság várhatóan kevésbé fogja megviselni a magyar gazdaságot, mint az uniós átlagot.

Indokolatlan lenne ugyanakkor, ha a közép- és kelet-európai tagállamok azért nem részesülhetnének kellő mértékben a forrásokból, mert egyrészt sikeresen kezelték a járványt, másrészt fegyelmezett költségvetési politikájuk révén éveken át csökkentették államadósságukat. A válság valamennyi országot sújtotta; fontos, hogy a Helyreállítási Eszközből is méltányos módon, ugyanolyan feltételek mellett részesüljenek, legyenek az eurózónához tartozó, vagy azon kívüli tagállamok. Nem fordulhat elő, hogy a szegényebb tagállamok finanszírozzák a gazdagabbakat. A Helyreállítási Eszköz céljai tekintetében pedig a környezetbarát gazdaságra való áttérés és a digitalizáció mellett a hiányzó közlekedési és energiainfrastruktúra fejlesztésére is prioritásként kell tekinteni, különösen a közép- és kelet-európai régiókban.

Robert Hajšel (S&D), písomne. – Európskou komisiou predložený viacročný finančný rámec s novým nástrojom „EÚ ďalšej generácie“ je obrovskou šancou pre štáty ako Slovensko, aby sa pustili cestou modernizácie a zároveň na to dostali viac peňazí, ako mohli ešte nedávno dúfať. Verím, že napriek počiatočnému odporu niektorých štátov proti pridelovaniu garantov, ako aj zvyšovaniu financovania rôznych programov EÚ budeme nakoniec schopní tento návrh aspoň v podobných číslach schváliť nielen v EP, ale aj v Rade ešte pred letom. Je totiž najvyšší čas, aby EÚ ukázala svoju akčioschopnosť, rozhodnosť a solidaritu a nesklamala svojich občanov, ktorým sa nepáčila slabá angažovanosť Únie ešte na začiatku koronakrízy. Ja sa ako tieňový spravodajca pre Fond spravodlivej transformácie budem snažiť presadzovať, aby k peniazom z týchto nástrojov mali rovnaký prístup všetky krajiny a hlavným kritériom pridelovania týchto peňazí bol pokles hospodárskej aktivity v dôsledku koronakrízy. Totiž aj štáty ako Slovensko, ktoré po zdravotnej stránke neboli koronavírusom tak silno postihnuté, čelia aj v dôsledku prijatých preventívnych opatrení hlbokkej hospodárskej recesii. Viaceré sektory ekonomiky ako automobilový priemysel alebo aj cestovný ruch, ale hlavne malí a strední podnikatelia a živnostníci sa bez európskej pomoci z obrovského útlmu nedostanú. Preto je takáto mobilizácia európskych peňazí viac ako potrebná.

Patryk Jaki (ECR), na piśmie. – Unia Europejska nigdy nie stała przed większym wyzwaniem niż COVID-19. Można powiedzieć, że w porównaniu z obecną sytuacją ostatni kryzys gospodarczy właściwie nie dotknął Europy. Dzisiaj cały świat przechodzi kryzys, a to, w jakim miejscu znajdzie się nasz kontynent, zależy od decyzji Unii Europejskiej.

Potrzeba odważnych decyzji i największego po II wojnie światowej planu gospodarczego. Od tempa działania zależy teraz, czy szybko wrócimy do stanu sprzed epidemii czy czeka nas wiele lat odbudowy. Ideologiczne spory i marnowanie czasu na sztuczne problemy muszą zejść na dalszy plan. UE musi wrócić do gospodarczych korzeni, gdyż tego oczekują nasi obywatele. Konieczne są zarówno bezzwrotne granty na utrzymanie europejskich firm, jak i pożyczki na nowe inwestycje.

Karol Karski (ECR), na piśmie. – Fundusz Odbudowy odegra istotną rolę w odbudowie gospodarczej Unii Europejskiej po nadejściu kryzysu o bezprecedensowych rozmiarach. Mając na uwadze wpływ kryzysu na gospodarkę państw członkowskich, niezwykle istotne jest odpowiednie zaplanowanie Funduszu Odbudowy oraz ustalenie właściwych priorytetów wydatkowania.

Szok gazdasági spordodony pndemi dotyka co prawda wszystkie państwa członkowskie, lecz należy pamiętać, że struktury gospodarek tych państw znacznie się od siebie różnią. Z tego powodu reakcja gospodarcza UE nie może się ograniczać do arbitralnie wybranych sektorów i uniwersalnych rozwiązań, lecz musi być skalibrowana pod kątem każdego z państw członkowskich.

Kluczowe dla przyszłości gospodarczej państw członkowskich jest również ustalenie odpowiednich priorytetów wydatkowania, które powinny zostać określone na podstawie kompleksowej oceny uwzględniającej nie tylko bezpośrednie skutki pandemii, lecz także długookresowe wyzwania i potrzeby gospodarcze. Przewodnimi zasadami przyświecającymi działaniom w ramach odnowy gospodarczej powinny być: konwergencja, spójność, inkluzywność, solidarność i budowa odporności.

Należy tu również podkreślić trwające równolegle prace nad wieloletnimi ramami finansowymi na lata 2021-2027. Niezbędne jest utrzymanie spójnej polityki konwergencji między wieloletnimi ramami finansowymi a działaniami przedsięwziętymi w ramach Funduszy Odbudowy, tak aby państwa członkowskie nie zostały obciążone kosztami nieproporcjonalnymi do rozmiaru ich gospodarek.

Łukasz Kohut (S&D), *na piśmie*. – Przyjęta dziś przez Komisję Europejską propozycja kolejnej pomocy finansowej na odbudowę europejskiej gospodarki to krok w dobrym kierunku. Pani Przewodnicząca von der Leyen podkreśliła w swoim wystąpieniu bardzo istotną rzecz – mamy gospodarkę europejską. Wspólny rynek oznacza, że gospodarka europejska to nie jest prosta suma gospodarek krajowych, to zupełnie nowa jakość. To o wiele więcej.

Powodzenie danych przedsięwzięć gospodarczych w jednym kraju ma wpływ na inne kraje. Rynek pracy po jednej stronie granicy wpływa na rynek pracy po drugiej stronie granicy. Gospodarka europejska to struktura federalna, tu granice są jedynie liniami na mapie. I dlatego plan jej odbudowy musi być wspólny. I musi być również bardzo ambitny. Nie możemy na nim oszczędzać – koszty niedziałania byłyby o wiele wyższe.

Dlatego cieszy mnie propozycja przeznaczenia na odbudowę europejskiej gospodarki dodatkowych 750 mld euro. Cieszą mnie również zapowiedzi rozszerzenia katalogu własnych wpływów budżetowych Unii. To jedno z narzędzi federalizowania Europy, procesu, który jest dla Unii logiczny, naturalny i nieunikniony. Jeżeli chcemy rzeczywiście bezpiecznej i zamożnej Unii, a nie organizmu rozrywanego egoizmami narodowymi.

Ádám Kósa (PPE), *írásban*. – Magyar szempontból siker, hogy a javaslat szerint az új Helyreállítási Eszköz nem a regionális fejlesztési programok és a közös agrárpolitika rovására hozná létre. A többéves pénzügyi keretrelvel kapcsolatban ugyanakkor a tagországok kétharmada, köztük Magyarország által megfogalmazott korábbi kritikák az előző javaslatokhoz képest szinte változatlan új előterjesztés kapcsán is megalapozottak. Magyarország az elmúlt években kiemelkedő gazdasági sikert ért el és a járvány kezelésében is élen jár. Indokolatlan lenne, ha azért nem részesülhetnének kellő mértékben a helyreállítási forrásokból, mert egyrészt sikeresen kezeltük a járványt, másrészt fegyelmezett költségvetési politikánk révén éveken át csökkentettük államadósságunkat. A kohéziós politikához hasonlóan a Helyreállítási Eszköz esetében is fontos, hogy a források elosztásánál figyelemmel kell lenni a tagállamok közti gazdasági fejlettségbeli különbségekre is, valamint a válság által érintett gazdasági szektorok állapotára.

Az nem fordulhat elő, hogy a szegényebb tagállamok finanszírozzák a gazdagabbakat. A Helyreállítási Eszköz 750 milliárd eurós forrását az Európai Bizottság hosszú lejáratú hitelek felvételével fogja előteremteni. A hitelt a tagországok fogják 30 év alatt visszafizetni, az uniós költségvetéshez történő befizetések arányában. Magyarország az 1 %-os befizetési arányával a 750 milliárdos tartozásból, 7,5 milliárd eurót kell visszafizessen. Ehhez az adóssághoz képest elfogadhatatlan, hogy annak összegét alig meghaladó, csupán 8,1 milliárd eurós vissza nem térítendő támogatást kapna hazánk.

Ondřej Kovařík (Renew), *písemně*. – Na ekonomickou krizi způsobenou globální pandemií Covid-19 musíme různě, ale i zodpovědně reagovat. Vítám, že Evropská komise konečně předložila svůj návrh, protože je třeba rychle mobilizovat a správně nasměrovat finanční prostředky pro restart evropské ekonomiky. Zde musím ale zdůraznit, že se připravovaný víceletý finanční rámec ani nový plán hospodářské obnovy nesmí stát náhradním zdrojem pro ozdravení národních rozpočtů, které mají dlouhodobé problémy primárně nesouvisející se současnou krizí. Rozpočtově zodpovědné státy by neměly být sankcionovány. Stejně tak by dlouhodobá nezaměstnanost neměla být hlavním parametrem, jak peníze rozdělovat. Musíme se opřít o kohezní politiku, o které víme, že funguje. Měli bychom se soustředit na investice do sektorů a regionů, kde bude pomoc směřovat přímo občanům a podnikům, které jsou nejvíce zasažené, např. malým a středním podnikům v cestovním ruchu a navázaných odvětvích. Stejně tak víme, že automobilový průmysl nebo odvětví dopravy patří mezi nejvíce zasažené – podpořme je způsobem, který jsou v souladu s nastavenými politikami a směřováním Evropské unie, tak abychom se ze současné ekonomické krize pokusili udělat příležitost pro další rozvoj ve všech ohledech. Mysleme na regiony ohrožené společensko-hospodářskou tranzicí. Pomozme tradičním sektorům, ale

zaměřme se také na inovace a digitální technologie.

Elżbieta Kruk (ECR), *na piśmie*. – Kraje UE stanęły przed poważnymi i nieoczekiwanymi wyzwaniami z powodu działań podjętych przez rządy w związku z wirusem SARS-CoV-2. Dziś gospodarki są stopniowo uruchamiane i należy się zastanowić nad kształtem WRF na lata 2021-2027, aby ramy te były wystarczająco ambitne i przyczyniły się do odbudowy europejskiej gospodarki.

Europejski sektor rolny odegrał kluczową rolę w zapewnianiu bezpieczeństwa żywnościowego. Niefortunne wydaje się zatem, że przyszłość rolnictwa jest nadal zagrożona. Liczba gospodarstw i liczba rolników maleje, a populacja rolników starzeje się. Na dodatek w związku z celami wyznaczonymi w ramach Zielonego Ładu rolnicy stają przed koniecznością spełnienia większych, kosztownych wymogów klimatycznych.

Pomoc jest konieczna, ale istnieje ryzyko powstania nowych dysproporcji oraz osłabienia dotychczasowego wkładu polityki spójności i polityki rozwoju obszarów wiejskich. Nie można dopuścić do sytuacji, w której zauważymy znaczący wzrost konkurencyjności niektórych regionów oraz sektorów rolnictwa w stosunku do innych. Wniosek budżetowy dotyczący wspólnej polityki rolnej przedstawiony przez Komisję Europejską nie gwarantuje dostatecznie bezpiecznej przyszłości dla europejskiego rolnictwa: jest mało ambitny i niewystarczający.

Ponadto cele Zielonego Ładu przyczyniają się do pogłębiania różnic w konkurencyjności niektórych regionów UE. Unia ponosi pełną odpowiedzialność za sektor rolny. Wzmocnienie wspólnej polityki rolnej musi stać się głównym filarem współpracy dotyczącej przyszłego kształtu WPR. W przeciwnym razie sektor, a tym samym bezpieczeństwo żywnościowe Europejczyków będzie zagrożone.

Julie Lechanteux (ID), *par écrit*. – Le plan de relance de l'économie, présenté par la Commission européenne pour faire face à la crise engendrée par la pandémie de COVID-19, est largement insuffisant dans son envergure et complètement erroné quant à sa méthode. La situation économique actuelle est bien plus grave que prévu. Il s'agit d'une crise totale et sans précédent, et dans ce cadre, l'Union européenne est la grande absente.

Aujourd'hui, plus que jamais, la division au sein de l'Union est la règle. C'est le règne du chacun pour soi. La structure de cette Union est à revoir de fond en comble, selon un modèle basé sur une alliance européenne des nations pour sauver l'Europe de l'Union européenne.

La preuve, s'il en fallait encore, est que face à la proposition franco-allemande on trouve d'un côté l'opposition des quatre pays dits «frugaux» (dont certains sont en réalité champions de l'optimisation fiscale), et d'un autre côté, les pays de l'Est, qui vont essayer de sauvegarder les subsides européens dont ils profitent, notamment au travers de la politique agricole et de cohésion. Je rappelle ici que la France est un contributeur net de l'UE. Créditrice de l'Union, elle a donc, plus que tout autre État, son mot à dire.

Margarida Marques (S&D), *por escrito*. – A proposta da CE de Plano de Recuperação Económica e Social e a atualização da proposta de Quadro Financeiro Plurianual 2021/2027 responde a solicitações do Parlamento Europeu: - A criação de um Fundo de Recuperação, com a CE a mobilizar este fundo nos mercados e a reparti-lo pelos Estados-Membros, num mecanismo de mutualização de responsabilidades; - Distribuir este fundo com base mais em subvenções do que empréstimos; - A possibilidade deste fundo estar já disponível este ano.

Só assim a UE estará em condições de construir uma resposta europeia ao impacto da crise na vida das pessoas, nas economias e nas contas públicas dos Estados. Continua a preconizar prioridades políticas como o Green Deal ou a Transição Digital. Introduz novas prioridades como a reposição do Mercado Interno, a criação de um programa para a saúde, o apoio a empresas estratégicas ou a promoção da resiliência das cadeias de valor estratégico, aumentando, ao mesmo tempo, verbas para a coesão e o II Pilar – PAC.

Por outro lado, compete aos Estados-Membros apresentarem, nos seus plenos direitos, os planos nacionais de recuperação. O Parlamento Europeu continuará a bater-se por uma resposta europeia e imediata à crise e por um QFP para 7 anos, robusto, que satisfaça a ambição europeia.

Só assim dará o seu consentimento.

Eva Maydell (PPE), *in writing*. – The 'Next Generation EU' recovery plan unveiled today proves that the EU acts decisively when it comes to helping European citizens and businesses. Despite there being some opposition to the use of grants for recovery, the Commission's proposal is bold because it includes EUR 500 billion in grants. The funds will be allocated using different programmes, some of which will be managed directly by Brussels, while others by the Member States themselves.

Anyone who has been affected by the crisis can make use of this ambitious plan – SMEs and big businesses, state and local institutions and start-ups, medical and educational institutions, etc. The important thing is that we are not looking to restore the pre-COVID-19 situation but to place a new emphasis on recovery through new technologies, digitalisation, sustainable environmental policies and measures, and ensuring the sustainability and independence of key sectors of our economy. In other words, this is a plan for economic growth which aims for the EU to be more competitive with China and the US in two years than it was before the pandemic.

Beata Mazurek (ECR), *na piśmie*. – Przypadająca w tym roku 70 rocznica deklaracji Schumana to doskonały moment na refleksje związane z funkcjonowaniem wspólnoty. W momencie, kiedy Europa zмага się z największym kryzysem od czasów II Wojny Światowej, musimy wrócić do jej korzeni i podstawowych wartości, jakie przyświecały jej ojcom założycielom.

Dziękuję bardzo Pani przewodniczącej za pełne entuzjazmu i pozytywnej energii wystąpienie. Wszyscy wiemy jak istotnym jest szybkie wdrożenie solidnego pakietu naprawczego, by z powrotem postawić na nogi europejską gospodarkę i wesprzeć miliony obywateli Europy dotkniętych kryzysem. Nie możemy zapomnieć jednak o poszanowaniu odmienności zdania jej członków. Musimy odrzucić uprzedzenia i stereotypy i nie żywić urazy do państw członkowskich, które wzięły sprawy w swoje ręce i skutecznie opanowały pandemię w jej pierwszej fazie. Potrzebna jest dyskusja nt. głębokiej reformy UE, trzeba do niej wrócić po zakończonym kryzysie.

Pani przewodnicząca kreśli wizję nowego pokolenia Unii Europejskiej, opartego m.in. na dążeniu do transformacji ekologicznej i cyfrowej, ale czy my wiemy jak będzie wyglądać Europa za kilka miesięcy? Co jeśli pandemia powróci na jesieni ze zdwojoną siłą, jak będziemy na nią przygotowani? Europa potrzebuje naprawy na teraz! Newralgiczne sektory gospodarki muszą powrócić z produkcją do Europy. Decyzje podjęte w duchu odpowiedzialności i solidarności muszą dotyczyć wszystkich obywateli UE.

Leszek Miller (S&D), *na piśmie*. – Z zadowoleniem przyjmuję zaprezentowany dziś przez Komisję projekt budżetu Unii wraz z planem odbudowy Europy. Według założeń zaktualizowany budżet zostanie zwiększony do 2% unijnego DNB i wyniesie 1,1 biliona EUR. Fundusz Odbudowy zaś planowany jest na 750 miliardów EUR. Jest to z pewnością więcej, niż proponowały Francja i Niemcy (500 miliardów EUR), jednak nadal znacznie mniej, niż wnioskował Parlament w rezolucji z 15 maja br. (2 biliony EUR).

W tym kontekście należy bez wątpienia oczekiwać trudnych negocjacji między państwami członkowskimi w Radzie, lecz jestem przekonany, że Parlament będzie pryncypialnie dążył do utrzymania planowanych wydatków na poziomie odpowiadającym co najmniej propozycji przedstawionej przez Komisję. Wykorzysta zapewne do tego celu kluczowe uprawnienie traktatowe przysługujące mu w procedurze budżetowej (zgoda).

W komunikacie Komisji na uwagę zasługuje ponadto proponowany sposób sfinansowania powiększonego budżetu i Funduszu Odbudowy. Planuje się bowiem niepodnoszenie składek członkowskich opartych na DNB, lecz emisję w tym celu wspólnych obligacji gwarantowanych przez unijny budżet z 30-letnim okresem zapadalności, jak również ustanowienie nowych źródeł dochodów własnych, w tym podatku od transakcji finansowych i podatku cyfrowego.

Uważam, że zwiększanie zdolności budżetowo-fiskalnych Unii zmierza we właściwym kierunku. Powinien to być jeden z przedmiotów pogłębionej dyskusji podczas zbliżającej się konferencji na temat przyszłości Europy.

Urmas Paet (Renew), *kirjalikult*. – Euroopa Komisjoni ettepanek Euroopa majanduse taastumiskavaks on praegustes oludes ning kõiki riske arvesse võttes mõistlik. 750 miljardit eurot ei ole kavandatud mitte lihtsalt toetusteks ja aukude lappimiseks, vaid keskkonnasõbralikeks ja innovaatilisteks investeeringuteks, et Euroopa Liit oleks ka pärast kriisi maailmas konkurentsivõimeline. Euroopa ühtne turg peab taastuma ning ka Euroopa neli suurt vabadust tuleb täielikult taastada. Lisaks on väga oluline, et praeguse kriisi tekitatud vapustuse tulemusel ei tekiks ELi riikide suhetesse suuri pingeid ja vastuolusid. Näen, et see taastumiskava aitab neid leevendada ja ära hoida. Seega tegemist on euroopaliku kavaga ning praeguses olukorras on see oluline lahendus, et tagada tugev Euroopa ka kriisijärgseteks aegadeks. Ja tugev Euroopa on Eesti otsestes elulistes huvides.

Lídia Pereira (PPE), *por escrito*. – A proposta da Comissão Europeia para o Fundo de Recuperação é uma resposta adequada, na dimensão financeira, ao desafio do relançamento da economia europeia.

O modelo do «Next Generation EU» para financiamento deste Fundo é ambicioso e corresponde à exigência de solidariedade que esta crise determina. Espero que o processo de instituição deste Fundo e dos seus instrumentos seja célere e eficaz, contando com a participação do Parlamento Europeu, de forma a garantir o carácter democrático desta resposta. Não podemos perder mais tempo e esperemos que todas as instituições europeias e governos nacionais estejam empenhados na operacionalização destes mecanismos.

Defendo uma reforma do sistema de recursos próprios da União Europeia que aumente o seu limite, que agilize os atuais recursos e que crie novas e inovadoras receitas da União, em linha com os objetivos estratégicos. Saúdo a disponibilidade para alterações temporárias, mas espero que seja exemplo para uma reforma de fundo, num futuro próximo.

O Fundo de Recuperação exige um reforço do Quadro Financeiro Plurianual e espero que esse esforço resulte numa mais-valia adicional, não prejudicando os demais programas europeus e a integridade dos fundos europeus estruturais e de investimento.

Alfred Sant (S&D), *in writing*. – One welcomes the objectives and thrust of the EU recovery package, aimed at relaunching the European economy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The highlight of this package is the Recovery Fund. The proposal that a large percentage of the funding will be in grants is positive. Its integration into the Multiannual Financial Framework also makes sense. Still the question remains: will the proposed rise of the GNI Own Resources ceiling be enough to cover the envisaged requirements? Some economic forecasts seem to make this quite doubtful. Then more crudely: who will exactly benefit from the envisaged recovery plan? Will the multiple goals that are inbuilt into its proposed design skew benefits towards particular regions or sectors, at the expense of others? For instance: in response to Green Deal exigencies, significant resources will apply to the promotion of clean energy applications, like the creation of a million charging stations for electric cars. Naturally producers of the latter, mainly located in two Member States, will benefit most from this. Care will have to be taken to ensure that the recovery plan, positive as it is, does not serve to widen instead of narrow existing divergences between different regions of the Union.

Sylvia Spurek (S&D), *na piśmie*. – Kryzys wywołany COVID-19 unaoczniał słabości Unii w zakresie ochrony podstawowych praw człowieka, udowadniając, że czas nie tylko na bardziej pryncypialne podejście do prawa i polityk Unii, ale także na jej nowe kompetencje. Kryzys spowodowany pandemią dotknął osoby należące do grup społecznych już wcześniej narażonych na dyskryminację, wykluczenie, przemoc.

Kobiety doświadczające przemocy w rodzinie teraz są jeszcze bardziej na nią narażone. Kobiety w ciąży i rodzące mają gorszy dostęp do opieki okołoporodowej. W niektórych krajach osobom LGBTI pod pozorem walki z koronawirusem odmawia się fundamentalnego prawa do godności. Osoby z niepełnosprawnościami dotknięte są brakami w systemie ochrony zdrowia i pozbawiane koniecznego leczenia i rehabilitacji.

Sytuacja ta pokazuje jednoznacznie, że brak skoordynowanych działań Unii i jednolitych gwarancji praw może prowadzić ze strony rządów do nadużyć w obszarze praw podstawowych. Unia musi wziąć na siebie odpowiedzialność za najbardziej narażone grupy społeczne i zadbać, aby plan naprawczy uwzględniał także ich prawa. Wielokrotnie podkreślałam, że nie możemy dłużej odkładać ratyfikacji przez Unię konwencji sambulskiej, efektywnego wdrożenia Konwencji o prawach osób niepełnosprawnych oraz przyjęcia horyzontalnej dyrektywy równościowej. Musimy pamiętać, że UE to jeden organizm nie tylko polityczny i gospodarczy, ale również społeczny, a równość ludzi i jednolite gwarancje ich praw powinny być naszymi standardami.

Riho Terras (PPE), *kirjalikult*. – Olen veendunud, et taastumisraha on kriisist väljumiseks vajalik instrument. See annab mitmeaastasele finantsraamistikule juurde vajalikku jõudu. On äärmiselt oluline, et turgudelt laenatud raha kasutuse üle kehtiks range kontroll ning järelevalves osaleks ka Euroopa Parlament. Minu hinnangul on tarvilik, et parlament oleks kogu eelarveprotsessi tihedalt kaasatud, sest see on ainuke üleeuroopaline kogu, millel on rahva mandaat. Majanduse elavdamiseks mõeldud raha peab olema suunatud sihtotstarbeliselt ning tootma kõrget lisaväärtust. Oleks lubamatu, et meie kõigi rahaga hakatakse lappima kehvade ja vastutustundetute poliitiliste otsuste põhjustatud auke. Konservatiivset rahanduspoliitikat tuleb au see hoida ja me peame äärmise tõsidusega suhtuma võlgade lükkamise meie laste ja lastelaste kanda. See ei ole kindlasti kooskõlas vastutustundliku poliitika põhimõtetega. Täna pole Euroopa Komisjon veel selgelt näidanud, millistest allikatest hakatakse teenindama turgudelt võetavaid laene. Kindlasti

on nii Euroopa Liidu liikmesriikide otsustavatel esinduskogudel kui ka meil, Euroopa Parlamendi liikmeil, õigus ja kohustus teada enne oluliste otsuste tegemist kõiki vajalikke üksikasju. Ma olen veendunud, et majanduse elavdamise ning Euroopa konkurentsivõime tõstmise juures on vaja sarnaselt roheleppelle panna rõhku just digipöördele. See on täna ja tulevikus üks olulisemaid Euroopa konkurentsivõimet mõjutavaid tegureid.

Edina Tóth (PPE), írásban. – Magyar szempontból siker, hogy a javaslat szerint az új Helyreállítási Eszközt nem a regionális fejlesztési programok és a közös agrárpolitika rovására hoznák létre. A többéves pénzügyi keretervvel kapcsolatban ugyanakkor a tagországok kétharmada, köztük Magyarország által megfogalmazott korábbi kritikák az előző javaslatokhoz képest szinte változatlan új előterjesztés kapcsán is megalapozottak. Magyarország az elmúlt években kiemelkedő gazdasági sikert ért el és a járvány kezelésében is élen jár. Indokolatlan lenne, ha azért nem részesülhetnénk kellő mértékben a helyreállítási forrásokból, mert egyrészt sikeresen kezeltük a járványt, másrészt fegyelmet szorítottunk költségvetési politikánk révén éveken át csökkentettük államadósságunkat. A kohéziós politikához hasonlóan a Helyreállítási Eszköz esetében is fontos, hogy a források elosztásánál figyelemmel kell lenni a tagállamok közti gazdasági fejlettségbeli különbségekre is, valamint a válság által érintett gazdasági szektorok állapotára.

Az nem fordulhat elő, hogy a szegényebb tagállamok finanszírozzák a gazdagabbakat. A Helyreállítási Eszköz 750 milliárd eurós forrását az Európai Bizottság hosszú lejáratú hitelek felvételével fogja előteremteni. A hitelt a tagországok fogják 30 év alatt visszafizetni, az uniós keretköltségvetéshez történő befizetések arányában. Magyarország az 1 %-os befizetési arányával a 750 milliárdos tartozásból, 7,5 milliárd eurót kell visszafizessen. Ehhez az adóssághoz képest elfogadhatatlan, hogy annak összegét alig meghaladó, csupán 8,1 milliárd eurós vissza nem térítendő támogatást kapna hazánk.

Bettina Vollath (S&D), schriftlich. – Die COVID-19-Pandemie hat die Europäische Union in die tiefste Krise in ihrer Existenz geführt, denn wir steuern heute auf die größte Rezession seit über 70 Jahren zu. Damit wir diese Krise überwinden und die Wirtschaft in Europa retten können, braucht es nun weitreichende Investitionen. Der heute vorgestellte Wiederaufbauplan ist dabei ein wichtiger Baustein. Er verdeutlicht: Diese Krise ist auch eine Chance. Eine Chance für ein stärkeres, ökologischeres und solidarischeres – kurz, ein besseres Europa der Zukunft. Damit diese Chance Wirklichkeit wird, müssen nun alle Mitgliedstaaten ihren Beitrag leisten und diesen Vorschlag mittragen, damit er auch umgesetzt werden kann. Wir müssen endlich weg von der falschen und schädlichen Austeritätspolitik nach der letzten Krise, hin zu einer europäischen, solidarischen Lösung. Dennoch: der Wiederaufbauplan kann nur der erste Schritt sein. Europa wird in Zukunft noch weitere Hilfspakete benötigen, und um dies alles zu finanzieren, braucht die EU endlich mehr Eigenmittel. Plastiksteuer, CO₂-Steuer und Digitalsteuer sind dafür nur ein paar der vielen Möglichkeiten. Wir müssen endlich die Unternehmen, die unsere Umwelt verschmutzen und auch die, die ihre Einnahmen am Fiskus vorbeischieben, zur Kasse bitten. Denn sie müssen es sein, die für diese Programme am Ende die Finanzierung liefern und nicht – wie so oft zuvor – die europäischen Bürgerinnen und Bürger.

Alexandr Vondra (ECR), písemně. – Jistě se shodneme, že to, čeho jsme v Evropě byli svědky v uplynulých třech měsících, bylo výjimečné. A výjimečné situace si žádají výjimečné prostředky. Jenže, čehož jsme také byli v Evropě už mnohokrát svědky, až příliš často se z výjimek stávají pravidla a papír snese všechno. Je proto dobré si hned ze začátku říct, co jsou naše červené čáry: žádná permanentní mutualizace dluhů, žádné bobtnání evropského rozpočtu a žádné daně na celoevropské úrovni. Pomoc pouze jednorázová a limitovaná, přičemž by nikdo neměl být trestán za to, že dlouhodobě hospodářsky zodpovědně a reálně zohledňuje své možnosti, například pokud jde o vstup do eurozóny. Také vezměme v úvahu, že oproti kohezním fondům je tu řádově větší riziko korupce: rychlá finanční pomoc po krizi automaticky povede k omezení některých kontrolních mechanismů při přerozdělování peněz. Už v případě kohezních fondů přitom občas končily v různých pochybných podnicích, například u českého premiéra, nebo dokonce u italské mafie, přitom vyžadovaly mnohem více času a byrokracie. Je důležité neobětovat kontrolní mechanismy a dohlédnout, aby se na penězích neobohacovali známí politiků či firmy, které po většinu své existence byly ztrátové. Je důležité neobětovat spolehlivost a střídmost megalomanií. Je důležité neobětovat *common sense*.

Ελισάβετ Βόζεμπεργκ-Βρουνίδη (PPE), γραπτώς. – Η Ευρώπη είναι αντιμέτωπη για πρώτη φορά μετά τον Β' Παγκόσμιο Πόλεμο με μια πρωτοφανή κρίση που έχει πλήξει όλα τα κράτη μέλη. Οι Ευρωπαίοι πολίτες δεν είναι ικανοποιημένοι από τα μέτρα που έχουν ληφθεί μέχρι στιγμής σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο και περιμένουν από την ΕΕ αυξημένες αρμοδιότητες, μεγαλύτερη αλληλεγγύη και μια πιο ισχυρή απάντηση για την αντιμετώπιση της κρίσης. Το νέο Ταμείο Ανάκαμψης αποτελεί ένα φιλόδοξο σχέδιο στήριξης της Ένωσης με αυξημένους πόρους, που θα διατεθούν κυρίως μέσω επιχορηγήσεων. Ωστόσο, σημαντική στήριξη και άμεση εκταμίευση χρημάτων πρέπει να προβλεφθεί για τον κλάδο του τουρισμού, που έχει πληγεί περισσότερο από κάθε άλλον εξαιτίας της πανδημίας. Ο τουρισμός, που συνεισφέρει περίπου 11% στο ευρωπαϊκό ΑΕΠ και αντιπροσωπεύει το 12% της απασχόλησης στην ΕΕ, χάνει περίπου 1 δισ. ευρώ εσόδων μηνιαίως εξαιτίας της πανδημίας. Η κατάσταση είναι ιδιαίτερα

δύσκολη σε πολλές χώρες της ΕΕ που αποτελούν βασικούς τουριστικούς προορισμούς, όπως η Ελλάδα, που ο τουριστικός τομέας συμβάλλει έμμεσα με ποσοστό πάνω από 20% στην ελληνική οικονομία. Η ελληνική κυβέρνηση έχει ήδη λάβει σημαντικά μέτρα για την στήριξη του κλάδου, ωστόσο η απάντηση δεν θα πρέπει να δοθεί μεμονωμένα από τα κράτη μέλη αλλά από το σύνολο της ΕΕ. Ας μην απογοητεύσουμε τους πολίτες μας!

Carlos Zorrinho (S&D), *por escrito*. – A proposta de pacote de recuperação da União Europeia apresentado pela Presidente da Comissão Europeia, Ursula von der Leyen, consubstancia uma evolução disruptiva na tipologia das respostas da União face a crises sistémicas. É uma proposta forte e solidária. A isso não é alheia a dimensão da crise, a perceção dos cidadãos de que só uma resposta coordenada lhe pode fazer face e a aprovação pelo Parlamento Europeu, por larga maioria, de resoluções que dão o respaldo dos representantes diretos dos povos europeus à evolução verificada.

Investir numa Europa verde, digital e resiliente, somando ao Quadro de Financiamento Plurianual, aos recursos próprios e à criação de um Fundo de Recuperação de 750 mil milhões de euros, usando emissões comuns de dívida e alocando 500 000 milhões (66% desse fundo) através de subvenções, é uma resposta potencialmente robusta, que o Conselho deve adotar quanto antes, de forma a que os procedimentos de negociação e consentimento do Parlamento Europeu e de regulamentação específica permitam que os recursos cheguem o mais depressa possível onde são necessários.

10. Delegierte Rechtsakte (Artikel 111 Absatz 2 GO): siehe Protokoll

11. Durchführungsmaßnahmen (Artikel 112 GO): siehe Protokoll

12. Änderungen von Ausschussbefassungen (Artikel 56 GO): siehe Protokoll

13. Assoziierte Ausschüsse (Artikel 57 GO): siehe Protokoll

14. Beschlüsse zur Ausarbeitung von Initiativberichten: siehe Protokoll

15. Zustimmungsverfahren (Artikel 105 GO): siehe Protokoll

16. Änderung von Titeln von Initiativberichten: siehe Protokoll

17. Zurückziehungen von Verfahren zur Ausarbeitung von Initiativberichten: siehe Protokoll

18. Genehmigung des Protokolls der laufenden Sitzung: siehe Protokoll

19. Zeitpunkt der nächsten Sitzungen: siehe Protokoll

20. Schluss der Sitzung

(Die Sitzung wird um 15.10 Uhr geschlossen.)

21. Unterbrechung der Sitzungsperiode

Die Präsidentin. – Ich erkläre die Sitzungsperiode des Europäischen Parlaments für unterbrochen.

Legende der verwendeten Zeichen

*	Konsultationsverfahren
***	Zustimmungsverfahren
***I	Ordentliches Gesetzgebungsverfahren, erste Lesung
***II	Ordentliches Gesetzgebungsverfahren, zweite Lesung
***III	Ordentliches Gesetzgebungsverfahren, dritte Lesung

(Das angegebene Verfahren entspricht der von der Kommission vorgeschlagenen Rechtsgrundlage.)

Abkürzungen der Ausschüsse

AFET	Ausschuss für auswärtige Angelegenheiten
DEVE	Entwicklungsausschuss
INTA	Ausschuss für internationalen Handel
BUDG	Haushaltsausschuss
CONT	Haushaltskontrollausschuss
ECON	Ausschuss für Wirtschaft und Währung
EMPL	Ausschuss für Beschäftigung und soziale Angelegenheiten
ENVI	Ausschuss für Umweltfragen, öffentliche Gesundheit und Lebensmittelsicherheit
ITRE	Ausschuss für Industrie, Forschung und Energie
IMCO	Ausschuss für Binnenmarkt und Verbraucherschutz
TRAN	Ausschuss für Verkehr und Fremdenverkehr
REGI	Ausschuss für regionale Entwicklung
AGRI	Ausschuss für Landwirtschaft und ländliche Entwicklung
PECH	Fischereiausschuss
CULT	Ausschuss für Kultur und Bildung
JURI	Rechtsausschuss
LIBE	Ausschuss für bürgerliche Freiheiten, Justiz und Inneres
AFCO	Ausschuss für konstitutionelle Fragen
FEMM	Ausschuss für die Rechte der Frau und die Gleichstellung der Geschlechter
PETI	Petitionsausschuss
DROI	Unterausschuss Menschenrechte
SEDE	Unterausschuss Sicherheit und Verteidigung

Abkürzungen der Fraktionen

PPE	Fraktion der Europäischen Volkspartei (Christdemokraten)
S&D	Fraktion der Progressiven Allianz der Sozialdemokraten im Europäischen Parlament
Renew	Fraktion Renew Europe
ID	Fraktion Identität und Demokratie
Vers/ALE	Fraktion der Grünen/Freie Europäische Allianz
ECR	Fraktion der Europäischen Konservativen und Reformen
GUE/NGL	Fraktion der Vereinigten Europäischen Linken/Nordische Grüne Linke
NI	Fraktionslos



AUSFÜHRLICHE SITZUNGSBERICHTE VOM 17. JUNI 2020

(C/2024/4768)

EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT

SITZUNGSPERIODE 2020-2021

Sitzungen vom 17. bis 19. Juni 2020

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AUSFÜHRLICHE SITZUNGSBERICHTE VOM 17. JUNI 2020

PRESIDENZA DELL'ON. DAVID MARIA SASSOLI

Presidente

1. Wiederaufnahme der Sitzungsperiode

Presidente. – Dichiaro ripresa la sessione del Parlamento europeo interrotta mercoledì 27 maggio 2020.

2. Eröffnung der Sitzung

(La seduta è aperta alle 15.02)

3. Erklärung des Präsidenten

Presidente. – A nome del Parlamento e personalmente, desidero esprimere le mie più sentite condoglianze alla famiglia e agli amici di George Floyd. La sua morte il 25 maggio ha suscitato, come sapete, sia negli Stati Uniti ma anche in Europa, molte proteste che dimostrano a tutti che il rispetto dei valori democratici e dei diritti umani è un compito fondamentale, quotidiano, impegnativo e necessario.

Possiamo riposare solo quando il sogno di Martin Luther King diventerà realtà e le persone non saranno mai giudicate dal colore della loro pelle ma dal contenuto del loro carattere. Questo Parlamento ha sempre condannato fermamente qualsiasi forma di violenza e di discriminazione e si impegna al rispetto dello Stato di diritto.

Inizieremo oggi la nostra plenaria – e poi avremo un dibattito su questo – con questo importante invito: voglio chiedervi di osservare un minuto di silenzio in ricordo di George Floyd e di tutte le vittime di violenza, di razzismo e di discriminazione. Grazie.

(Il Parlamento, in piedi, osserva un minuto di silenzio)

4. Mitteilung des Präsidenten

Presidente. – Colleghe e colleghi, vorrei ricordarvi che la sala Spaak 3 C050 è pienamente collegata all'emiciclo, al fine di consentire ai deputati che non trovano posto in Aula di partecipare ai nostri lavori.

I deputati il cui nome è nell'elenco degli oratori sono invitati a prendere posto nell'emiciclo, dove troveranno, nel posto che è stato loro attribuito, un cartellino con il loro nome e cognome. I deputati che non sono nell'elenco degli oratori saranno guidati dagli uscieri verso altri posti.

Vi informo che un registro delle presenze è collegato in entrambe le sale.

Vi ricordo, inoltre, che l'uso di maschere che coprono la bocca e il naso è obbligatorio. Gli oratori che preferiscono intervenire nel dibattito senza la mascherina saranno autorizzati a farlo per la sola durata del discorso.

Vorrei inoltre invitare i colleghi a inserire la carta di voto quando prendono posto, così da rendere più agevole il funzionamento dei microfoni e la loro identificazione.

Do il benvenuto alla Presidente della Commissione Ursula von der Leyen. Grazie per essere qui con noi.

Manon Aubry (GUE/NGL). – Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi d'intervenir en cette ouverture pour faire référence à la résolution de l'extrême droite déposée sur le débat qui va nous animer sur la mort de Georges Floyd, qui instrumentalise cette mort pour accuser nommément notre groupe politique et la France insoumise d'encourager et de perpétrer des actes de violence dans toute l'Europe.

Nous savons que la haine et la calomnie sont la marque de fabrique du Rassemblement national, mais j'espère pouvoir compter, ici, sur le soutien et la condamnation par chaque force républicaine de cette diffamation indigne. Cette manœuvre abjecte masque en réalité les actes glaçants des suprémacistes blancs et des racistes qui sont ancrés dans l'idéologie de l'extrême droite et du Rassemblement national depuis sa fondation.

Nous sommes fiers, au contraire, ici, d'être les héritiers de résistants communistes qui ont donné leur vie contre le nazisme, pendant que votre formation politique était fondée par un ancien SS pour que cette idéologie survive à la guerre. La violence est votre fonds de commerce, à l'extrême droite: celle des violences policières que vous couvrez, celle des groupuscules fascistes que vous couvez.

Votre violence nous rappelle l'amère certitude qui nous anime: là où il n'y a pas de justice, il n'y a pas de paix. Nous continuerons donc de marcher contre le racisme et contre vous, avec pour horizon la justice et la paix.

Ангел Джамбазки (ECR). – Г-н Председател, вземам думата по начина на водене на основата на член 157 и член 171 член от Правилника за дейността на Европейския парламент. Г-н Председател, остро възразявам срещу начина, по който е разпределено времето за изказване. За толкова важни дебати като бъдещето на Европа, като сделката за Брексит, като транспорта, на групата на Европейските консерватори и реформисти са отделени четири минути.

За четири минути, г-н Председател, ако трябва да ги разпределям, на всички колеги трябва да им дам по 17 секунди изказване. Това е проформа дебат. Вие сте пръв сред равни и Вашата задача е да осигурите възможността на всеки един европейски представител да се изкаже, да защити своето мнение, защото това е работата на представителите – да говорят.

Знам, че има тези, които не искат да чуят част от колегите. Знам, че има тези, които не приемат част от колегите, но трябва да имат свободата да го кажат. На левицата на комунистите ще кажа да престанат да злоупотребяват и да търсят политически дивиденди от полицейско насилие или от вандализъм и грабежи.

Presidente. – Ricordo che io devo garantire, insieme alla collaborazione dei presidenti dei gruppi, l'esercizio del diritto di parola.

Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana (Verts/ALE). – Monsieur le Président, je tiens tout d'abord à remercier toutes les personnes qui, en Europe, ont manifesté leur solidarité.

En ce qui me concerne, je souhaiterais vous informer, ainsi que les collègues, que j'ai été victime de violences policières de la part de la police belge. Je considère cela comme un acte discriminatoire à tendance raciste.

Hier, en sortant de la gare du Nord, j'ai vu neuf policiers harceler deux jeunes Noirs. J'avais mon téléphone en main, j'ai fait une photo de la scène avec mon téléphone, ce qui est légal. Les policiers se sont dirigés vers moi, ils m'ont arraché mon téléphone des mains. Quatre des neuf policiers armés m'ont brutalement poussée contre le mur, ils ont violemment pris mon sac à main, ils m'ont plaquée au mur, jambes écartées, et un policier voulait me palper et me fouiller. Ils m'ont traitée de façon humiliante.

Quand j'ai dit au policier que j'étais députée au Parlement européen, il ne m'a pas crue, alors qu'il avait en main mes deux passeports, à savoir mon laissez-passer du Parlement européen et mon passeport allemand. Il m'a ensuite demandé la carte de résidence de la Belgique. Je la lui ai donnée. J'ai pris dans mon sac mon badge et j'avais le badge autour de moi.

J'ai porté plainte aujourd'hui car on ne peut pas laisser passer ces violences policières. Cette expérience, à l'heure où le monde entier a vu les conséquences fâcheuses de la brutalité policière, est pour moi traumatisante, mais je suis là, bien que j'aie passé toute la nuit ici au Parlement pour écrire, et je n'ai pas eu le courage de sortir avant 6 heures du matin. J'étais ici hier, on peut le vérifier avec nos badges.

Nous devons donc prendre des mesures concrètes pour bon nombre de personnes qui ne sont pas ici et qui n'ont pas pu échapper à la violence policière.

Presidente. – Grazie onorevole per la sua segnalazione. Naturalmente le siamo vicini in questo momento. La invito a venire nel mio ufficio per raccontarmi nei dettagli quello che è avvenuto e poter chiedere un chiarimento alle autorità belghe. Credo che dovranno delle spiegazioni. La ringrazio.

Philippe Lamberts (Verts/ALE). – Monsieur le Président, chers collègues, comme président du groupe Verts-ALE, auquel appartient Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana, mais tout simplement aussi comme citoyen de l'État belge, je voudrais vous dire mon indignation face aux faits dont a été victime notre collègue.

M^{me} Fofana n'a commis aucun délit. Si elle a été molestée par une escouade de policiers, c'est tout simplement parce qu'elle a pris en photo ces policiers en train de molester deux jeunes. Ceci, n'en déplaise aux partisans de l'État policier, est légal en Belgique et doit le rester. Et je ne peux m'empêcher de penser que la couleur de la peau de notre collègue n'est pas étrangère au fait même qu'elle ait été interpellée et à la brutalité et au manque de respect qu'elle a subis.

Nous savons tous combien est difficile et exigeant le métier de policier, mais c'est précisément parce que la police est un des bras par lesquels l'État utilise et exerce son monopole de la violence légitime que toutes celles et ceux qui en portent l'uniforme doivent en tout moment faire preuve de retenue et de discernement. C'est à ce prix que le respect de toutes et tous leur sera acquis. Aussi, il est juste que nos sociétés se lèvent en masse contre les violences policières qui gagnent en ampleur et en intensité, et ce d'autant qu'elles frappent en particulier les personnes de couleur ou encore celles et ceux qui se lèvent contre l'ordre établi.

Quel que soit le statut de la victime, et Pierrette l'a très bien dit, des faits comme ceux d'hier sont intolérables. Aussi, Monsieur le Président, je vous demande, en notre nom à tous, de protester avec vigueur auprès des autorités belges et d'exiger que toute la lumière soit faite sur ces événements et que des sanctions appropriées soient prises.

Presidente. – Grazie presidente, raccolgo il suo invito.

5. Genehmigung des Protokolls der vorangegangenen Sitzung: siehe Protokoll

6. Zusammensetzung des Parlaments: siehe Protokoll

7. Zusammensetzung der Ausschüsse und Delegationen: siehe Protokoll

8. Tagungskalender: siehe Protokoll

9. **Berichtigung (Artikel 241 der Geschäftsordnung): siehe Protokoll**
10. **Verhandlungen vor der ersten Lesung des Rates (Artikel 72 GO): siehe Protokoll**
11. **Delegierte Rechtsakte (Artikel 111 Absatz 6 GO): siehe Protokoll**
12. **Unterzeichnung von nach dem ordentlichen Gesetzgebungsverfahren angenommenen Rechtsakten (Artikel 79 GO): siehe Protokoll**
13. **Delegierte Rechtsakte (Artikel 111 Absatz 2 GO): siehe Protokoll**
14. **Durchführungsmaßnahmen (Artikel 112 GO): siehe Protokoll**
15. **Weiterbehandlung der Standpunkte und Entschlüsse des Parlaments: siehe Protokoll**
16. **Vorlage von Dokumenten: siehe Protokoll**
17. **Anfragen zur mündlichen Beantwortung (Einreichung): siehe Protokoll**
18. **Arbeitsplan**

Presidente. – Il progetto definitivo di ordine del giorno fissato dalla Conferenza dei presidenti, ai sensi dell'articolo 157 del regolamento, nella riunione di giovedì 11 giugno 2020 è stato distribuito. Sono state presentate le seguenti proposte di modifica.

Vorrei innanzitutto informarvi che ho ricevuto tre richieste di applicazione della procedura d'urgenza, a norma dell'articolo 163 del regolamento, per aggiungere i seguenti documenti legislativi relativi alla Covid-19, da adottare durante la seduta del 17 e 19 giugno. I documenti riguardano:

- la cooperazione amministrativa nel settore fiscale: rinviare determinati termini a causa della pandemia di Covid-19;
- il sostegno temporaneo eccezionale nell'ambito del FEASR in risposta alla pandemia di Covid-19;
- l'iniziativa dei cittadini europei: misure temporanee circa i termini per le fasi di raccolta, verifica ed esame in considerazione della pandemia di Covid-19.

Vi comunico inoltre che ho ricevuto una mozione di procedura, a norma dell'articolo 200, paragrafo 4, del regolamento, per aggiornare la votazione sulla relazione dell'onorevole Deli relativa alla conclusione dell'accordo euromediterraneo UE-Israele nel settore del trasporto aereo. Tale mozione sarà posta in votazione alla prima sessione di voto di oggi.

Inoltre, per quanto riguarda le due posizioni del Consiglio su «Istituzione di un quadro che favorisce gli investimenti sostenibili» e «Statistiche comunitarie in materia di migrazione e di protezione internazionale», vi informo che non è stata presentata alcuna proposta volta a respingere le posizioni del Consiglio e non sono stati presentati emendamenti ai sensi degli articoli 67 e 68 del regolamento. Gli atti proposti si considerano pertanto adottati.

A seguito delle consultazioni con i gruppi politici, desidero sottoporre all'Aula la seguente proposta di modifica del progetto definitivo di ordine del giorno.

Mercoledì

Le dichiarazioni del Consiglio e della Commissione sulla preparazione della riunione del Consiglio europeo del 19 giugno 2020 e la relazione dell'on. Piri e dell'on. Hansen sulle raccomandazioni per i negoziati su un nuovo partenariato con il Regno Unito di Gran Bretagna e Irlanda del Nord saranno esaminate in una discussione congiunta, che si terrà come secondo punto del pomeriggio dopo le dichiarazioni del Consiglio e della Commissione sulle proteste anti-razzismo in seguito alla morte di George Floyd.

Giovedì

Le tre dichiarazioni del Vicepresidente della Commissione/Alto rappresentante dell'Unione per gli affari esteri e la politica di sicurezza su:

— Ripercussioni della crisi della Covid-19 sulla politica estera;

— La legge della RPC sulla sicurezza nazionale per Hong Kong e la necessità che l'Unione europea difenda l'elevato grado di autonomia di Hong Kong;

— La risposta dell'UE all'eventuale annessione israeliana di territori della Cisgiordania;

saranno esaminate in una discussione congiunta, che si terrà come primo punto al mattino.

In seguito, vi saranno due brevi presentazioni delle seguenti relazioni:

— la relazione dell'on. Auštrevičius sulla raccomandazione del Parlamento europeo al Consiglio, alla Commissione e al vicepresidente della Commissione/alto rappresentante dell'Unione per gli affari esteri e la politica di sicurezza sul partenariato orientale, in vista del vertice di giugno 2020;

— la relazione dell'on. Picula sulla raccomandazione del Parlamento europeo al Consiglio, alla Commissione e al vicepresidente della Commissione/alto rappresentante dell'Unione per gli affari esteri e la politica di sicurezza concernente i Balcani occidentali, a seguito del vertice del 2020.

Tali relazioni saranno esaminate in una discussione congiunta, che si terrà come terzo punto al mattino dopo le dichiarazioni del Consiglio e della Commissione sulla lotta contro le campagne di disinformazione durante la crisi della Covid-19 e impatto sulla libertà di espressione.

Infine, desidero informarvi che, tenuto conto del numero di emendamenti presentati e del numero di richieste di votazione per parti separate e distinte, le votazioni sono distribuite in diverse sessioni di voto. Le informazioni relative alla distribuzione delle votazioni sono disponibili sul sito web del Parlamento europeo nella sezione «Informazioni e documenti prioritari».

(Il Parlamento accoglie le richieste)

Per quanto riguarda la mozione di procedura per aggiornare la votazione sulla relazione dell'onorevole Deli relativa alla conclusione dell'accordo euromediterraneo UE-Israele nel settore del trasporto aereo, ai sensi dell'articolo 196 del regolamento, oltre all'autore della mozione, possono intervenire unicamente un oratore contrario e il presidente o il relatore della commissione competente per il merito.

C'è qualcuno in Aula che desidera intervenire?

Do la parola all'on. Clare Daly che presenterà la mozione di procedura sull'aggiornamento della votazione.

Clare Daly, *on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group*. – Mr President, yes, I would like to support the request to postpone the vote on the ratification of the Euro-Mediterranean Aviation Agreement with the State of Israel. This ratification has no actual practical implications as the agreement has been provisionally applied since 2013, but to adopt it now in the context of the announcement by the new Israeli Government of their imminent plans to annex one third of the occupied Palestinian West Bank, in flagrant breach of international law, is of substantial symbolic and political importance.

To ratify this agreement now would send an inconsistent message from the European Parliament. It would be perceived as an upgrade in bilateral relations with the State of Israel, a positive for them and a complete shift in the EU's long-standing policy of linking any upgrade in the relationship with Israel to progress on conflict resolution. Clearly this latest move from Israel is only going to accelerate the conflict and the hardship on the Palestinian people. We should not normalise Israel's violation of international law by ratifying this agreement now, and I'm asking colleagues to please support the postponement of this decision.

Presidente. – C'è un oratore contrario? Do la parola al relatore.

Andor Deli, *Rapporteur*. – Mr President, as the rapporteur, I must say that this agreement has been waiting for its approval for way too long. We all know how difficult the situation in the aviation sector is right now, so agreements such as this one will bring, first of all, legal certainty to the workers and will also help businesses and help protect passengers. We mustn't forget about those either. All Member States have already ratified it so I cannot say anything but state as a fact that all Member States have already done it.

I think that what we are doing is the last checkpoint and I must say that the European Parliament mustn't become an obstacle. We are always part of the solution, not part of the problem. So please save this agreement and keep it on the agenda.

Presidente. – Grazie al relatore. C'è un oratore contrario? No, non c'è.

Andiamo avanti. Per quanto riguarda le tre richieste di applicazione della procedura d'urgenza ai sensi dell'articolo 163, che saranno votate oggi nella prima sessione di votazione, potranno essere ascoltati soltanto gli autori delle richieste di applicazione della procedura d'urgenza e un oratore contrario, nonché i presidenti o i relatori delle commissioni competenti.

C'è qualcuno in Aula che desidera intervenire sulla richiesta della commissione ECON?

Derk Jan Eppink (ECR). – Mr President, I was requested by the Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) to read out the following text concerning the urgent procedure:

On 8 May, the Commission adopted a proposal modifying the Directive on Administrative Cooperation by deferring by three plus three months the deadlines imposed on financial institutions and tax advisers to comply with their obligations under the Directive. The entry into application of this directive is currently on 1 July 2020. This proposal follows a consultation procedure. The Council cannot adopt its position at unanimity without having received the EP position. The Council processed this proposal very quickly with the Coreper general approach agreed early in June. The Secretary-General of the Council has sent a letter to the President of the European Parliament in which he kindly invites the European Parliament to deliver its opinion by the end of June. The ECON coordinators have therefore agreed to follow the urgent procedure under Rule 163 for this file.

Presidente. – Do la parola all'onorevole Manon Aubry per un intervento contrario alla richiesta della commissione ECON.

Manon Aubry (GUE/NGL). – Monsieur le Président, sous la pression du lobby bancaire, la Commission nous demande de voter en procédure d'urgence le report de mesures de transparence fiscale dont nous avons pourtant cruellement besoin pour lutter contre l'évasion fiscale.

Ce mépris du Parlement, qui est sommé de s'exprimer dans la précipitation et sans passage en commission sur un dossier aussi important est, je crois, et on doit le dire fermement, inadmissible. Notre groupe votera évidemment contre cette procédure d'urgence et interpelle l'ensemble des groupes aujourd'hui.

Cette manière de faire détestable est symptomatique de la place qu'accorde actuellement la Commission européenne à la lutte contre l'évasion fiscale. La crise sanitaire a bon dos, car elle n'est en réalité qu'un prétexte pour retarder encore et toujours la mise en place des outils qui permettraient enfin d'avancer. Selon la Commission, on doit donc en déduire qu'il est urgent d'attendre. Urgent d'attendre et de ne rien faire pour lutter contre l'évasion fiscale. Pourtant, les États membres doivent dépenser maintenant, tout de suite, des milliards d'euros pour sauver leur économie, pour sauver les emplois, pour sauver des entreprises et c'est plus que jamais le moment de récupérer les centaines de milliards d'euros perdus à cause de l'évasion fiscale partout en Europe. Les puissances de l'argent trouveront toujours de bonnes raisons de repousser toute régulation aux calendes grecques. L'urgence aujourd'hui n'est pas de faciliter leur travail. C'est nous, chers collègues, qui faisons la loi européenne, pas les lobbies européens.

Ce qui est urgent, enfin, c'est de commencer à résister aux lobbies et à agir dans l'intérêt des peuples européens.

Presidente. – C'è qualcuno in Aula che desidera intervenire sulla richiesta della commissione AGRI?

Do la parola all'on. Waitz per un intervento contrario alla richiesta della commissione AGRI.

Thomas Waitz (Verts/ALE). – Herr Präsident! Es steht außer Zweifel, dass es an der Zeit ist, auch unseren bäuerlichen Betrieben in Europa hier Unterstützung zukommen zu lassen – in dieser Krise und bei ihren Einnahmeausfällen.

An sich gibt es dazu aber die in unserer Gemeinsamen Agrarpolitik vorgesehene Krisenreserve. Allerdings haben sich sowohl der Rat als auch – denke ich – mein eigener Mitgliedstaat Österreich gegen die Auszahlung der Krisenreserve entschieden. Ich vermute, das liegt daran, dass Großbetriebe im Verhältnis hier deutlich weniger bekommen hätten als kleinere Betriebe. Aber ich kann hier nur vermuten, was der Hintergrund ist.

Was bleibt, ist, dass wir das Geld hier jetzt aus der zweiten Säule verwenden, dass wir das Geld verwenden, das an sich für Klimaschutz, für Umweltschutz und für die Unterstützung von regionalen Gemeinschaften vorgesehen ist. Das halten wir – auch von der Grünen-Fraktion – für zu kurz gegriffen.

Nachdem die Kommission aber klargemacht hat, dass, wenn wir Abgeordnete hier in diesem Haus Änderungsanträge stellen, dieses Ansuchen bzw. dieser Vorschlag zurückgezogen wird, was bedeutet hätte, dass unsere Bäuerinnen und Bauern gar keine Hilfe von der Europäischen Union bekommen, möchte ich trotz ernster Bedenken gegen dieses Dringlichkeitsverfahren meine Fraktion dazu aufrufen, nicht dagegen zu stimmen.

Presidente. – C'è qualcuno in Aula che desidera intervenire sulla richiesta della commissione AFCE?

Do la parola all'on. Vincze.

Loránt Vincze, Rapporteur. – Mr President, the pandemic has had a serious impact on ongoing European citizens' initiatives – organisers and citizens were not able to lead effective signature collection campaigns. We need to support them and make sure that the EU's main instrument for participatory democracy gets back on track as quickly as possible. Engagement of citizens is an essential tool to strengthen our Union.

I kindly request that the House accepts to follow the urgent procedure under Rule 163 to deal with the Commission's proposal, that we welcome, for a regulation laying down temporary measures concerning the time limits for the collection, verification and examination stages provided in Regulation (EU) 2019/788 on the European citizens' initiative in view of the COVID-19 outbreak, as agreed with the large majority of the political groups.

Presidente. – Grazie al relatore. Ci sono interventi contrari? No.

(L'ordine dei lavori è così fissato)

19. Die Protestkundgebungen gegen Rassismus nach dem Tod von George Floyd (Aussprache)

Presidente. – L'ordine del giorno reca la discussione sulle dichiarazioni del Consiglio e della Commissione sulle proteste antirazzismo a seguito della morte di George Floyd (2020/2685(RSP)).

Ricordo agli onorevoli deputati che per questa discussione non è prevista la procedura «catch-the-eye», né saranno accettate domande «cartellino blu».

Darei la parola, ringraziandola per la sua presenza, alla ministra Brnjac, a nome del Consiglio.

Nikolina Brnjac, President-in-Office of the Council. – Mr President, thank you for inviting the Presidency to share its views on the crucial topic of racism. The brutal killing of George Floyd was shocking and it has provoked a tide of emotions and protest, not only in the United States but around the world.

I would like to start by using this forum to express, on behalf of the Croatian Presidency and of the Council, my deepest condolences to the family and friends of George Floyd. Let me say loud and clear that we stand in solidarity with victims of racial discrimination across the world. Black lives do matter and systematic racism and discrimination have no place in our society.

The events that triggered the recent protests raised, first and foremost, the issue of police treatment of African-American people and, more broadly, their place in society. Because of each country's history and social and political context this situation cannot be transposed to Europe one to one. Equality, human dignity, respect for human rights, together with tolerance, gender equality and the prohibition of discrimination are founding values of the European Union.

Among the tools we have to fight racism, the main one is the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, which protects citizens against any discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, ethnic origin and religion or belief. The Racial Equality Directive, as the first new-generation equal treatment instrument extending legal protection against discrimination beyond the grounds of gender, is the key instrument at EU level. Not only did it pave the way for extending protection to new grounds and fields, it changed the European human rights infrastructure forever by requiring all Member States to designate national equality bodies to promote equal treatment.

The Presidency is strongly committed to fighting racism. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to announce the marking of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of this crucial legislative instrument, organised by the Croatian Presidency and in cooperation with the European Network of Equality Bodies, the Commission and the Council on 29 June, the exact date of the adoption of the directive by the Council.

The EU has so far developed a robust legal framework, including specific legislation on combating intolerance and hatred, such as the 2008 Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia. In June 2016, the Council invited Member States to ensure the effective transposition and implementation of the Framework Decision and other relevant hate-crime laws at national level. In addition, it asked all Member States to develop effective methods to report and ensure proper recording of hate crimes.

In conclusions adopted in October 2017, the Council also welcomed the measures coordinated by the Commission's High Level Group on combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance. All these countermeasures need to be accompanied by anti-racist education and youth work and, more precisely, the need to develop democratic resilience, tolerance and conflict-resolution skills in the learning process.

To sum up, we have the tools, legislation, knowledge, education, counter-narratives, but also condemnation of any form of racially motivated violence, hate speech and discrimination. At the same time, however, we in Europe must be vigilant in the face of a worrying increase in the number of manifestations of hate speech and racism affecting minorities.

The Fundamental Rights Agency report, 'Being Black in the EU', released in November 2018, revealed the unacceptable challenges black people still face in our countries. The inclusion of black people is hampered by several obstacles: discrimination against them during their job search, mismatch between individuals' educational level and their current jobs and access to housing. We are therefore compelled to take such matters extremely seriously. It is our obligation to lead an uncompromising fight against racism in our Union.

The European Union is deeply committed to fighting all forms of discrimination within its borders as well as in the world at large. In March 2019, the Council adopted EU human rights guidelines on non-discrimination in external action. This provides guidance to enhance the effectiveness of EU human rights policy in combating discrimination on any grounds, including race, and to increase the visibility of awareness of EU values and action in combating discrimination in its external action.

Abuse of power has to be denounced and combated everywhere. Societies which pride themselves on representing the rule of law, democratic principles, fundamental freedoms and human rights should set an example in this respect. All societies must remain vigilant against the excessive use of force and ensure that incidents such as the killing of Mr Floyd are addressed swiftly, effectively and in full respect of the rule of law and human rights.

We trust in the ability of the American people to come together to heal as a nation and to address these important issues. Racism is not just a problem in the United States, as I said, and as the protests in many European countries and across the world have shown. The responsibility for combating racism rests with all of us: politicians, teachers, civil servants, students, parents, policemen, citizens. With all of us.

Ursula von der Leyen, *President of the Commission*. – Mr President, I do not know what it is to be black. I do not know what it is to be black, or a member of any minority, be it ethnic, religious or sexual, in the places I've lived.

Je n'ai jamais fait l'expérience d'être traitée différemment pour la seule raison de mon apparence. Je ne sais pas ce que c'est que d'être traitée avec soupçon jour après jour dans la rue ou en faisant mes courses, à la recherche d'un emploi ou d'un nouveau logement, comme notre collègue nous l'a tout juste raconté. C'est incroyable! La plupart d'entre nous dans cette salle ne le savent pas, mais nous savons une chose: beaucoup de gens, eux, le savent et ils nous disent à pleine gorge que nous tolérons le racisme depuis beaucoup trop longtemps. Cela doit cesser.

Mesdames et Messieurs les députés, les gens qui manifestent dans nos rues, dans nos pays, des deux côtés de l'Atlantique et dans le monde entier élèvent leur voix, désireux de se faire entendre. Il est grand temps de faire plus qu'écouter, plus que condamner, il est temps de parler du racisme ouvertement et honnêtement et voilà pourquoi je tiens à vous remercier d'avoir inscrit ce point à l'ordre du jour de la session plénière et de l'avoir mis à la première place de votre session.

Honourable Members, as a society, we need to confront reality. We relentlessly need to fight racism and discrimination: visible discrimination, of course, but also more subtle racism and discrimination – our unconscious biases. All sorts of racism and discrimination! In the justice system and law enforcement; in our labour market and the housing market; in education and healthcare; in politics and migration.

We should join forces at all levels: European, national, regional, local, public and private, business and civil society, and each of us individually, as citizens, to build a Europe that is more equal and more humane, more fair. And let me be very clear: in our Union there is no place for racism or any kind of discrimination. This is for sure.

(Applause)

And honourable Members, together, we need to answer difficult questions: why do racism and discrimination endure in our societies? Why are there political parties supporting xenophobia and racism that win elections? Why are members of ethnic and religious minorities underrepresented in political, social and academic institutions – and overrepresented in poverty, illness and law-enforcement statistics? What can we do in the fields of education, employment, healthcare, housing and more, to build an open, fairer and more conscious society? What can we do so that our institutions better represent the diversity of our European societies?

This is not the work of a sectoral policy, of a single person, or of a single Commissioner. This is why I am here, as President of the European Commission. I want to get to the bottom of these questions.

Next week, we will have a structured debate on racism in the College and let us look around here in this very Chamber. The diversity of our society is not represented and I will be the first to admit things are not better in the College of Commissioners or among the European Commission staff. And this is why I say we need to talk about racism and we need to act. It is always possible to change direction if there is a will to do so.

Let me take one small example of a small step in the right direction that I witnessed when I was Defence Minister in my home country. At the time, in the German armed forces, a recruiting system had been in place for decades that always favoured the same. We had some excellent candidates who would bring valuable assets to our armed forces – sometimes rare assets, like speaking Arabic or Farsi – and yet, somehow, those assets were not valued. Not at all. And in a mission abroad, such skills could save comrades' lives. But at the time, the attitude was: 'Ah, but the system does not allow for this and we have never done this before.' But then, analysis and reflection started and finally led the German armed forces to change the recruiting system and it was for the better of the German armed forces, it was for the better for society! It has now become a fairer system for those soldiers, so we can change if there is the political will behind it. There is a way to do it.

We need to talk about racism with an open mind. The good news is: we do not start from scratch. In the European Union, discrimination is prohibited at the highest possible legal level: I mean our Treaty, our Charter of Fundamental Rights, both on grounds of race and ethnic origin. We also have European laws against racism, ethnic discrimination and hate speech: our Racial Equality Directive; our Framework Decision on combating forms of expressions of racism and xenophobia, to name just a few. We have cooperation tools involving experts from all Member States, a High-Level Group on combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, and a European Network of Equality Bodies. Here again, to name just a few.

And we have European funds. But we need to try harder.

I am glad to live in a society that condemns racism. But we should not stop there. If we encounter it, we must sound the alarm and act immediately. And we must be aware that vigilance and awareness begin on a very small scale, with each and every one of us. Awareness includes examining ourselves. Awareness includes speaking up in cases of discrimination. Awareness includes questioning privileges we may take for granted, which are anything but.

The motto of our European Union is: 'United in diversity'. Our task is to live up to these words, and to fulfil their meaning, and this is why I am looking forward to listening to you for a better Europe. United in diversity. *Unie dans la diversité. In Vielfalt geeint.*

Isabel Wiseler-Lima, au nom du groupe PPE. – Monsieur le Président, se lever, s'insurger, refuser de toutes ses forces avec l'esprit, le cœur et les entrailles toute forme de racisme. C'est ce que je ressens, mais c'est aussi à mes yeux notre devoir de députés au sein de cet hémicycle. C'est pourquoi il était si important d'avoir un texte commun pour parler d'une seule voix haute et forte de ce qui est essentiel. Notre refus et notre condamnation absolue du racisme, notre solidarité avec tous ceux qui subissent et souffrent de discriminations, un message fort du Parlement européen.

La mort violente de George Floyd a ravivé, à travers le monde entier, le besoin d'affirmer le refus du racisme et le refus de l'abus de la force policière. Ce mouvement de toutes les couleurs et rassemblant tellement de jeunes donne espoir pour l'avenir. Mais je voudrais aussi exprimer mon admiration pour tous ces autres officiers de police qui font leur travail de manière exemplaire et pour qui être policier n'est pas seulement un métier mais une vraie vocation.

Quant à notre histoire, nous n'allons sûrement pas la réécrire et si nous pouvons être fiers de nombreux aspects, nous ne pouvons pas en tant qu'êtres humains, non, nous ne pouvons pas ne pas aussi avoir honte.

Cette honte est évidente, quand nous pensons aux camps de concentration de la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Elle doit être tout aussi évidente quand il s'agit des bateaux remplis d'esclaves.

Fiers, je crois, nous pouvons l'être des valeurs qui fondent de notre Union européenne, des règles que nous nous donnons pour aujourd'hui et pour un meilleur avenir.

Encore faut-il que le quotidien y corresponde, que nous nous donnions tous les moyens de mettre en œuvre une politique qui saura donner à tous, sans aucune discrimination, les mêmes opportunités et éradiquer le racisme.

Iratxe García Pérez, *en nombre del Grupo S&D*. – Señor presidente, «No puedo respirar». Las palabras de George Floyd durante una larga agonía de más de ocho minutos y 46 segundos no solo son el grito de un instante, sino la injusticia y la realidad de nuestra época. ¿Por qué la violencia policial asfixia más a los negros que a los blancos? ¿Por qué la crisis sanitaria y socioeconómica de la COVID-19 asfixia más a los negros que a los blancos? ¿Por qué el cambio climático asfixia más a los negros que a los blancos?

Rosa Parks acabó en la cárcel por negarse a ceder su asiento a un blanco y no quedarse en la parte de atrás del autobús.

Martin Luther King pagó con la muerte una vida dedicada a terminar con la discriminación racial en los Estados Unidos. Pero la desigualdad y el dolor causados por la discriminación no han impedido que décadas después sus sueños sigan vivos: el grito por la igualdad y la justicia social de los millones de personas que, en las últimas semanas, en todas las calles del mundo, nos han devuelto la esperanza. Una esperanza que pide compromiso. Y, como representantes de la ciudadanía europea, tenemos la obligación de erradicar el racismo estructural todavía latente en nuestras ciudades y en nuestros pueblos.

Resulta inaceptable que, desde el año 2008, esté bloqueada en el Consejo la Directiva antidiscriminación. Veo aquí a la comisaria Helena Dáí. Espero tener con ella una buena cómplice para conseguir que esta cuestión se desbloquee, porque necesitamos instrumentos legislativos para poder acabar con el racismo, también en Europa, en un momento en el que renacen partidos políticos en Europa que se declaran racistas.

Sabemos que los pueblos que no conocen su historia están condenados a repetirla. Una ciudadanía sometida a discriminación por su color de piel, sexo, religión, está condenada al fracaso. Solo podremos alcanzar el progreso de nuestras sociedades si antes garantizamos que todos los seres humanos sean libres e iguales. Y, gracias a que las voces de millones de ciudadanos y ciudadanas nos han recordado que las vidas negras importan, desde la Unión Europea debemos hablar alto y claro: «Quiten para siempre las rodillas blancas de los cuellos negros». Al fin, iguales.

Dacian Cioloș, *au nom du groupe Renew*. – Monsieur le Président, chers collègues, *Black lives, all lives matter*. La mort de Georges Floyd a été terrifiante. Ce crime brutal a prouvé que, dans nos sociétés, il existe encore un manque réel de respect pour la vie humaine.

Mais nous devons être honnêtes, le racisme n'est pas un problème exclusivement américain, c'est aussi un problème européen. Ce qui se passe aux États-Unis avec Georges Floyd, l'agressivité de sa mort et le manque de respect pour la vie humaine que cela reflète devraient nous permettre de regarder plus attentivement dans notre cour européenne. Avec des racines socio-historiques différentes, le racisme et la discrimination existent à l'ouest comme à l'est de notre Union.

Trop souvent, la peur de l'autre s'accompagne de discriminations profondes, structurelles, institutionnelles, des inégalités socio-économiques qui finissent par nuire à l'ensemble de notre société. Et malheureusement certains politiciens jouent aussi avec cette peur pour entretenir ce sentiment et l'utiliser à des fins électorales. Une société dans laquelle on doit avoir peur si on est différent des autres n'est pas une société qui permet l'épanouissement humain.

L'Europe que je souhaite est une Europe qui fait de la diversité un atout et une force d'évolution. Il ne suffit pas de légiférer le respect pour la diversité, la non-discrimination, mais il faut surtout la cultiver, non pas l'imposer par la force, mais la cultiver avec bon sens. Je crois qu'avant tout nous devons commencer par nous-mêmes et, au nom de mon groupe politique, je voudrais proposer que les trois institutions européennes travaillent ensemble sur cette question. Le Parlement, la Commission et le Conseil doivent s'asseoir autour d'une même table et se demander si nos institutions à l'intérieur reflètent suffisamment la diversité de notre Union.

Donc, je demande au Conseil, ainsi qu'à vous, Madame la Présidente, de soutenir l'initiative d'une task force sur ce sujet. Parce que nous devons contribuer à la construction d'une société inclusive, en commençant par nous-mêmes. Et quand nous aurons donné l'exemple, nous pourrions aussi demander aux autres de respecter ces principes.

Le racisme et la discrimination sont une partie honteuse de notre histoire commune et malheureusement aussi de notre présent. C'est notre devoir et notre responsabilité de nous assurer que le racisme et la discrimination ne feront pas partie de notre futur.

Susanna Ceccardi, *a nome del gruppo ID*. – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, la morte di un uomo in seguito a violenza merita giustizia. E così, giustamente, tutto il mondo, ha espresso il proprio cordoglio intorno alla morte di George Floyd.

Ma per la stampa internazionale e il *mainstream*, forse alcune vite valgono meno di altre. È il caso di David Dorn, che voglio ricordare, l'afroamericano di 77 anni, ufficiale della polizia in pensione, morto il 2 giugno, in diretta Facebook, mentre cercava di difendere il negozio di un amico dopo l'assalto dei manifestanti violenti a St. Louis. Anche lui era nero e innocente. Per la sua morte, però, nessuna marcia, nessuna protesta, né indignazione.

Le manifestazioni in tutta l'America sono diventate sempre più violente e sono dilagate anche in Europa. Alla furia contro i poliziotti si è aggiunta la furia iconoclasta contro le statue e i simboli del passato. Sono stati tacciati di razzismo Cristoforo Colombo, i leader confederati, Indro Montanelli, conquistatori del passato, addirittura il film «Via col Vento».

Abbattere delle statue non salverà il mondo dalla lotta al razzismo. Oltre al razzismo c'è una piaga dilagante che si sta diffondendo nel mondo e dobbiamo combatterla: è l'ignoranza e la stupidità di chi vuol cancellare la nostra storia.

Alice Kuhnke, *on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group*. – Mr President, a few days after the killing of George Floyd I was putting my youngest daughter to bed. She chatted away and then went silent and asked me: 'will they kill me too?'

Colonialism has defined American and European societies for centuries. It has created deeply rooted prejudices and inequalities that still prevail and de facto kill people. Of course, structural racism in the EU is different from the US. We don't have the same horrific history of slavery and lynching, but we do have documented atrocities in our colonial history, which still resonates today through discrimination and police brutality. In addition, we have a recent history of systematic persecution and mass murders of minorities, of Jews, of LGBTI persons and of Roma people, to name a few. No one is free unless all are free. We need to send a strong signal to the US, but also to sweep in front of our own door.

This Parliament and your Commission will define how the EU steps up to create a sustainable society that leaves no one behind. There can be no room for racism and discrimination. A first step would be to unblock the anti-discrimination directive that has been stuck in Council since 2008. Madam President, I call on you and the incoming German Presidency to take this historic opportunity for action. Tonight, I want to put my daughter to bed, and reassure her – 'you will be safe'. Because in the EU we refuse to be silenced by hate, by fear, by ignorance. I ask, on behalf of my daughter, if not now, when?

(Applause)

Hermann Tertsch, *en nombre del Grupo ECR*. – Señor presidente, cuánta soberbia europea se está escuchando aquí. Qué buenos somos los europeos. Qué malos. Qué buena ocasión para hacer una gran campaña, una gran operación anti-americana, que tanto nos gusta.

Les voy a leer una cosa escrita y dicha por un europeo. Por un europeo actual, un europeo que tiene aliados en esta Cámara y que tiene un miembro de su partido en esta Cámara. Es: «Son las bestias, las bestias carroñeras, víboras, hienas, bestias con forma humana que destilan odio, un odio perturbado, nauseabundo, como de dentadura postiza con verdín, contra todo lo que representa la lengua, la lengua catalana».

Esto está dicho por Torra. Torra es el presidente de la Generalidad. Torra es el presidente del partido del señor Puigdemont, que está aquí, en esta Cámara. Torra es un aliado del presidente del Gobierno Sánchez dentro de lo que es la legislatura actual. Aliado con los comunistas, aliado con los socialistas. Un racista que está gobernando parte de España contra los españoles. Eso pasa en Europa, no hay que irse a América.

En América hemos tenido un capítulo muy trágico. El 25 de mayo murió, por una acción criminal de un policía, un negro; un negro que había huido de la policía, que tenía muchos antecedentes, que había estado en la cárcel... Ese negro murió, y de repente ha desatado una oleada de racismo, de racismo contra el sistema americano. Una oleada de odio hacia lo que es la nación norteamericana, utilizada políticamente contra los Estados Unidos y contra su presidente, contra el cual se ha hecho una operación de *fake news* terrorífica. Y, ahora, otra manipulación más.

Younous Omarjee, *au nom du groupe GUE/NGL*. – Monsieur le Président, c'est l'honneur de notre Parlement européen d'ouvrir cette session plénière par ce débat et, au nom de tout notre groupe, je vous en remercie.

Un fait divers tragique est devenu un événement politique majeur. Les huit minutes glaçantes de l'assassinat de George Floyd ont mis en mouvement des centaines de milliers de personnes à travers le monde pour faire reculer le racisme structurel et les violences policières. Et notre indignation cet après-midi dit combien ces actes offensent les valeurs que nous partageons, et c'est pourquoi nous nous tenons aux côtés de ce mouvement et des victimes du racisme et des violences policières pour qu'une réponse concrète soit donnée aux demandes de respect et d'égalité.

Devant cet événement, nous devons aussi regarder avec lucidité notre histoire et nous devons voir que cet événement renvoie à des siècles de domination des Noirs aux États-Unis et d'inégalité des conditions en Europe. Gardons à l'esprit que notre histoire européenne a toujours oscillé comme un pendule entre la barbarie et la civilisation, que c'est en Europe, malgré la raison, malgré les Lumières, que les pires théories de hiérarchisation des races sont nées pour justifier les conquêtes, pour justifier l'esclavage, pour justifier la colonisation et pour justifier l'holocauste. C'est donc, si nous voulons extirper le mal, tout un continent mental qu'il faut continuer à déconstruire et c'est aussi tout un système de violences économiques qu'il faut combattre parce que, nous l'observons, les inégalités sociales continuent toujours de recouper des inégalités raciales.

Dans ce travail que nous devons accomplir, Monsieur le Président, les symboles, comme la mémoire, ont leur importance, et c'est pourquoi nous devons proclamer depuis ce Parlement européen, comme le demande notre résolution, que l'esclavage est un crime contre l'humanité, et ensemble, faire acte de civilisation.

Laura Ferrara (NI). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, la brutale uccisione di George Floyd ha sollevato in tutto il mondo un'onda di indignazione, di rabbia e di protesta. Quanto accaduto a George Floyd non è purtroppo un episodio isolato e di fronte alla violenza del razzismo non si può restare indifferenti.

Occorre affrontare questo fenomeno con franchezza, senza ipocrisia, e bisogna contrastare tutte le forme di razzismo, quelle più evidenti e violente, ma anche quelle meno evidenti e per questo più insidiose. E il riferimento va a quel razzismo che si nasconde dietro la compassione o che si cela nell'approccio caritatevole o nell'ostentare anche una superiorità morale, tradita poi da una concezione utilitaristica di coloro che hanno la pelle nera. Atteggiamenti tutti che offendono la dignità umana.

Nella lotta contro questo fenomeno abbiamo ancora molte battaglie da vincere, da quella culturale contro ogni forma di pregiudizio verso gruppi sociali a quella politica, per garantire a tutti il pieno godimento dei diritti in materia di lavoro, di istruzione, di sanità, di giustizia e di partecipazione politica e sociale. È questa la risposta ad ogni forma di disparità di trattamento che ci si attende dalle istituzioni europee e dagli Stati membri.

Esteban González Pons (PPE). – Señor presidente, escuchándonos a todos, todos somos antirracistas. Me alegro. Los racistas siempre son los otros. Pero el rostro de George Floyd es un espejo que refleja a aquel que se mira; y los campos de concentración en los que se exterminaron millones de judíos hace 75 años están en Europa.

El racismo no se cura solo con leyes; el racismo no se cura con propaganda; el racismo no se cura derribando estatuas; el racismo no se cura insultando a los policías; el racismo no se cura cerrando los ojos; el racismo no se cura con racismo.

Solo cuando toda iglesia, toda mezquita, toda sinagoga, sean mi iglesia, mi mezquita y mi sinagoga, habremos curado el racismo. El racismo se cura con educación y con cultura. El racismo es la pandemia más antigua que sufre la humanidad. Llevamos siglos sufriendo esta pandemia y aún no ha llegado el día en que hemos decidido someter definitivamente a cuarentena a los infectados por racismo, invertir lo que sea necesario en diseñar una vacuna.

IN THE CHAIR: MAIREAD McGUINNESS

Vice-President

Evin Incir (S&D). – Fru talman! En människas hudfärg, födelseland och religion är aldrig ett hot. Hotet stavar rasism, rädsla och okunnighet. Mordet på George Floyd är inte en isolerad händelse i USA. Vi har även fall på vår kontinent. "Black lives matter"-demonstrationerna spred sig som en löpeld i solidaritet med alla svarta som dagligen utsätts för strukturell rasism i USA. Men demonstrationerna bottnar också i en frustration över den strukturella rasism och diskriminering som svarta personer, migranter och andra grupper utsätts för även i vår union.

Vi ska dock veta att den strukturella rasismen inte alltid uttrycks genom dunkla rasteorier. Snarare syns den i det vardagliga. I samtalet med samhällsinstitutioner, i samtalet med kollegorna, på skolorna. Våra medborgare förtjänar bättre. Vårt EU-motto "förenade i mångfalden" kan inte bara innebära en nationell mångfald, det måste innefatta andra grunder också. Det måste innefatta alla människor i vår union. Det är dags att inte bara prata antirasism. Det är dags att agera antirasist genom att rösta ja till resolutionen här i parlamentet, men också att rådet antar förslagen och att kommissionen implementerar dem.

Samira Rafaela (Renew). – Madam President, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, Mitch Henriquez, Adama Traoré: many have fallen victim and many will follow if we do not act. I stand with everyone who is protesting against police violence, systematic injustices, discrimination and institutional racism. People demand action from our own institutions and our own Member States.

Haven't we learned from history? We hear that we need to embrace progress, but if my ancestors would see society now, would they see real equality and true respect for human dignity? 'United in diversity' is what we say in the EU, so let's walk the talk. We need a fundamental change in our institutions so that they represent all of Europe's citizens. A new generation of Europeans wants a seat at the table. They will show up, they will be loud, and they will break through. Black lives matter.

(Applause)

Jérôme Rivièrè (ID). – Madame la Présidente, Madame von der Leyen, l'instrumentalisation de la mort d'un homme, aussi tragique soit-elle, pour imposer la fausse idée d'un racisme systémique en Europe est immorale et scandaleuse.

Débattre dans cette enceinte du décès dramatique de George Floyd, c'est importer sur notre continent des sujets, des luttes et des concepts qui lui sont étrangers. La ségrégation raciale est le contraire de l'esprit de notre continent et de la France en particulier. Plutôt que de déboulonner des statues et de débaptiser le nom des rues, comme cela a été fait à quelques centaines de mètres de ce Parlement, je préfère célébrer l'histoire de mon pays. Plutôt que de condamner sans cesse nos ancêtres, je préfère rappeler que la civilisation européenne a été la première du monde à abolir l'esclavage quand il se pratiquait partout. Plutôt que d'accuser, comme en France, les forces de l'ordre de racisme, je préfère les soutenir face aux multiples agressions barbares de plus en plus violentes dont elles sont les victimes. Plutôt que de classer les gens en fonction de leur race, je préfère ne reconnaître que la citoyenneté.

L'indignation à géométrie variable qui pleure la mort d'un homme parce qu'il est noir, mais ne s'émeut jamais du racisme anti-blanc, est injuste et scandaleuse. Ce sont tous les racismes qui doivent être condamnés.

Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana (Verts/ALE). – Madame la Présidente, pour ma part en tant que femme noire en Europe, je n'ai pas seulement pris conscience de la réalité raciste chez nous, j'ai vécu la réalité raciste de l'Europe pendant les 40 dernières années. Ce qui se passe dans le monde aujourd'hui est le résultat de structures colonialistes d'oppression qui sont en place depuis des centaines d'années. Il ne s'agit pas d'individus, il s'agit d'un racisme systémique et institutionnalisé qui vise les Noirs et toutes les minorités ethniques.

Je ne veux pas entendre parler seulement de la formation policière, je veux qu'il y ait des conséquences aux violences policières. Je veux que justice soit rendue pour tous ceux qui ont perdu leur vie, ceux qui ont perdu des proches et tous ceux qui ont été traumatisés par la police. Il ne s'agit pas seulement des Noirs européens mais de tous les Noirs et de tous leurs descendants, les *people of color*, y compris ceux qui continuent à se noyer en Méditerranée en raison d'une politique d'immigration raciste. Je veux être claire: *all Black lives matter*, qu'ils soient citoyens européens ou non, *Black trans lives matter*, *Black women lives matter*, nos vies comptent.

En tant que professeur, j'ai vu comment l'âme des enfants a été détruite par le racisme latent ou bien par le racisme ouvert, par ce mot, le mot «haine», qui rentre dans l'âme de l'enfant et qui aboutit finalement à des échecs. Il est temps de renouer le dialogue afin de ne laisser personne en rade et, comme l'a dit Martin Luther King, nous devons apprendre à vivre ensemble comme des frères, sinon nous allons tous mourir comme des idiots ensemble.

Ангел Джамбазки (ECR). – Г-жо Председател, г-жо Председател на Европейската комисия, всички животи имат значение. Да отричаш това и да твърдиш, че животът само на една раса има значение – това, уважаеми левичари, е расизъм. Да твърдиш, че една раса е виновна за всичко – това също е расизъм. Да твърдиш, че само една раса е важна, отново, познаяте, и това е расизъм. Изберете си, уважаеми колеги, коя теза защитавате.

Или трябва да уважавате всички животи, или защитавате по същността си расистки тези. И нещо повече, когато използвате една смърт и една трагедия, за да трупате политически капитал – това, уважаеми, е лицемерие. И това отдавна е похват на комунисти, на левичари и на анархисти. И ви напомням на всички вас, които носите тези фланелки, че когато размахвате знамето със сърпа и чука – червеното знаме – трябва да се замислите колко човешки животи погуби комунизмът и болшеvizмът в целия свят, когато така възхваляват.

Когато оправдавате вандализма – това също, уважаеми, е расизъм и лицемерие. И още нещо важно искам да ви кажа. Когато моите предци са се борили срещу турското робство в България, те са се борили честно с оръжие в ръка, а не са грабили магазини и не са крадяли обувки и дрехи.

Вменяването на вина заради произхода е нечестно, непочтено и нередно, уважаеми. Вменяването на вина на една раса е изключително подло политическо действие. Опитвате се и да накарате някого да се чувства виновен заради произхода си. Не, това няма да се случи. Аз не се срамувам от своя произход и от своята нация. Напротив, гордея се с древната и велика нация, на която принадлежа.

François-Xavier Bellamy (PPE). – Madame la Présidente, George Floyd est mort interpellé par trois policiers dans le Minnesota et trois semaines plus tard, on dégrade des statues de Winston Churchill, de Charles de Gaulle et nous voilà ici, je vous entends ici accuser toute l'Europe de racisme.

Mais que nous est-il arrivé? On ne combat pas l'injustice par une autre injustice. On ne rend pas justice à George Floyd en mettant en accusation tous les policiers et gendarmes d'Europe. La justice commence par refuser tout amalgame. Chaque année, des policiers, des gendarmes donnent leur vie pour notre sécurité et pour notre paix et ils n'ont pas droit à un seul mot, ici. Est-ce que leur vie à eux ne compte pas? On ne combat pas le racisme en alimentant par des fictions dangereuses la poudrière du ressentiment. Comment peut-on affirmer que partout dans nos pays, l'Europe applique des politiques de racisme structurel dans tous les domaines? Je ne laisserai pas insulter l'immense effort des citoyens qui, partout en Europe, contribuent aux politiques éducatives, sociales, migratoires les plus généreuses au monde – et ce n'est pas une question théorique, parce qu'en entrant dans cette spirale du ressentiment, vous ajoutez aux réserves de violence qu'accumulent depuis longtemps ceux qui rêvent de fracturer nos sociétés. On ne combattrà pas le racisme en ressuscitant des divisions raciales. L'histoire de l'Europe est faite de grandeur, elle est faite de faiblesses aussi, comme toute l'histoire du monde, mais notre civilisation a formé depuis 24 siècles l'idée de l'universel. Avons-nous oublié cela en votant aujourd'hui une résolution qui sépare les vies noires des autres? Un Parlement authentiquement européen ne devrait avoir qu'un seul combat: toute vie compte.

Kati Piri (S&D). – Madam President, this month we have seen thousands of people taking to the streets demanding justice for the killing of George Floyd. A police officer pressed his knee into Mr Floyd's neck for a breath-taking eight minutes as he lay pinned on the ground in handcuffs, and Mr Floyd's killing is not an exception. He's one out of many unarmed black men who has died at the hands of law-enforcement officers.

People are rightfully demanding justice for Mr Floyd but also for all the other innocent lives that have been taken before. The call for justice against institutional racism is not new, but the movement is stronger and broader than ever. Young, old, black, white: everyone is demanding systemic change.

The call for racial justice quickly moved to Europe too. This highlights that racism is not exclusively an American problem. Also in Europe, racial discrimination against people of colour runs deep in our institutions and societies. Black lives matter, and that means we have work to do as well.

And lastly, our healing cannot succeed without acknowledgment. We need to recognise the injustices of our dark colonial past and how it still influences much of today's society, and especially the lives of black and brown people. The protests fill me with hope and together we have the momentum to change.

Hilde Vautmans (Renew). – Madam President, can you imagine what it does to a mother's heart when your daughter asks you every day, 'Mama, I don't want to have my colour. I want to be white. Can you make me white?' Can you imagine? Well I can, because it happens to me. I have a beautiful black husband and two beautiful coloured children, so this debate is a very important one. Let the death of George Floyd be a game-changer. Let us fight against racism, online hate speech, discrimination, all together and harder than we did in the past.

Europe is the most progressive continent on human rights, on values, but Ms von der Leyen, over the last days, I was a little bit disappointed. Today you made a very strong statement, but these last days the Commission and the Council were too silent. That's why we speak out loud today, why we vote a strong resolution, to come out and speak and not speak but to act, so that every child of every colour can grow up safe in Europe. Black lives matter.

(Applause)

Nicolaus Fest (ID). – Frau Präsidentin! Struktureller Rassismus in Europa, das scheint mir etwas seltsam.

Wir sehen illegale Einwanderer in europäischen Städten für ein dauerhaftes Bleiberecht demonstrieren. Das wirkt nicht unbedingt wie struktureller Rassismus. Wir sehen in Dijon Straßenschlachten zwischen Maghrebinern und Tschetschenen, ohne dass die Polizei eingreift. Auch das wirkt nicht wie systematische staatliche Unterdrückung. In vielen deutschen, belgischen, niederländischen oder französischen Städten traut sich die Polizei kaum noch in bestimmte Migrantenviertel. Auch das wirkt nicht wie struktureller Rassismus.

Und obwohl hier überall behauptet wird, es gebe diesen Rassismus, wollen weiterhin Hunderttausende Afrikaner nach Europa. Aber es gibt ein ganz einfaches Mittel, wenn Sie wirklich glauben, dass Europa vom strukturellen Rassismus beherrscht wird: Stoppen Sie den *Global Compact on Migration* für mindestens zehn Jahre, bis Sie sichergestellt haben, dass dieser angebliche strukturelle Rassismus aus den europäischen Institutionen verschwunden ist.

Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield (Verts/ALE). – Madame la Présidente, la mort de George Floyd le 25 mai à Minneapolis nous indigne et cela est normal. Elle fait partie d'une liste, une très longue liste de morts de personnes de couleur noire aux mains de la police américaine depuis des décennies et pour lesquelles le plus souvent justice n'a pas été rendue.

Oui, à bien des niveaux, il existe un racisme structurel dans le système américain, mais un racisme systémique existe aussi dans nos démocraties européennes, nos sociétés. Des citoyens européens souffrent quotidiennement dans leur accès au logement, à l'éducation, à l'emploi du fait de la couleur de leur peau, de leur origine, de leur origine supposée, de l'origine de leurs parents. Il n'y a pas assez de diversité dans nos institutions, quasiment pas, nous le voyons dans ce Parlement. Il n'y a pas assez de diversité dans nos administrations. Mais surtout, certains de nos concitoyens subissent tous les jours, souffrent tous les jours lors d'interpellations par la police. Ils souffrent de violences policières parfois, de contrôles au faciès répétés, et nos gouvernements continuent d'ignorer l'aspect systématique de ces incidents.

Il y a eu en France, en Allemagne, en Belgique et ailleurs des morts comme celle de George Floyd et il y en aura encore si nous refusons d'affronter ce problème et d'oser poser la question de ces interpellations quotidiennes.

Željana Zovko (PPE). – Madam President, Nassim Nicholas Taleb, a Lebanese-American writer, describes in his books the asymmetries in our daily lives. He recalls that violent revolutions with good intentions in order to change dictatorship have sadly resulted in today's cases of active slave markets, such as in Libya, and the persecution of innocent minorities like the Yazidis and Christians in the Middle East.

All minorities who did not have a police or state force supporting their rights had to pay the price for changing systems that resulted in uncertainty. We have seen similar cases after wars and revolutions when totalitarian ideology replaced the menace of the other and persecuted those who did not fit in and obey, sadly, in my part of the world. Persecution led to the slaughter and suffering of thousands of people.

Sadly, the brutal killing of George Floyd spoils the American dream that we had and we witnessed this with our own eyes via modern technologies. This woke us up and we understood that similar cases need a quota for every group, religion and member of society in order for everybody to feel equal and not like second-class citizens.

For many years, we have tried to explain this to our partners outside Europe. We need to export the European way of thinking and show that the EU has the best model as a peace project in the last 70 years. So let us really export the European model to the whole world and try to be honest with ourselves because that is the only one that has worked so far.

Tonino Picula (S&D). – Madam President, I want to join a clear condemnation of the excessive use of force on George Floyd that resulted in a tragic outcome. He, unfortunately, is not the only victim of the systematic, deeply-rooted, institutional racism that has not disappeared for a century and half since the abolition of slavery and 50 years since the civil rights movement.

Condemning racism in America is not complete if we do not look at everything we, as the European Union, do wrong. The Non-Discrimination Directive has been blocked in the Council for 12 years. There is a proposal for a further reduction of the Justice, Rights and Values Fund, and school curriculums are often selective and overlook the less glorious part of the past.

In the context of foreign policy and transatlantic relations, the European Union should remain committed to improving its partnership with the United States, which will be based on the rule of law, human rights and common understanding of democracy. It's time to clearly condemn all those within our society who are actively working on additional divisions for political opportunism and together stand up for a Europe united in diversity but also equality for all.

Monica Semedo (Renew). – Madam President, I want to share with you an essay I wrote when I was eight years old. 'I am Monica Semedo. I have beautiful black skin. My family came from Cape Verde to Luxembourg. We almost had to go back to our island because we should be expelled from the country. In the beginning, I was at the Saint-François Institute. Now, our mother found a beautiful large apartment. I am happy with everyone.' My teacher laughed when I said, 'We're all just Luxembourgers!'. She added, 'We are all just human beings!'

However, colour is not invisible. I have experienced racism. I've been surrounded by 40 neo-Nazis shouting at me. I frequently get stopped at airports. Once I was even separated from my friends for hours. I hear prejudiced remarks about black people, and then: 'But you're an exception!' And I say 'No, I'm not!' This is why we must support this resolution and call on the Council to unblock the anti-discrimination directive. The time for silence is over.

(Applause)

Tom Vandendriessche (ID). – Voorzitter, *all lives matter*, elk mensenleven doet ertoe. Wat tot voor kort een normale uitspraak was, is nu taboe geworden. De elite van journalisten, politici en professoren proberen een Amerikaans probleem met politiegeweld te projecteren op Europa en te misbruiken voor hun eigen linkse politieke agenda.

Maar dat gaat helemaal niet op. Wij hebben geen probleem van politiegeweld tegen zwarten, wel integendeel! Agenten worden hier net excessief aangevallen door allochtonen. Wij hebben geen probleem van structureel racisme, integendeel! Nergens op de wereld bestaat er een plek waar mensen zoveel kansen krijgen. We zijn niet geprivilegieerd omwille van onze blanke huidskleur, integendeel. Onze samenleving is het resultaat van het harde werk en het genie van onze voorouders.

Juist die samenleving willen ze kapot maken: links handelt uit zelfhaat en wil onze geschiedenis en onze cultuur uitwissen. Wij gaan ons nooit verontschuldigen om wie we zijn. Wij gaan nooit toestaan dat mensen moeten knielen omwille van hun huidskleur, want dit is puur anti-blank racisme. Wij maken deel uit van een unieke beschaving en daar mogen we met recht en reden trots op zijn.

(The debate was suspended)

20. Erste Abstimmungsrunde

President. – Colleagues, before we continue with the speakers' list, I need to make an announcement, which is to open the first voting session. We will vote on the files as indicated on the agenda adopted today at the opening. The voting session will open from now, at 16.30, until 17.45. The same voting method will be used as during the May I part-session.

For the two immunity reports, voting will be by secret ballot. Members will be able to cast their vote in the usual way, but the ballot paper that they receive for signature will not display the way they voted, only the fact that they have voted. All of the votes will be held by roll-call. Explanations of vote may be submitted in writing. Exceptionally, only explanations of vote containing a maximum of 400 words will be accepted.

I now declare the first voting session open, which runs until 17.45, and the results will be announced at 20.15. I do apologise for that brief interruption to this important debate.

21. Die Protestkundgebungen gegen Rassismus nach dem Tod von George Floyd (Fortsetzung der Aussprache)

President. – We now continue with the debate on the Council and Commission statements on the Anti-racism protests following the death of George Floyd (2020/2685(RSP)).

Othmar Karas (PPE). – Frau Präsidentin! Das Bild des rassistischen Mordes an George Floyd lässt mich nicht los – und sollte uns alle nicht loslassen. Rassismus ist ein globales, ein gegenwärtiges Problem.

Auch bei uns finden Formen des Rassismus statt, findet soziale Ungleichheit statt: Armut, Diskriminierung, Gewalt, auf dem Wohnungsmarkt, am Arbeitsplatz, in Bildungssystemen, bei ungleichen Löhnen, im Verhalten gegenüber Flüchtlingen, Ausländern und Minderheiten. Wir haben alle Hände voll zu tun, wenn wir unsere Grundrechtecharta in Europa und in der Welt ernst nehmen, als Handlungsauftrag verstehen: die Würde des Menschen, den Respekt, das Diskriminierungsverbot, die liberale Demokratie, die Rechtsstaatlichkeit, den Minderheitenschutz.

COVID-19 verstärkt die soziale Ungleichheit auf längere Sicht, daher muss der Aufbauplan, der *Recovery-Plan*, auch ein Kampf gegen die soziale Ungleichheit in Europa sein, denn nur so können wir die Demokratie stärken und damit auch den Kampf gegen Rassismus und soziale Not.

Sylvie Guillaume (S&D). – Madame la Présidente, je partage ce que de nombreux orateurs précédents ont dit de leur dégoût à l'égard du racisme et de la discrimination qui durent depuis de trop longues années, avec des indicateurs qui continuent d'être extrêmement inquiétants, comme la hausse du nombre de décès pendant une interpellation ou encore du nombre d'enquêtes pour injures ou discriminations.

Du coup, je me centre sur trois sujets. D'abord, le texte phare, la directive contre les discriminations, la directive anti-discrimination, qui est encastrée depuis onze ans car le Conseil ne veut pas évoluer au prétexte sans doute que lutter contre toutes les discriminations serait trop cher. Il faut que cela cesse, soit avec des États membres qui mesurent mieux la gravité des enjeux, soit avec une nouvelle proposition législative.

Ensuite, le texte de notre résolution manque, de mon point de vue, de référence à l'égard des acteurs indispensables que sont les ONG de lutte contre le racisme et les discriminations. Je crois qu'en les soutenant mieux, on pourrait éviter certaines dérives communautaristes.

Enfin, le texte aborde la question des statistiques ethniques. Je crois qu'il faut être très prudent, de ce point de vue, d'abord pour un souci constitutionnel dans certains États membres et aussi parce que ces statistiques sont des photographies à un moment T qui ne peuvent à aucun moment se substituer à de réelles propositions économiques et sociales de réduction des inégalités.

Irène Tolleret (Renew). – Madame la Présidente, mes chers collègues, je me félicite que nous ayons ce débat aujourd'hui.

Dans cette assemblée, trop souvent, des partis néofascistes ou néonazis, pourtant incroyablement minoritaires, profitent de n'importe quel débat pour déverser leur rhétorique de haine de l'autre.

Le débat d'aujourd'hui est donc très important pour rappeler un fait capital à nos concitoyens victimes de racisme en Europe: nous, eurodéputés, nous sommes là pour eux! Nous sommes là pour contrer ce discours de division. Nous sommes là pour parler plus fort que les mini-Trump, les demi-Bolsonaro, les ventriloques de Le Pen ou les Salvini au petit pied. Vote après vote, débat après débat, résolution après résolution, nous ne lâcherons pas une virgule, pas un mot, aux idéologies racialistes et xénophobes.

Le projet européen s'est construit sur la réconciliation avec l'autre, l'Europe est le meilleur bouclier contre les droites extrêmes racistes. Au centre de notre identité, nous reconnaissons la fierté et la force de notre diversité. Non au racisme, unis dans la diversité, nous sommes plus forts, nous sommes plus beaux.

Věra Jourová, Vice-President of the Commission. – Madam President, thank you very much for this very important debate. I think it was very obvious from what the President of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said in her opening speech: no place for racism in our Union.

The Commission condemns all instances of racist or xenophobic hatred and violence. But let me also be clear that we condemn violence in general, wherever it comes from, and that the police needs to do its demanding job but always within clear limits of the law. Racial or ethnic profiling and selective approaches should not be tolerated. And, by the way, our Fundamental Rights Agency already published, I think two years ago, very useful guidelines which would serve as a training for the police and for the armed forces to avoid this kind of treatment.

Yes: black lives matter because all lives matter. Everyone, black, white or any other race or nationality, deserves the same chance to be able to participate and pursue happiness in our social environment. We all should be able to say to our children and grandchildren: 'do not worry, nobody will kill you because of the colour of your skin'.

But this debate is also about where we are in Europe with racism and xenophobia, and we have a lot of data, for instance, from the already mentioned Fundamental Rights Agency in its latest report which brings clear evidence that people with minority backgrounds continue to experience harassment, violence and ethnic and racial discrimination in different areas of life in the EU.

Indeed, As Members said several times here, we have strong legislation but the legislation cannot do the whole job. We have legislation at the highest possible level, as President von der Leyen mentioned, the Charter of Fundamental Rights. We have 20 years since the adoption of the Racial Equality Directive and over 10 years after the adoption of the framework decision on racism and xenophobia.

We have strong legislation and the situation is still worrying, remains worrying. We indeed need to promote and to get adopted the Equal Treatment Directive, which was mentioned here many times. It's a shame, I would say, that this directive waits 12 years for adoption and I fully rely on my colleague, Helena Dalli, who was here a while ago, that she will be very determined to convince the Member States to take a unanimous decision, because this this directive requires unanimity.

The legislation itself is so important, its implementation and proper enforcement, but we need much more, because what's our problem? It's deep-rooted prejudice and thinking grounded in stereotypes. We need awareness-raising, we need education, we need culture and we need equality bodies, which were strengthened by our legislation in the last mandate and which should do the good job.

We need trust from the people belonging to minorities to report on the cases of harassment and violence against them. They do not trust, they do not report and next week we will also update our strategy on implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive to encourage victims to report. But we should do much more not to have the victims. It's late to respond only with criminal justice.

We have problems in all the Member States. I would say this is a pan-European problem but with country-specific symptoms. We only have 15 Member States at this moment which have a strategy against racism. We have to talk seriously about that; it has to be changed. We also had to work much more with the digital world because we saw a lot of increase of hatred online. We have quite efficient instruments against hate speech and we have the platforms cooperating, but we need to do much more in this direction.

This year, as you know, as per the work programme of the Commission, we want to uphold our European Charter of Fundamental Rights by adopting the strategy on charter implementation. We will also update the strategies on Roma inclusion and LGBTI equality later this year. And, if you noticed, also in the proposal for the EU New Generation budget, there is a very clear line that it must have social dimension and nobody should be lagging behind, and everybody should get the chance to avail themselves of EU funding. We will have the European Social Fund, which is also hopefully well equipped to help minorities.

We cannot trivialise the matter. This is not about which political colours we are wearing, but about very basic human rights, the right to be treated equally, regardless of colour of skin, our religion or sexual orientation.

We politicians should be put more under pressure. We politicians and opinion leaders who have the influence on what society thinks and how the people approach matters related to minorities, we have to refrain from spreading racially charged hatred for political gains and invest in long-term education and culture and do many more long-term measures.

As Ursula von der Leyen said, I can also confirm I don't have a clue how it feels to be black. I have never experienced any kind of discrimination. That's why, whenever I go to the Member States and I speak, for instance, to young Roma people, I always ask those who managed to study at secondary school, who managed to study at university. My question is: 'how did you manage that', because I know that their starting line is so difficult, much more difficult than the starting line of my children or the children of many of us here.

And they always tell me there were three moments: 'at some moment I realised I do not want to live the life of my parents. I want to do something more. I want to get out of the trap of, usually, poverty', poverty was the problem. The second very important thing and condition: 'I needed to find a helping hand'. Those who managed always found a helping hand. In their local community it was the mayor, it was the NGO, it was the teacher or director of the school. They could not manage without the help.

So, zero tolerance for discrimination and zero tolerance for racism cannot be enough. We have to take proactive actions and support people to get out of trouble.

Nikolina Brnjac, *President-in-Office of the Council*. – Madam President, this has been a useful and emotional debate. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to participate in it. I believe that our institutions are largely on the same line with regard to these important issues. Respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law are the very foundations of the European Union. The Council is committed to upholding these values in the EU's external relations, including with our like-minded partners such as the United States.

Let me assure you once again that the Presidency, and the Council as a whole, rejects any form of racism and racial discrimination and supports your fight to make sure our values endure. We have a solid legal framework in place which needs to be complemented by effective implementation, enforcement and targeted measures such as education, public debate and counter-narratives.

I can assure you that the Council will continue to follow this debate very closely and that I listened closely to your views today. We must hear the voice of young people peacefully demanding a better and more just world.

President. – The debate is closed.

The vote will take place on Friday, 19 June 2020.

Written statements (Rule 171)

Carlo Fidanza (ECR), *per iscritto*. – Dopo la morte di George Floyd tutti a dire "black lives matter", dimenticando che "all lives matter", tutti pronti a scagliarsi contro le polizie di mezzo mondo accusate di razzismo. Non una parola di condanna contro la feccia che con questa scusa ha devastato, saccheggiato e aggredito persone inermi con il solo torto di essere bianche. Nemmeno una parola sulle immagini di Digione dove bande di ceceni e maghrebini si sono scontrate con armi da fuoco. Nemmeno una parola per i barbari attacchi ai monumenti che rappresentano personaggi che hanno fatto la storia dell'Occidente. L'oscurantismo dei nuovi Talebani dell'antirazzismo non ha risparmiato Churchill, Cristoforo Colombo, Giulio Cesare, Indro Montanelli e persino Via col Vento e marche di cioccolatini. Una furia iconoclasta, sostenuta dalle più grandi multinazionali, dalle lobby apolide dei Soros, che serve ad annientare le radici della nostra civiltà e ad aumentare il nostro senso di colpa per favorire nuova immigrazione. Chi si oppone a questo disegno perverso è ovviamente un razzista fascista nazista. Deve averlo pensato anche quel fenomeno di Sergio Sylvestre, il cantante americano adottato dall'Italia, il quale troppo preso dalla voglia di imitare i *black power* si è persino dimenticato le parole del nostro inno nazionale.

Илхан Ключюк (Renew), *в писмена форма*. – 57 години след значимата реч „Имам една мечта“ на Мартин Лутър Кинг, произнесена от стълбите на Линкълн Мемориал, в която той призовава към световен мир и зачитане на правата на хората от всички раси, религии и държави виждаме, че расовият проблем в САЩ не е отстранен, въпреки положените усилия. Но Америка не е сама и не прави изключение в тази битка. За съжаление езикът на омразата, крайният национализъм и расизмът извират все по-често в нашите общества. В това число и в Европа – тази, която претендира, че е стожер на свободата, равенството и демокрацията. Могат да бъдат изтъквани редица причини, но е факт, че правораздавателните органи често проявяват апатията към проблема, особено когато крайният национализъм бива овластен, какъвто е случаят с моята страна България. Ето на това усещане за безнаказаност трябва да се сложи край, в противен случай няма да изкореним езика на омраза и расизма, а ще наблюдаваме безмълвно случващото се.

Gheorghe-Vlad Nistor (PPE), *în scris*. – Rezoluția pe care o dezbatem astăzi condamnă uciderea cetățeanului american de culoare, George Floyd, susține protestele pașnice antirasiste și reafirmă cu tărie valorile antidiscriminatorii ce animă Uniunea Europeană și statele membre. Un cadru instituțional pentru a dezbate aceste provocări contemporane este absolut necesar pentru ca asemenea evenimente să nu se mai repete; numeroase proteste au degenerat în violență și vandalism, abordări ce nu pot aduce schimbările pozitive pe care ni le dorim cu toții.

Continuarea proceselor educaționale prin care valorile pozitive pot fi conferite generațiilor tinere, recunoașterea și discutarea episoadelor negative petrecute în istoria recentă pe întregul mapamond și eforturile sincere și susținute ale instituțiilor europene de a eradica efectele nocive ale acestor evenimente sunt căile de urmat.

Trebuie dezavuate pornirile violente și distructive ale unor protestatari, ce, fie nu înțeleg că singura modalitate prin care putem îndrepta aceste injustiții istorice este respectarea legilor și proceselor democratice, fie sunt motivați de agende politice extremiste. Aceste reacții, plasate în afara cadrului legal, facilitează alunecarea către societăți mult mai inegalitare, intolerante și polarizate. Susțin procesul de vindecare a acestor răni adânci din societățile noastre prin măsuri echilibrate, adoptate și implementate în urma unor dezbateri serioase, nu sub presiunea momentului.

Sandra Pereira (GUE/NGL), *por escrito*. – Nos EUA, ondas de protesto têm ecoado um pouco por toda a parte. Vêm confirmar que mesmo na mais poderosa potência capitalista há resistência e luta! Ainda que persistam todas as incertezas e dificuldades em construir uma alternativa ao férreo domínio do partido bicéfalo de Republicanos e Democratas, é cada vez mais evidente que, se os de cima ainda podem, o campo dos que debaixo já não querem alarga-se.

Numa atitudine de condenação do racismo e da violência policial e de exigência de justiça perante o vil assassinato de George Floyd, os manifestantes (de todas as cores, origens e etnias, de todas as idades, mas sobretudo jovens) estão a condenar uma ordem social profundamente injusta e desumana, a expor ao mundo a mentira e a podridão da «democracia americana» e a pôr em causa o próprio sistema de exploração capitalista.

Estas manifestações aconteceram igualmente por toda a Europa, em parte em solidariedade com o sucedido nos EUA e condenando o racismo, mas também apontando o dedo à natureza discriminatória e exploratória do sistema capitalista no «Velho Continente» e, em particular, o da União Europeia.

Continuaremos a denunciar e a repudiar quaisquer expressões de racismo e a combatê-las firmemente.

Guido Reil (ID), *schriftlich*. – Selbstverständlich ist jede Form von Rassismus zu verurteilen. Und selbstverständlich ist der Tod von George Floyd zu bedauern. Jedes Leben ist schützenswert. Was aber gerade in den USA passiert und nach Europa übergeschwappt ist, geht am eigentlichen Problem vorbei. In den USA gehören über 40 Prozent aller Schwarzen der Mittel- und Oberschicht an. Sie sind kein Opfer der Gesellschaft. Die Zeiten, in denen die USA ein rassistisches Land waren, sind zum Glück vorbei. Schwarzen steht genauso wie Weißen der Weg an die Spitze der Gesellschaft offen. Condoleezza Rice, Colin Powell und natürlich Barack Obama sind nur einige Beispiele. Aus diesem Grund sendet diese Entschließung das falsche Signal. Die Behauptung, Rassismus gäbe es überall, ist nicht nur falsch, sondern auch zersetzend. Sie perpetuiert eine imaginierte Unmündigkeit und entlastet Menschen von ihrer Pflicht, ein eigenes Leben aufzubauen und selbstbestimmt zu leben. Die Linke, unterstützt von den anderen sozialistischen Parteien, missbraucht und instrumentalisiert den Tod von Floyd, um ihre eigenen politischen Zwecke zu verfolgen. Sie definiert schwarze Menschen als Opfer, die ihnen als williges Elektorat dienen. Zugleich versucht sie mit immer undemokratischeren Gesetzen, jede Debatte über die schädlichen Folgen der Massimmigration zu verhindern. Diese Entwicklung schadet Deutschland und der EU.

Sylwia Spurek (S&D), *na piśmie*. – To, co wydarzyło się w USA, to, co robi Orbán na Węgrzech, to, co mówi Prezydent RP w Polsce, ma to samo źródło – uprzedzenia, nienawiść, brak nowoczesnej, równościowej edukacji. Nie możemy stać bezczynnie, kiedy w Stanach Zjednoczonych Afroamerykanie są bardziej brutalnie traktowani i częściej giną z rąk policji, a rasizm nadal nie jest skutecznie zwalczany. Nie możemy stać bezczynnie, kiedy na Węgrzech odbiera się ludziom prawo do decydowania o swojej tożsamości. Nie możemy stać bezczynnie, kiedy Prezydent w Polsce nazywa ludzi ideologią, a ruch walczący o prawa człowieka porównuje do bolszewizmu. Fundamentalną wartością Unii Europejskiej jest równość. System praw człowieka jest częścią naszego DNA. Albo nauczymy się bronić tej wartości, albo Unia Europejska, o jakiej marzymy, jakiej chcemy, przestanie istnieć. Być może czas najwyższy na pytanie, czy edukacja, w szczególności edukacja obywatelska, antydyskryminacyjna, prodemokratyczna, nie powinna być po prostu wyłączną kompetencją Unii Europejskiej. Bo jak inaczej chcemy chronić ludzi przed dyskryminacją, wykluczeniem, przemocą, jeżeli nie mamy wpływu na to, czego europejscy obywatele i obywatelki uczą się w szkole, na to, jak szkolona jest europejska policja, prokuratura, sędziowie? Czas najwyższy na europejską edukację!

Monika Vana (Verts/ALE), *schriftlich*. – Wir müssen strukturellem Rassismus und Hass gegen Minderheiten auch in der EU den Kampf ansagen. Auch in der EU sind Polizeigewalt und Rassismus eine Alltagserfahrung schwarzer Menschen und anderer Minderheiten. Die EU ist gefragt, entschiedene Maßnahmen zur Bekämpfung von strukturellem Rassismus und Polizeigewalt vorzulegen. Verbale und körperliche Attacken auf Minderheiten sind Angriffe auf uns alle und wir müssen dagegenhalten. Rassismus und Hass auf Minderheiten dürfen nie wieder salonfähig werden. Wegschauen ist keine Option!

Bettina Vollath (S&D), *schriftlich*. – Am 25. Mai 2020 wurde der 46-jährige George Floyd brutal ermordet. Der Polizist, der über acht Minuten auf seinem Hals kniete und ihm die Luft nahm, wurde erst nach massivem öffentlichen Druck verhaftet. Floyds einziges „Verbrechen“ war es, in den USA eine schwarze Hautfarbe zu haben. George Floyd ist nur einer von vielen Namen, in den USA sterben jedes Jahr überproportional viele Amerikaner*innen mit dunkler Hautfarbe an Polizeigewalt. Aber auch wir in Europa leben mit zwei Pandemien: Der COVID-19-Krise und der immerwährenden Pandemie des Rassismus. Dieser greift tief in die Lebensrealität vieler Bürger*innen und unser Handeln ein. Und auch uns Politiker*innen muss bewusst sein: In der heutigen Welt muss jede*r von uns Verantwortung übernehmen und aktiv daran arbeiten, antirassistisch zu sein. Denn Schweigen und Nichtstun unterstützt nur rassistische Strukturen und „Gewohnheiten“, die heute noch präsent sind. Politik darf sich nicht aus der Verantwortung ziehen! Solange es rassistische nationalistische Politik gibt, die sich gegen Minderheiten, Migrant*innen und Geflüchtete stellt, trägt das zu einer Struktur des Leidens bei. #Blacklivesmatter ist mehr als ein Hashtag, es ist Aktivismus für eine lebenswertere, fairere Realität für unsere Mitbürger*innen mit dunkler Hautfarbe. Es braucht nicht nur Worte, sondern Maßnahmen wie eine verpflichtende Antirassismus-Bildung für alle Verantwortlichen. #blacklivesmatter. Today. Tomorrow. Every day.

Bernhard Zimniok (ID), *schriftlich*. – George Floyds Tod war ein vermeidbares Unrecht. Er hätte, wie in einem Rechtsstaat üblich, eine faire Gerichtsverhandlung verdient gehabt. Sein Tod rechtfertigt jedoch keine Gewaltausbrüche oder das Niederreißen von Statuen. Dass nun Geschichte umgeschrieben werden soll oder der westlichen Gesellschaft eine Kollektivschuld, beispielsweise für historische Begebenheiten wie die Kolonialzeit, untergejubelt werden soll, ist nicht akzeptabel. Gleiches gilt für die Tatsache, dass eine laute Minderheit ihre Ideologie einer stillen und teilnahmslosen Mehrheit aufdrücken will. Dagegen muss sich jeder anständige Demokrat wehren! Die Behauptung, dass die westliche Gesellschaft ein Hort des strukturellen Rassismus sei, ist blanker Unsinn. Das wird von den Linksextremisten als Vorwand benutzt, um unsere Kultur zu zerstören und unseren Widerstand gegen ihre antidemokratischen Bestrebungen im Keim zu ersticken. Nur, um ihre Utopie eines multikulturellen Staates ohne Grenzen zu etablieren. Wer sie dabei nicht unterstützt, wird als Rassist denunziert. Wir müssen unsere Kultur und die Wurzeln unserer Identität bewahren. Die ANTIFA ist eine Terrororganisation, die die Zerstörung der Demokratie, des Rechtsstaats und dessen Werte, wie die Meinungsfreiheit, zum Ziel hat. Sie gehört daher zwingend verboten, um die Gesellschaft zu schützen. Und dafür stehen AfD und ID – im Gegensatz zur allen anderen Fraktionen.

PRESIDENZA DELL'ON. DAVID MARIA SASSOLI

Presidente

22. Vorbereitung der Tagung des Europäischen Rates am 19. Juni 2020 — Empfehlungen für die Verhandlungen über eine neue Partnerschaft mit dem Vereinigten Königreich Großbritannien und Nordirland (Aussprache)

Presidente. – L'ordine del giorno reca, in discussione congiunta:

— le dichiarazioni del Consiglio e della Commissione sulla preparazione della riunione del Consiglio europeo del 19 giugno 2020 (2020/2656(RSP)), e

— la relazione di Kati Piri e Christophe Hansen, a nome della commissione per gli affari esteri e della commissione per il commercio internazionale, sulla raccomandazione del Parlamento europeo per i negoziati su un nuovo partenariato con il Regno Unito di Gran Bretagna e Irlanda del Nord (2020/2023(INI)) (A9-0117/2020).

Nikolina Brnjac, *President-in-Office of the Council*. – Mr President, the coronavirus pandemic continues to create extraordinary challenges for our societies. As we emerge from the height of the health crisis, we now face a different, yet pressing, task: creating the conditions for a successful economic and social recovery.

We need to support the sectors and regions most affected by the pandemic to kick-start the economy and lay the ground for a sustainable recovery across Europe. Yet we also need to ensure that other vital priorities for our Union, such as the green and digital transition, are met and matched by the right resources.

That is why the EU recovery plan, presented by the Commission at the end of May, is so important, and why it will be the main focus of our efforts in the weeks ahead. We will shortly be called on to agree not only on the instruments of the recovery, but on the entire Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the coming years, and this is no small task.

The Council and the European Council are fully mobilised behind this common effort. Members of the European Council will hold an orientation debate on the EU recovery package on Friday through video conference. The President of the European Council wants to give leaders an opportunity to discuss the various aspects of the overall packages and prepare the subsequent summit, which should, if possible, be a physical meeting.

While the President of the European Council launched the political consultations at the highest level, following the Commission's proposal, we also immediately started work in the Council. The Croatian Presidency has organised a series of meetings, both at technical and political levels, in order for the delegates to closely examine and present their views on the building blocks of the package. This technical and political work on the proposals is needed to pave the way for the leaders' discussion. These discussions in the Council have helped clarify many issues and were held in a positive atmosphere. Delegations are willing to look at both the MFF and the recovery plan as a package, taking into account the effects of this crisis.

Continuous cooperation with the European Parliament will remain crucial if we want the package to enter into force already in January 2021. The ambition is for the European Council to provide its political guidance to the Council before the summer break, which would allow us to promptly seek the European Parliament's consent. Let us be honest: this is a very ambitious approach. Positions are still apart on a number of issues, but together we have to make sure and do our utmost so that the MFF and the Recovery Instrument swiftly bring tangible positive effects for our citizens and businesses.

While the EU recovery package will be the main focus of the leaders' discussions on Friday, they will also touch upon other issues. In particular, let me note that President Michel will update the leaders on the state of play of the EU-UK negotiations on the future partnership. Unfortunately, so far we have not achieved as much as we had hoped for. That is the case in all four crucial areas: the level playing field, fisheries, governance and internal security, as well as foreign policy and external security, to which you rightly devote a section in your recommendation.

Since the UK Government has confirmed that they will not consider an extension of the transition period, what is ahead of us is about four months of further negotiation, taking into account the time necessary for a proper ratification process. The fact that we are left with so little time is not the choice of the Council, nor of the Parliament, but we have to respect it. The mandate and political declaration that are guiding our negotiator, as well as your resolution on the subject, are anchored into the situation created by the United Kingdom. The UK has a choice: either to preserve enough alignment with the Union and retain substantial access to the single market, or choose its own path – not only in terms of sovereignty, but also in regulatory terms, which would reduce the scope and the depth of the partnership that can be concluded.

We believe that the negotiating mandate, adopted by the Council last February and largely echoed by your resolution, provides for enough flexibility to find an agreement in the little time left. This is also why we support the decision of the negotiators to intensify the pace of negotiations over the summer so that, by October, we can see a draft partnership emerging.

Before I conclude, let me finally stress that, as also pointed out in your draft recommendation, we have causes for concern in the current implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement. Needless to say, progress in the partnership negotiations has to go hand in hand with progress in the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement.

Ursula von der Leyen, *President of the Commission*. – Mr President, the negotiations with the United Kingdom always promised to be difficult, and they have not disappointed.

On Monday, President Sassoli, President Michel, and I discussed the way forward with Prime Minister Johnson. The Prime Minister confirmed that he does not want to extend the transition period beyond the end of this year. We, on our side, have always been ready to grant an extension, but it takes two to tango. This means that we are now half-way through these negotiations with five months left to go, but we are definitely not half-way through the work to reach an agreement, with little time ahead of us.

We will do all in our power to reach an agreement; we will be constructive, as we've always been, and we are ready to be creative to find common ground where there seems to be none. What we are not ready to do is to put into question our principles and the integrity of our Union because it is our duty to protect the interests of the European citizens.

Michel Barnier has done an outstanding job over the last month and has explained many times why the four outstanding issues are so crucial. First of all, the level playing field. The fundamental issue at stake here is fair competition. We are ready and willing to compete with British firms. They are excellent and our firms are excellent too; but it cannot be a downward competition. Just think of labour standards or environmental protection. It should be a shared interest for the European Union and the UK to never slide backwards and always advance together towards higher standards.

Second, on fisheries: no one is questioning the UK's sovereignty in its own waters, without any question. But we ask for predictability and we ask for guarantees for fishermen and fisherwomen who have been sailing in those waters for decades. It is very clear that there cannot be a comprehensive trade agreement without fisheries, without a level playing field or without strong governance mechanisms. Governance may sound like an issue for bureaucrats but it is not. It is central for our businesses and our private citizens, both in the UK and in the European Union. It is crucial to ensure that what has been agreed is actually done.

Finally, on police and judicial cooperation: we want our citizens' liberties, fundamental rights and data to be safeguarded in all circumstances and this is why we expect a role for the European Court of Justice where it matters. These are objectives, not only in our discussions with the UK but in any relationship with any partner because these are principles at the heart of the European Union. Fair competition, rising social standards, the protection of our citizens and the rule of law, this is who we are and it is not going to change.

Honourable members, I am particularly glad for the unity that all institutions have shown and for this Parliament's full support throughout this process. This will be even more important than the next phase of the talks. No one can say with certainty where these negotiations will be at the end of the year, but I know for sure that we will have done everything to reach an agreement and to have a good start with the UK as a third-country neighbour.

Meine sehr geehrten Damen und Herren Abgeordneten! Unsere britischen Freunde sind leider entschlossen, einen Schritt zurückzugehen. Sie wollen die Europäische Union und den Gemeinsamen Markt verlassen. Wir werden weiter daran arbeiten, die wirtschaftlichen Folgen für unsere Union abzufedern, und gleichzeitig fordert uns die Gesundheits- und Wirtschaftskrise in einer noch nie dagewesenen Form heraus.

Die Europäische Kommission ist in die Verantwortung gegangen. Mit *Next Generation EU* haben wir einen ambitionierten, einen mutigen Vorschlag präsentiert. *Next Generation EU* ist ausgewogen, es hilft jenen, die viele Kranke und Tote zu beklagen haben, aber es hilft ebenso den Staaten, die indirekt schwer betroffen sind, weil Lieferketten gerissen sind, weil Fabriken stillstehen, weil die Arbeitslosigkeit steigt.

Next Generation EU ist aber weit mehr als ein Rettungspaket. Es ist ein Beschleuniger für Wissenschaft, innovative Forschung und Investitionen in Zukunftstechnologien. Wenn wir es richtigmachen, wird *Next Generation EU* nicht nur zur Erholung unseres Binnenmarkts führen, sondern seine Wettbewerbsfähigkeit und seine Innovationskraft voranbringen. Was uns wichtig ist, ist, dass wir damit die längst überfällige Modernisierung beschleunigen. Wir wollen nicht in den Zustand vor der Krise, sondern wir wollen nach vorne gehen in einer modernen Wirtschaft, in einer innovationsfähigen Wirtschaft, die uns nach der Krise stärker macht, als wir vorher waren.

Next Generation EU ist auch ein Vertrag zwischen den Generationen. Ja, es stimmt, wir müssen jetzt gewaltige Investitionen tätigen, um uns aus der Krise zu wuchten, aber wir bauen mit dem Geld ein besseres, ein nachhaltigeres und ein digitaleres Europa. Europa geht voran. Andere Regionen in der Welt verfolgen ganz genau, was gerade hier passiert, und auch deswegen haben wir *Next Generation EU* so ausgerichtet, dass es Europas Position in der unmittelbaren Nachbarschaft ebenso stärkt wie auf der großen Bühne. Wir haben jetzt die Chance und die Verpflichtung, ein Europa zu bauen, das besser in der Lage ist, den globalen Stürmen zu trotzen und künftigen Generationen eine sichere Heimat zu sein.

Meine Damen und Herren, ich hatte schon mehrfach die Gelegenheit, Ihnen den MFR und *Next Generation EU* zu erläutern. Das werden wir auch am Freitag im Europäischen Rat tun. *Next Generation EU* wurde in seinen Grundzügen positiv aufgenommen, auch die Reaktion der Märkte darauf war sehr positiv, und mir ist klar, dass es gleichzeitig sehr wichtig ist, dass wir diese Aufgabe angesichts ihrer Größe und Komplexität ausführlich erklären und ausführlich diskutieren, auch hier in diesem Haus.

Mir ist insbesondere wichtig: die Rolle des Europäischen Parlaments, das richtige Verhältnis zwischen nationalen Reformanstrengungen in den Mitgliedstaaten und unseren europäischen Prioritäten – insbesondere dem *European Green Deal*, der Digitalisierung und der Resilienz – und drittens die Bedeutung neuer Eigenmittel für die Union in einem fundierten Rückzahlungsplan. Es ist meine feste Absicht, mit Ihnen dazu im intensiven Gespräch zu sein. Wir müssen alle an einem Strang ziehen, wir können uns keinen Verzug leisten. Lassen Sie uns das gemeinsam anpacken für Europa!

Kati Piri, *Rapporteur*. – Mr President, 204 days: that is the time we have left to reach a deal on our future relationship with the United Kingdom. We are now halfway through the transition period, we have held four rounds of negotiations, and it seems we have reached a stalemate. What is needed now is an injection of new energy and dynamism: a paradigm shift in these talks. And although the joint declaration of last Monday didn't give us many clues, in this House we all hope that the high-level meeting did just that: create a new dynamism.

For this Parliament, a comprehensive agreement means guarantees on fair competition with clear social, environmental and labour protection, and this is what Prime Minister Johnson and the EU signed up to only months ago in the political declaration. None of this should be in any way controversial. With zero tariffs, zero quotas, comes – logically – zero dumping. An ambitious and comprehensive future partnership is in the best interest of both the UK and the EU citizens.

We, of course, welcome the latest enthusiasm and euphoria of Prime Minister Johnson and his drive to finalise a deal within six weeks – but the Prime Minister did not explain how. We very much look forward to hearing the details on that.

Over the past few months, the European Parliament has shown its commitment and has taken its responsibility in reaching this deal. With the UK Coordination Group, two lead committees and 17 opinion-giving committees, we have developed a unique and unprecedented procedure for the report, prepared by Christophe Hansen and myself, that reflects how serious we take our role as the European Parliament. Our President this week took part in the high-level meeting to also present our position, and I'm proud to say that Parliament stands united on a strong text with a clear political message. And that message is simple: yes, we want a deal, but we will not simply consent to just any deal. Our consent is conditional on the UK Government's adherence to its own commitments. The UK must respect the political declaration and ensure the full implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement.

Let me be very clear: the UK's expectation to keep the benefits and rights of a Member State, without agreeing to any obligations, is not realistic. It's only logical that, if you want to have access to the market of 450 million citizens, this will come with conditions. The UK Government made a conscious decision to leave the Single Market. We respect this, but so should the United Kingdom, and without a level playing field and fisheries, there cannot be a trade agreement.

I do not see a divide between the people of the United Kingdom and those of the European Union. The division I see is between those that have a vision and seek a comprehensive deal, and a UK Government that backtracks on its commitment and continues to put ideology over the interests of its own people. The way forward is clear: we stand united in our demand for an ambitious and comprehensive future partnership with clear conditions and red lines, as formulated. The European Union is united and continues to stand ready to negotiate in good faith: constructively, as an honest broker. Our chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, has our full support, and we hope that finally the time has come for Mr Johnson and the UK Government to join us and deliver. We are ready.

Christophe Hansen, Rapporteur. – Mr President, almost exactly four years ago, on 23 June 2016, the Brexit referendum took place in the United Kingdom. Since then, we have been treated to four years of drama, witnessing the UK's painful coming-to-grips with the reality of unwinding decades of membership of the largest single market in the world and, in my humble opinion, the best cooperation project – even with its imperfections – that mankind has so far created.

The Global Britain that Brexiteers dangled before the British people is no longer a viable project – if it even ever was – in a newly polarised world, where the institutions that underpin the multilateral order are being hollowed out and where protectionism is growing in the wake of the coronavirus. While the political Brexit happened last January, the economic Brexit still looms large at the end of this year, following the UK's ideological decision not to extend the transition period.

Our message for the ongoing negotiations is crystal clear: the European Parliament stands behind our chief negotiator, Michel Barnier. The UK claims to seek an agreement rooted only in precedent, yet their proposals in areas such as financial services or professional qualifications go well beyond what the EU has ever conceded in any other FTA. The UK refuses to engage with the EU on topics such as public procurement – notwithstanding commitments taken in the Political Declaration – and refuses to speak about SMEs, yet they do so with other negotiating partners, the latest example being the UK's objectives for negotiations with Australia, published today, and including government procurement and SME chapters. What a surprise!

Any agreement without robust guarantees for a level playing field or without an agreement on fisheries simply will not fly. And let's be clear: a level playing field does not mean a copy/paste of our rules and regulations, but rather that we take our common point of departure as a point of no regression, following which we jointly manage future divergence to guarantee equivalence, not necessarily identical rules for all players. We stand firmly behind the Commission's approach to press for a comprehensive agreement. We reject the UK's piecemeal, sectoral approach as it is well known that salami tactics lead to a cluttered spaghetti-bowl agreement. The implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement remains key and the European Court of Justice must remain the sole referee of EU law. Indeed, the EU is no less sovereign in its decision-making and decision-taking than the UK is.

Finally, allow me to thank my co-rapporteur, Kati Piri, for the excellent collaboration we have had in this exercise. I would also like to thank the 17 committees which gave an opinion for their valuable input. I sincerely hope that there will only be one last Brexit resolution: to consent to a balanced agreement no later than November this year. Personally, I remain confident that the legendary British pragmatism will prevail over ideology in the interest of all UK and EU citizens. The unilateral, staged introduction of border controls for EU goods coming into the UK, announced last Friday, to give corona-hit businesses time to adapt seems to indicate that. So let's use this new momentum very wisely.

Nicolae Ștefănuță, *rapporteur for the opinion of the Committee on Budgets*. – Mr President, compromise seems to mean that half a loaf is better than the entire loaf. It seems nowadays that that's the position of the UK, whereas before, half a loaf was definitely not better than the entire loaf. Prime Minister Johnson said yesterday, in a press conference, that he wanted a more dynamic nature to these negotiations. He wanted more 'oomph'. Well, that's just a metaphor for the UK's lack of cooperation in the last four rounds, the lack of transparency and also for its lack of commitment to the political declarations that were signed. Prime Minister Johnson: he who rides a tiger is afraid to dismount! Decisions have consequences, and the European Parliament is committed to protecting the best interests of its citizens.

The UK's participation cannot be a Swedish buffet. We cannot allow cherry-picking. We cannot allow a piecemeal approach. Such decisions have consequences. But no one will take away the UK's role in the unification of this continent. We all look around and know the fact that this Parliament is sadder without its British colleagues on the benches and we also know that four years ago Jo Cox was slain at the hands of a murderer, and Jo Cox said to us, 'that which unites us is more important than that which divides us'.

Pedro Silva Pereira, *relator de parecer da Comissão dos Assuntos Económicos e Monetários*. – Sr. Presidente, ao fim de vários meses, as negociações entre o Reino Unido e a União Europeia continuam sem avanços significativos nas questões mais sensíveis, fazendo ressurgir o cenário de um não acordo.

Nestas condições, não é aceitável nem responsável que o Reino Unido recuse qualquer extensão do período de transição e, ao mesmo tempo, não tenha uma atitude construtiva nas negociações e insista em não cumprir sequer os compromissos que assumiu na declaração política e no acordo de saída, em especial quanto ao estabelecimento de controlos fronteiriços na Irlanda do Norte.

Portanto, se o Governo de Boris Johnson quer realmente um acordo, a sua atitude negocial tem de mudar. O Parlamento Europeu apoia integralmente a equipa de Michel Barnier na procura de um bom acordo e deixa também claro o que não quer: o mau acordo que não salvasse o mercado único nem os nossos padrões ambientais, sociais e laborais.

A ameaça de um mau acordo e a ameaça de um não acordo são jogos perigosos que têm tudo para correr mal.

Kris Peeters, *Rapporteur voor advies van de Commissie interne markt en consumentenbescherming*. – Voorzitter, de tijd tikt, maar de vraag dringt zich op of er werkelijk een *affectio societatis* - de wil om duurzaam te onderhandelen en tot een resultaat te komen - aanwezig is. Zowel de Europese bedrijven als de werknemers verwachten een akkoord. Zeker nu een economische orkaan als COVID-19 door Europa en het bedrijfsleven waart.

Falen is geen optie! Voor mijn land alleen al staan tweeënveertigduizend jobs op het spel en voor de EU is dat 1,2 miljoen in het geval van een harde brexit. Het ontwerpverslag dat hier vandaag voorligt, kan en moet een akkoord faciliteren. Deze tekst geeft de principes voor een nieuw partnerschap weer.

Ten eerste wil ik benadrukken dat het terugtrekkingsakkoord allereerst duidelijk en in zijn geheel moet worden uitgevoerd. De kmo's moeten zekerheid krijgen. Ten tweede wil ik beklemtonen dat bij een nieuw partnerschapsakkoord de Europese interne marktregels gerespecteerd moeten worden. Ten derde moet de naleving van het akkoord blijvend zijn.

Collega's, we hebben nog slechts enkele maanden te gaan. Maar ik hoop van harte dat het noodzakelijke akkoord tussen de EU en het VK zal worden gesloten met een grote *affectio societatis*.

Johan Danielsson, *föredragande av yttrande från utskottet för transport och turism*. – Herr talman! Tack till Michel Barnier, som är här idag, för allt hans arbete. Det är helt centralt att vi håller oss lugna och tillsammans fortsätter att förhandla efter de mandat som vi tidigare har kommit överens om. Jag har varit ansvarig i transportutskottet för den här frågan. Det är helt klart att det är viktigt att vi får på plats ett avtal som garanterar fortsatta bra förbindelser mellan EU och Storbritannien.

Varje år sker det över 4 miljoner lastbilstransporter med gods till och från Storbritannien. Över 54 miljoner passagerare reser mellan EU och Storbritannien varje år. Så det har en helt central betydelse att upprätthålla de här gods- och passagerartransporterna. Men samtidigt är det ju så att Storbritannien har valt att lämna unionen, och då kan man inte behålla samma rättigheter utan några som helst skyldigheter.

Det vi måste säkerställa är ett avtal som säkerställer fortsatt bra förbindelser men som också garanterar oss att Storbritannien inte kan underminera våra goda arbetsvillkor, våra miljöstandarder och på andra sätt underbudskonkurrera med Europeiska unionen.

Pascal Arimont, *Verfasser der Stellungnahme des mitberatenden Ausschusses für regionale Entwicklung*. – Herr Präsident, cher Monsieur Barnier, cher Michel! Machen wir uns nichts vor: Dieser Brexit ist und bleibt ein gewaltiger historischer Fehler – er wird nur Verlierer kennen.

Wie so oft in der Geschichte wird sich zeigen, dass Trennung und Abspaltung nur Verlust bringen können. Nur die Zusammenarbeit über die Grenzen hinweg kann wirklichen Mehrwert für die Menschen in Europa bringen. Das haben uns die letzten 70 Jahre eindrucksvoll gezeigt.

Nun steht aber sogar ein ungeordneter Brexit ins Haus. Dieser ist sogar sehr wahrscheinlich geworden. Für diesen Fall möchte ich unsere kleinen und mittleren Unternehmen geschützt sehen, denn sie und ihre Beschäftigten können für diese Situation rein gar nichts. Diese kleinen Unternehmen können auch nicht so einfach – so wie die großen Player – schnell und flexibel auf sich verändernde Handelsbeziehungen reagieren. Wir brauchen also schnelle Hilfsmittel für kleine und mittlere Unternehmen im Falle eines harten Brexits, den niemand wünscht.

Im Dezember haben wir im Ausschuss für regionale Entwicklung für diesen Fall den Rückgriff auf den Solidaritätsfonds vorgeschlagen und auch befürwortet. Ich rufe daher die Mitgliedstaaten dringend dazu auf, unseren kleinen und mittleren Unternehmen diesen Rückgriff auf den Solidaritätsfonds zu ermöglichen und ihnen zur Seite zu stehen, falls der harte Brexit tatsächlich bittere Realität wird.

François-Xavier Bellamy, *rapporteur pour avis de la commission de la pêche*. – Monsieur le Président, la résolution qui vous est proposée contient le texte que la totalité des groupes parlementaires ont soutenu au sein de la commission de la pêche pour redire ce principe fondamental que Michel Barnier porte avec force dans la négociation: il ne peut y avoir d'accord avec le Royaume-Uni qui n'intègre pas un accord de long terme, équilibré, durable sur la question de la pêche, permettant l'accès aux eaux et aux ressources de manière réciproque entre les partenaires que sont désormais l'Union européenne et le Royaume-Uni.

C'est un enjeu économique et social majeur car des dizaines de milliers d'emplois sont en jeu. C'est un enjeu pour nos territoires qui vivent de cette activité, de ces savoir-faire exceptionnels, et qui pourraient être fragilisés par une sortie sans accord. C'est enfin un enjeu écologique car la politique commune de la pêche nous a permis, depuis des années, de mettre en œuvre avec les Britanniques une pêche qui respecte la biodiversité.

Nous devons maintenir ces règles communes, c'est dans cet état d'esprit que nous souhaitons continuer de travailler et je voudrais remercier encore toute l'équipe de négociation et tous les parlementaires, nos collègues, d'avoir intégré cette position à ce texte important.

Loránt Vincze, *rapporteur for the opinion of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs*. – Mr President, the United Kingdom should become the EU's strongest ally and partner. This is as yet more of an ambition than a reality, but we all can agree: today we look to the future. Our proximity, the values we share and the common challenges we face make mobility, security, justice and home affairs cooperation as vital as trade.

The safety and security of European citizens is essential for us; so is the protection of their personal data. The message of Parliament is clear: we cannot compromise on our values, the continued adherence of the UK to the European Convention on Human Rights and on the role of the European Court of Justice.

The fight against terrorism, cybercrime, and cross-border criminality is one of the success stories in EU-UK relations. This should be continued. But let us not forget: by its own decision the UK will continue as a third country in this cooperation. We must hope that on the other side of the Channel the sense of reality will overcome and we will be able to obtain the closest partnership possible for our citizens' benefit.

Danuta Maria Hübner, *Rapporteur for the opinion of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs*. – Mr President, it is good to see my good friend Mr Barnier again. I must say that for the last few months we – together with you, I think, Mr Barnier – have been disappointed with the lack of progress in the negotiations. We have been disappointed with the UK's continued and final refusal to extend the transition period to avoid the risk of a cliff edge in January and to ensure full and effective implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement on which future relations will be built, but we respect this choice.

Monday's political momentum and the decision to intensify talks in July is good news in this context. So now there is a physical space, and I personally believe also political space to finalise the process, but I also want to emphasise that what is at stake is the quality of our future relationship. The benefits of a single market cannot be reconstructed within even the most generous free trade agreement. Equivalence and voluntary regulatory cooperation on financial services cannot be put into a free trade agreement.

Let me finish by saying that London will continue as an important global financial centre. But at the same time it would greatly benefit from growing financial and capital markets in the European Union. So the best choice for completing the negotiations is to follow the path of a long-term cooperative strategy.

Gheorghe Falcă, *Raportor pentru aviz, Comisia pentru petiții*. – Domnule Președinte, dragi colegi, pentru mine, Brexitul a fost o greșală. În schimb, acordul poate să corecteze din această greșală. De patru ani, noi am arătat că suntem parte a soluției în această relație și așteptăm să vedem soluții și din partea Marii Britanii.

De patru ani, încercăm să găsim zona de compromis, dar de patru ani, garantăm cetățenilor Uniunii Europene din Marea Britanie că vom fi lângă ei, iar prin această rezoluție transmitem, încă o dată, că valorile noastre vor fi apărate, iar tot ceea ce înseamnă drepturile cetățenilor, atât ale celor europeni din Marea Britanie, cât și ale celor din Marea Britanie în Europa vor fi garantate de noi, de Parlament, de Consiliu și de Comisie. Mult succes pentru ceea ce înseamnă următoarele patru luni de zile.

David McAllister, *on behalf of the PPE Group*. – Mr President, it is now more than four and a half months ago since the United Kingdom decided to leave our European Union.

From the very beginning, we in Parliament's UK Coordination Group followed the negotiations for a new partnership thoroughly and sought to ensure a strong political consensus. We have closely been in touch with our chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, whom I would like to thank personally for the excellent cooperation. I also would like to thank Maroš Šefčovič, and we will all be seeing each other again in about half an hour's time for the next meeting of the UK Coordination Group.

This report incorporates the opinions of no less than 17 committees. This is unprecedented, and it delivers a clear and strong message of unity. That's why I would like to thank the rapporteurs, Kati Piri and Christophe Hansen, for their tireless work, but also the Chairs and the rapporteurs of all the opinion-giving committees.

Yes, indeed, the high-level conference decided that new momentum is required for the negotiations. The EU is ready to intensify the talks in July to create the most conducive solutions for concluding an agreement soon. This should be in the interest of both sides.

Iratxe García Pérez, *en nombre del Grupo S&D*. – Señor presidente, la mayoría de los diputados se han referido a las negociaciones del Brexit y, por lo tanto, creo que ha quedado un mensaje claro. Yo, en este sentido, deseo unirme a la apreciación del gran trabajo que está haciendo el señor Barnier y —como han dicho muchas de sus señorías—, evidentemente, tenemos que estar detrás de él en estas negociaciones, porque somos conscientes de que están en un momento fundamental.

Pero quiero referirme también al Consejo Europeo.

Señorías, el tiempo apremia. En la calle, la gente lo tiene claro. Y este Parlamento, también. Espero que los pocos Gobiernos reticentes en el Consejo también lo comprendan y lleguen a un acuerdo en julio, como muy tarde. No podemos irnos de vacaciones sin activar el plan de recuperación y acordar el presupuesto para que pueda empezarse a aplicar ya en enero. La cantidad propuesta por la Comisión, 750 000 millones de euros, es el mínimo. Lo mismo que la cantidad de 500 000 millones para subsidios.

Todos los organismos internacionales nos alertan de que no es momento de escatimar esfuerzos sino de invertir para reactivar la economía. Hasta nuestros compañeros conservadores y liberales que en 2008 abogaban por la austeridad reconocen ahora que sería un gran error. Está bien, porque rectificar es de sabios, y ahora es el momento de remar todos en la misma dirección. Podemos aprovechar este impulso para transformar nuestras economías y adaptarlas al nuevo contexto digital y a la emergencia medioambiental y garantizar una sociedad más justa, con políticas públicas más fuertes.

La ruta está clara: invertir en transición ecológica y digital para modernizar nuestras economías. Ahora falta que los Gobiernos en el Consejo tengan la visión y la valentía, porque donde no hay visión el pueblo sufre. Este Parlamento tiene la visión, y no vamos a ceder. Porque no podemos permitirnoslo y porque la ciudadanía no lo permitiría. Por eso, no vamos a aceptar un mal acuerdo en el Consejo. Y, además, porque tenemos que seguir insistiendo en el papel del Parlamento en estas decisiones. Me refiero a cuestiones fundamentales como es la gestión del Instrumento Europeo de Recuperación Next Generation EU.

Ninguna crisis puede ser excusa para socavar la democracia. Muy al contrario, para resolverla son precisas más democracia y más rendición de cuentas. Y, por eso, la única condicionalidad que se debe imponer al plan de recuperación es el respeto del Estado de Derecho.

Señorías, es momento de saber combinar nuestros objetivos y principios con la realidad de los hechos. No podemos ir de ingenuos en este mundo cada vez más complejo en el que antiguos socios parecen haber perdido la fe en el multilateralismo y la cooperación. Firmeza, principios y visión. Es más importante que nunca que defendamos una Unión fuerte, capaz de marcar el rumbo.

Marco Zanni, a nome del gruppo ID. – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, per la prima volta, credo che questa settimana ci sarà un Consiglio europeo di cui sappiamo già le conclusioni. Non ci sarà un accordo sul cosiddetto *Recovery Plan* e probabilmente ci sarà uno scontro tra gli Stati membri che abbiamo già visto e anticipato in questi giorni. Questa è ancora una volta la dimostrazione dell'inefficienza e dell'insufficienza delle istituzioni europee nella risposta alla crisi.

Snoccioliamo la proposta della Commissione, che è già una proposta altamente insufficiente. Parliamo di 400 miliardi di euro di sovvenzioni pure, e tre quarti di questo denaro arriverà solo nel 2023, cioè 3 anni dopo lo scoppio di questa crisi, quando già aziende, quando già lavoratori avranno perso il posto.

Io credo che, ancora una volta, questa sia la dimostrazione di come il processo decisionale all'interno dell'Unione europea non sia adatto a dare una risposta ai cittadini e alle imprese e, oltretutto, questo sforzo, questo denaro verrebbe dato in cambio di nuove tasse europee, tasse che andranno a gravare sulle imprese, circa settantamila imprese all'interno dell'Unione europea, quindi non solo le multinazionali, e andranno a gravare sui consumi, perché ovviamente le imprese le ribalteranno sui consumi.

Lasciatemi concludere con uno *statement*, con una considerazione: non vorrei che questo piano, come nel 2012 fu il piano sul MES, sia un piano per far convertire le industrie di alcuni paesi con i soldi di altri paesi. Fu con il MES con le banche di Francia e Germania, e questo rischia di esserlo con l'industria tedesca e di altri paesi.

IN THE CHAIR: MAIREAD McGUINNESS

Vice-President

Ska Keller, *on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group*. – Madam President, let's be honest. No one really expects anything to happen at this European Council with regard to the recovery plan. We all think there will be some haggling and insisting on own positions, and afterwards everyone will go to the national press and say how well they have defended the national interest. Even the President of the European Council gave up on any outcome even before the summit had started. It's quite shameful really that, when our Heads of State and Government come together, no one expects anything much to happen.

Wouldn't it be great though if, for once, the expectations of Europeans were over-fulfilled, if just once we didn't wait until things were too late and until the mood was already really bad. We have an unforeseen crisis in the EU, and we all know that we need to act urgently in order to mitigate the economic impact. The EU as a whole needs to have, and provide, funds for this. The funds need to be targeted into the economy that we want to have tomorrow, not the one that puts profit over planet and people. A major effort is needed, but the benefits are great, especially if we link the investments to the challenges that we anyway have to face, namely the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, social inequality and digitalisation.

Imagine if, for once, governments could ditch the drama and go for bold and for courageous. It would be worthwhile because, in the end, it is in the national interest of every single Member State to have a strong European Union for their citizens and for their economy. Our union is not a zero-sum game. It is the boat in which we are all sitting together. We fail together or we win together. So let's make sure that we make a win for the future of the European Union.

Derk Jan Eppink, *namens de ECR-Fractie*. – Voorzitter, de strijd over het herstellfonds lijkt op een pokerspel in het donkere casino. De EU beroept zich graag op Europese waarden. Maar wat we zien is een mengsel van corruptie en chantage. Landen van Zuid-Europa worden gekocht, landen in Midden- en Oost-Europa worden omgekocht en landen in Noord-Europa worden afgeperst!

Het gaat dus niet om COVID-19, maar om veel geld, te verdelen vanuit Brussel. Dat betekent meer macht voor de Commissie, een hogere EU-begroting en nieuwe Europese belastingen. Dat is het doel van het herstellfonds. Er wacht een lange ratificatieprocedure en ergens onderweg staat wel iemand met de hamer.

Ik kan me voorstellen dat de Britten blij zijn dat ze dit niet hoeven mee te maken. Ik verbaas me dan ook over de resolutie van het Europees Parlement over de brexit. Zij leest als een opsomming van eisen, als een ultimatum, en dat tegenover een land dat de vorige eeuw "Europa" twee keer uit de modder trok. Zonder de Britten hadden wij hier nu niet gezeten! Waar we wél gezeten zouden hebben, moet iedereen zelf maar invullen.

De resolutie ademt revanchisme. De Britten moeten worden gestraft omdat ze de EU verlieten. Maar dat was wel op basis van een democratische uitspraak, dames en heren. De EU ziet zichzelf als maatstaf voor de wereld, als een grote morele mogendheid. Maar de EU is vaak een pedant kereltje tussen de grote jongens. Zonder strategisch inzicht.

De Balkan wordt warm onthaald bij de ingang. De Britten krijgen een koude douche bij de uitgang. Dames en heren, resoluties zonder inzicht produceren politiek zonder uitzicht!

Martin Schirdewan, *im Namen der GUE/NGL-Fraktion*. – Frau Präsidentin! Mittlerweile gewinnt man ja das Gefühl, dass nach jedem Treffen, das zwischen dem Vereinigten Königreich und der Europäischen Union stattfindet, die Widersprüche größer statt kleiner werden und dass ein gutes Abkommen in immer weitere Ferne gerückt ist. Das ist keineswegs eine Kritik an der hervorragenden Arbeit von Michel Barnier, die ich ausgesprochen zu schätzen weiß, sondern das ist eine Analyse der gegenwärtigen Situation, die aufgrund der britischen Position – das möchte ich betonen, der britischen Position – nur den Schluss zulässt, dass wir am Ende des Jahres entweder ein schlechtes Abkommen oder aber einen harten ökonomischen Brexit erleben werden.

Ich will hier im Namen der Linken sagen, dass für uns ein Abkommen, das Sozialdumping, das Umweltdumping, das Steuerdumping Tür und Tor öffnet oder das die Sicherheit privater Daten zum Jahrmarkt trägt, völlig inakzeptabel ist. Ein solches Abkommen will jedoch die Regierung Johnson. Das ist für uns keine Option, und ich hoffe, das ist für niemanden hier in diesem Haus eine reale Option.

Deshalb ist es jetzt aber auch an der Zeit, über einen Notfallplan nachzudenken, um die vom Brexit besonders betroffenen Regionen und Sektoren zu schützen, um den hunderttausenden Beschäftigten und Unternehmen den notwendigen Schutz zu gewähren.

Und zum Rat: Die Menschen warten immer noch auf ein klares Signal der Solidarität und Geschlossenheit. *Next Generation EU* ist ja bislang eher eine Wette auf die Zukunft als tatsächlich ein Generationenvertrag. Das klarste Signal wäre es doch, endgültig Abstand und Abschied zu nehmen vom Stabilitäts- und Wachstumspakt, der in der Zukunft nur zu weiteren Kürzungen der öffentlichen Daseinsvorsorge und in der sozialen Sicherung oder zu weiteren Privatisierungen führt.

Wir brauchen hingegen öffentliche Investitionen, Steuerschlupflöcher müssen geschlossen, Steuergerechtigkeit muss herbeigeführt werden. Die EZB sollte in die Lage versetzt werden, die Staatsfinanzen direkt zu stützen, und superreiche Spekulanten und Unternehmen sollen gefälligst ihren gerechten Anteil am Wiederaufbau leisten, indem eine umfassende Finanztransaktionssteuer, eine starke Digitalsteuer und eine Vermögensabgabe eingeführt werden. Das wäre ein Signal der Solidarität, auf das Europa wartet.

Dacian Cioloș, *au nom du groupe Renew*. – Madame la Présidente, alors que sur la crise sanitaire la situation semble se stabiliser, les défis économiques, eux, restent majeurs.

Pour moi, deux possibilités s'offrent aujourd'hui à nous: soit nous négocions au niveau national la sortie de la crise, et alors chaque État membre défend ses intérêts, soit nous acceptons que la seule solution est de construire ensemble. C'est là la logique du plan de relance et du budget pluriannuel que nous soutenons. Parce que, oui, il faut être clair, nous ne demandons pas du saupoudrage de fonds, il faudra cibler là où les fonds doivent être alloués. Il s'agira également de conditionner pour réformer, afin que cette solidarité européenne soit le moteur d'une véritable relance commune.

Je ne vous cache pas toutefois mon inquiétude. Nous nous apprêtons à emprunter 750 milliards d'euros sur les marchés financiers sans savoir exactement comment nous allons rembourser cet argent. En effet, envisager une hausse des contributions nationales ou une diminution des fonds affectés aux prochaines politiques européennes reviendrait à mettre à mal la totalité du projet européen. Donc, pour nous, seule la mise en place rapide de vraies ressources propres permettrait de renforcer la crédibilité de ce plan de relance, mais aussi de garantir la pérennité du projet européen.

Je ne vous cache pas que la proposition sur le budget pluriannuel européen est quant à elle bien moins ambitieuse que ce que nous attendions et l'existence même d'un plan de relance ne suffit pas à compenser la faiblesse de cette proposition car même s'il s'agit d'un paquet, les objectifs sont quand même différents. Alors que le plan de relance nous permettra de nous remettre en selle, le nouveau budget européen, lui, définira notre capacité à franchir la ligne d'arrivée.

Donc, seul un budget ambitieux permettrait d'apporter une réponse structurelle aux nombreux défis que nous traversons et fixerait notre capacité à assumer une indépendance tant économique que stratégique. Il permettrait de financer de grands projets européens à l'image du projet relatif aux batteries ou encore celui consacré à l'hydrogène. Il permettrait à ce genre de projets de voir le jour.

Or, aujourd'hui, je suis inquiet car certains programmes qui visent à financer des projets aussi essentiels que la recherche, le numérique, le marché unique ou la défense restent trop peu financés. Il en va de même pour des projets sociaux ou pour des projets qui concernent la jeunesse par exemple.

Donc je terminerai en rappelant que mon groupe ne soutiendra pas un budget européen qui continue d'apporter des financements à des gouvernements européens qui, chaque jour, tournent le dos à nos valeurs et mettent à mal la démocratie et l'État de droit. Cela doit cesser et rapidement.

Tiziana Beghin (NI). – Signora Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, il *Recovery Fund* è uno strumento mai visto prima. Con oltre 750 miliardi di euro è l'espressione stessa di una nuova era di solidarietà in Europa, e per questo dobbiamo ringraziare l'impulso del governo italiano e il contributo di altri Stati, quali quello spagnolo, francese e della Germania.

I prossimi Consigli europei, se avranno il coraggio di approvarlo, faranno la storia dell'Unione. Sappiamo che alcuni governi si opporranno ma ogni resistenza o compromesso al ribasso è inaccettabile, perché sottrae tempo prezioso.

Come ha ribadito oggi alle Camere il nostro premier Conte, l'Italia è pronta, e noi auspichiamo che anche l'Europa lo sia e approvi il «Next Generation EU» il prima possibile. I cittadini e le imprese europee si meritano che queste risorse siano disponibili subito, lo dobbiamo a tutti coloro per cui ogni giorno può fare la differenza.

Colleghi, la solidarietà è tornata a scorrere nelle vene dell'Europa. Ora dobbiamo solo assicurarci che giunga al suo cuore.

Dolors Montserrat (PPE). – Señora presidenta, el Partido Popular Europeo ha liderado e impulsado en este Parlamento y en la Comisión el plan de recuperación con las mayores ayudas europeas para combatir la COVID-19, y lo hemos hecho con unidad, solidaridad y responsabilidad. Ahora le toca Consejo estar a la altura. El tiempo apremia. Está en juego que muchos de los que han bajado las persianas de sus negocios las puedan volver a levantar. Para ello, los Gobiernos de los Estados miembros deben actuar con rapidez y con responsabilidad.

La solidaridad europea debe ir acompañada de reformas nacionales ambiciosas, para que nuestra economía sea más moderna, competitiva y sostenible; para que nuestros sistemas nacionales de salud sean más resilientes; y para proteger a todas las familias. Defender a los españoles, ser patriota es digitalizar y reindustrializar España; es saber negociar una PAC que haga del campo una oportunidad; es reactivar el sector turístico. En definitiva: crear empleo, que es la mejor política social. Esta es la verdadera Europa, la que defiende el Partido Popular, la España que queremos.

Simona Bonafè (S&D). – Signora Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, nel prossimo Consiglio europeo finalmente i capi di Stato e di governo dovranno esprimersi sul piano di ricostruzione presentato dalla Commissione europea. Ci aspettiamo che arrivino a una decisione il prima possibile, ma non a una decisione qualsiasi, una decisione all'altezza della crisi che stiamo vivendo.

Come sapete, il nostro gruppo politico ha accolto fin da subito positivamente il «Next Generation EU». Per noi il piano della Commissione è il minimo sindacale o, se volete, un buon punto di partenza, e ha elementi che meritano attenzione.

Ne cito due per brevità. Il primo: i 750 miliardi, di cui una gran parte a fondo perduto, per fare ripartire le nostre piccole e medie imprese, per dare una mano ai nostri lavoratori, per dare una prospettiva alle persone che il lavoro l'hanno perduto. Il secondo: la possibilità di debito comune europeo, garantito dalle risorse proprie dell'Unione, che non sono, come qualcuno vuole far credere, nuove tasse per i cittadini, ma la possibilità di far pagare il costo della crisi anche a chi finora le tasse non le ha pagate per quanto avrebbe dovuto, o le ha pagate dove ha voluto – penso alle multinazionali –, o per combattere finalmente il *dumping* ambientale sui nostri prodotti.

I cittadini chiedono aiuto ad ogni latitudine. Questa emergenza ha colpito ovunque in Europa, ma ha colpito in maniera diversa. Non pensino però i cosiddetti Stati frugali che questa sia una buona ragione per lasciare al proprio destino i paesi più colpiti e per questo più fragili. Qui ci si salva tutti insieme. Le catene del valore sono integrate, le nostre economie troppo interdipendenti e, se anche il più piccolo Stato dell'Europa collassa, collassa tutto il mercato interno, e a farne le spese saranno anche le realtà produttive di paesi che oggi si sentono invulnerabili. Non è solo solidarietà e convenienza reciproca.

Pensando quindi a quanto abbiamo attraversato in questi mesi difficili di *lockdown* e alla strada che abbiamo davanti per una ripresa che è più lenta di quanto si creda, da quest'Aula voglio rinnovare un appello al Consiglio perché non indebolisca, né rallenti l'avvio di questo piano per la ripresa. Solo agendo per tempo e con risorse adeguate potremo rimetterci in carreggiata. Il Parlamento è pronto.

Nathalie Loiseau (Renew). – Madame la Présidente, quatre mois, c'est le temps qu'il nous reste pour parvenir à un accord de partenariat entre le Royaume-Uni et l'Union européenne; c'est court. C'est court, mais c'est possible. Je suis certaine que comme les peuples européens que nous représentons ici, le peuple britannique veut que nous gardions des liens forts et mutuellement bénéfiques, qu'il souhaite que demain comme aujourd'hui, la planète soit préservée, les droits des travailleurs soient protégés, la santé et la sécurité alimentaire de tous fassent l'objet de toutes les attentions. Je ne doute pas que le peuple britannique soit attaché à la protection de ses données personnelles, je sais, parce qu'elles ne cessent de le dire, que les entreprises britanniques comme les entreprises européennes espèrent pouvoir poursuivre leur coopération industrielle et leurs échanges, parce que c'est l'intérêt de tous.

Ce que nous allons voter demain est un signal politique fort. Le signal que nous défendons les intérêts de tous les Européens, qui nous ont élus et qui comptent sur nous: nos agriculteurs, nos pêcheurs, nos entreprises, nos citoyens. Un signal fort d'unité des représentants des peuples européens sur ce qui forme la base d'un accord juste et équilibré, celui qu'il nous reviendra de ratifier, puisque de ce côté-ci de la Manche, c'est notre Parlement qui aura le dernier mot. Personne ne souhaite ajouter les conséquences négatives d'une absence d'accord à celle de la pandémie de COVID-19, personne n'est responsable de l'épidémie que nous subissons, mais nous avons une responsabilité commune pour éviter d'ajouter de la crise à la crise.

Nous avons peu de temps, mais nous avons un chemin, celui qu'a tracé la déclaration politique qu'Européens et Britanniques ont négocié ensemble, signé ensemble et qui, seul, peut nous éviter de perdre encore un temps précieux. Nous voterons demain et demain sera le 18 juin, date anniversaire de l'appel que le général de Gaulle lança depuis Londres lorsque nous étions unis pour lutter ensemble. Je le demande à nos amis britanniques, soyons à la hauteur de ce destin commun, de cette communauté de valeurs qui a fait notre grandeur, soyons ambitieux ensemble.

Laura Huhtasaari (ID). – Madam President, I would like to congratulate Great Britain: they just saved around EUR 80 billion because they were late on the corona package. So nobody in Britain would even dare admit voting against Brexit.

The European Commission's proposal for a recovery fund is another step towards a centralised debt union. This proposal is illegal, according to Article 125. The Commission also wants EU own sources of taxation passed by the Member States. In the EU a large part of its economic problems would be reduced if the monetary union, the euro, were dismantled. According to a study, Finnish exports would be 40% higher in their own currency. I want my money back.

Heidi Hautala (Verts/ALE). – Madam President, I am saddened when I see that the negotiations are stalling. The EU and the UK have all the prerequisites to strike a bargain on the second-best trade and partnership agreement in the world. Never before has there been a situation where negotiating partners' premises and interests are so aligned and so close to one another.

The agreement on the new relationship between the EU and the UK must acknowledge our common history, geographical proximity and the other connections we have between the Brits and the EU. Anything but a comprehensive and indivisible agreement that provides robust level-playing-field guarantees, both to the UK and the EU, would be a historical failure. What must be achieved is the second-best trade and partnership agreement in the world: an agreement so good that the only better deal is EU membership itself.

Zbigniew Kuźmiuk (ECR). – Pani Przewodnicząca! Panie Komisarzu! Propozycja Komisji w sprawie WRF i funduszu odbudowy, jako wspólnego pakietu wsparcia dla inwestycji w krajach członkowskich, stanowi dobrą podstawę do negocjacji na posiedzeniu Rady. Po drugie, konieczne są jednak sprawne i skuteczne negocjacje, bo rzeczywistość gospodarcza i społeczna we wszystkich krajach członkowskich, mimo uruchomienia przez nie ogromnej pomocy publicznej, będzie się jednak pogarszać, a w drugim kwartale w niektórych krajach możemy się spodziewać nawet 20-proc. spadku PKB. Po trzecie, należy z uznaniem przyjąć zaproponowane przez Komisję wzmocnienie finansowe polityki spójności i WPR, bo to dwie najbardziej efektywne unijne polityki, a WPR i rolnicy zapewnili podczas pandemii bezpieczeństwo żywnościowe 500 milionom unijnych konsumentów. Po czwarte wreszcie, o skuteczności wykorzystania tak ogromnych unijnych środków finansowych będzie decydowała elastyczność ich wykorzystania, a także możliwość ich przeznaczenia na rozwiązanie rzeczywistych problemów gospodarczych państw, a nie tylko na kwestie cyfrowe czy klimatyczne.

Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (GUE/NGL). – Señora presidenta, se agota el tiempo: cinco meses. La relación entre el Reino Unido y la Unión Europea no puede ser un mero acuerdo de libre comercio. Hay oportunidades de un equilibrio entre derechos y obligaciones en el que tenemos que tener claro que la prioridad es la protección de la ciudadanía y las actividades estratégicas.

Johnson intenta deshacer compromisos, y lo está haciendo mediante la amenaza de no acuerdo. Es importante que lo haya. Millones de ciudadanos lo esperan: viven, trabajan en el Reino Unido, sus derechos y sus actividades van a depender de estas relaciones futuras. El aprendizaje del Brexit y el plan de reconstrucción que hagamos conjunto debe ser una manera de convertirnos en un proyecto por el que la ciudadanía esté dispuesta a apostar decididamente.

Hay aspectos positivos en las recomendaciones de este Parlamento: estándares medioambientales, evitar el dumping, la protección del sector primario o los derechos de ciudadanía que hemos conseguido incluir expresamente; pero también vemos insuficiencias. No podemos avanzar en un proyecto europeo si no somos un actor independiente internacional.

En estas recomendaciones corremos el riesgo de acabar subordinados a la política internacional de Johnson, es decir, a la agenda de Trump. Es el momento de apostar por una forma de ser y de estar en el mundo. Así, también tendremos futuro.

Dorien Rookmaker (NI). – Madam President, let's be pragmatic and sensible. The British Nation is a much-loved and respected member of the European Family, and it will always be for generations to come. They no longer are a member of the EU. That is why we have to come to an agreement with our close neighbour and old friend. After four rounds of unsuccessful negotiations, we must conclude that the strategy has not worked so far. Circumstances have changed. We are looking at a huge economic crisis – the COVID-19 crisis. We cannot afford a no-deal in the current situation.

A divorce is painful for all parties involved. There is a price to pay on both sides. We have to think about the next generation. This is not a moral issue, but a situation in need of a sensible approach. When circumstances change, strategies have to change as well. Let's not aim for the ultimate deal but for the best one possible at this moment. Think about the generations to come in Britain and in the EU. Let's be pragmatic, and let's be sensible.

Jeroen Lenaers (PPE). – Madam President, here we go again. Six months away from another Brexit cliff edge and, again, we have to conclude that no substantial progress has been made at all. Somehow 'get Brexit done' became 'get nothing done', and actually we have moved backwards, with Boris Johnson seeming to have forgotten about the political declaration that he himself agreed and signed last year; forgotten about the joint declaration that provides a basis, a foundation, for an ambitious partnership between the UK and the EU, founded on a level playing field. We said it many times: Brexit is a lose-lose situation. It's bad for both the UK and the EU, but at least with a properly organised exit, we can mitigate some of those negative effects a little. Citizens and companies have a right to certainty, clarity and reassurance about their future.

I'm afraid to say that it seems like we're running out of time and options. So maybe we need to get creative. Maybe, Michel Barnier, you could invite Marcus Rashford to the next negotiating round. He at least seems like someone who gets something done in the UK these days.

Bernd Lange (S&D). – Frau Präsidentin, liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen! In der Diskussion über einen Handelsvertrag mit dem Vereinigten Königreich kommt häufig die Aussage: Lasst uns doch ein Abkommen machen wie CETA, das Abkommen mit Kanada! Auch Boris Johnson hat das ja nochmal formuliert.

Das ist die typische Wahrnehmung, die falsche Wahrnehmung, dass eine Sache immer das Gleiche bedeutet. In den Verhandlungen mit Kanada handelte es sich um zwei Partner, die weit voneinander weg waren, die sich aufeinander zubewegt und in bestimmten Bereichen Übereinstimmung erzielt haben. Das war ein großer Erfolg.

Mit dem Vereinigten Königreich haben wir eine gemeinsame Situation, einen gemeinsamen Markt, und jetzt wollen wir uns auseinanderdividieren, und wenn wir da in die Richtung des Kanada-Abkommens gehen, dann ist das ein schlechter Deal. Und wir brauchen keinen schlechten Deal, wir brauchen einen guten Deal im Interesse der wirtschaftlichen Beziehungen und im Interesse der Arbeitsplätze und der Bürgerinnen und Bürger.

Deswegen kann ich den Rat, der am 19. Juni tagen wird, nur ermuntern, keinem schlechten Deal zuzustimmen, sondern sich dafür einzusetzen, dass wir wirklich einen guten Deal bekommen. Ein schlechter Deal heißt: Wirtschaftliches Wachstum geht weg. Selbst die Briten haben gesagt: 4,6 % gehen weg, wenn wir einen CETA-Deal haben, und da sollte man Boris Johnson nicht folgen.

Jérôme Rivière (ID). – Madame la Présidente, un peuple a choisi, un pays a quitté l'Union européenne. C'est maintenant une réalité, et Boris Johnson vient de le dire à nouveau, il veut trouver un accord sans tarder. Le choix des Britanniques a démontré que lorsque le peuple veut, le peuple peut. Il a témoigné de son extraordinaire capacité à assumer ses choix par-delà les pressions et les manipulations. Cela est aussi vrai pour Boris Johnson. Refusant de se dédire, il a fait mentir les prophètes de malheur prévoyant les dix plaies de Londres sur son pays, en cas de confirmation du Brexit. Mieux, c'est l'Union européenne, aujourd'hui, qui s'inquiète de la concurrence dans tous les domaines de la Grande-Bretagne, enfin libérée de ses carcans.

S'il est certain qu'un accord équitable est nécessaire, on comprend aussi Boris Johnson qui va utiliser ses mains libres, comme il le dit, pour s'attaquer aux maux que traversent son pays, les mêmes que les nôtres. En matière d'immigration, par exemple, plus de muselière idéologique, seuls les étrangers bénéficiant de la garantie d'un emploi payé plus de 30 000 livres (35 000 euros) par an pourront frapper à la porte du pays pour y travailler.

Tous les problèmes, certes, ne seront pas résolus d'un coup de Brexit magique. La France n'est pas non plus la Grande-Bretagne, mais la direction est la bonne, celle d'un pays non plus soumis, mais, ami de l'Europe, privilégiant les siens sans s'isoler des autres, l'identité préservée et non la dilution programmée, le choix de la coopération contre celui de la suggestion, le choix de l'Europe des nations contre celui proposé de l'UE des technocrates froids et méprisants si bien incarnés par Michel Barnier.

Sergey Lagodinsky (Verts/ALE). – Madam President, they ask us why we are doing this; they ask us why we stand united and invest so much time in negotiating something that the British government has rejected and ignored again and again. The answer is: we are doing it for our common European future. Maybe not next year, maybe the year after that, maybe later, but this future will come. We are doing it for our common values and interests – values that don't depend on the signature as a member of the EU: liberal democracy, climate policy, women's and minority rights, human rights. These are values that we share with each other, regardless of membership of the EU. We are doing it for Europeans on both sides of the Channel, for those who share families, jobs, love stories, biographies. We are doing this for their rights. We are doing this for you, our British friends: British citizens who believe in the wisdom of the EU much more than you believe in the wisdom of your Brexiteer government. Because if they go low, we aim high, and we aim high with this resolution. We won't ever see Britain as a third country and we will never see British citizens as citizens of a third country.

To paraphrase a famous Brit: a Brexit with a deal is the worst form of future for Great Britain, except for all other forms of Brexit. This resolution is our last attempt to prevent the worst. The ball is in your court, Mr Johnson.

Carlo Fidanza (ECR). – Signora Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, inizia un negoziato molto difficile su una risposta finanziaria che, per quanto significativa, rischia di rimanere di gran lunga inferiore alle attese, gravata di condizionalità tutte da scoprire e soprattutto tardiva. Briciole nel 2020, poco più che briciole nel 2021.

Quando il grosso dei finanziamenti arriverà, troppe imprese in troppi settori, dal terziario al turismo e all'industria, avranno già chiuso e troppa gente sarà rimasta senza lavoro. Con la flessibilità sugli aiuti di Stato aumentano gli squilibri del mercato interno e soltanto gli acquisti della BCE, finché dureranno, sembrano rispondere davvero alla crisi. Allora qualche paese deciderà di attivare il MES, ma forse è proprio questo l'obiettivo.

Intanto, anziché preoccuparvi di questo, proseguite con l'ideologia perversa del *Green Deal*, imponendo alle aziende nuovi oneri e ai cittadini nuovi stili di vita. Avete riscoperto sì la parola solidarietà, ne siamo lieti, ma vi siete dimenticati la parola responsabilità.

Helmut Scholz (GUE/NGL). – Frau Präsidentin! Wir haben heute vielleicht zum letzten Mal eine Chance, Einfluss auf das Verhandlungsergebnis zu nehmen. Ich begrüße ausdrücklich die klaren Worte, die wir gemeinsam zu Sozialschutz, Umweltschutz, Bürgerrechten und auch der Situation auf der irischen Insel finden konnten. Ich will ganz klar sagen, auch an die Adresse des Verhandlungsführers: Danke für Ihre Arbeit!

Eine Absenkung der *level playing fields*, also der gleichen Wettbewerbsbedingungen und -standards, wird es mit der Linken nicht geben. Das betrifft auch die Fragen des Handels. Vielleicht habe ich aber auch – Dank auch an die Berichterstatter für ihre Arbeit – an uns selbst die Frage zu richten, warum wir nicht gemeinsam aus Corona-Krise und Klimakrise lernen und ein neues Denken in die gesamten Verhandlungen mit eingebracht haben. Der Abschnitt zu den Handelsbeziehungen schützt die Gesundheitsdienstleistungen eben nicht vor den Kräften des Marktes, sondern folgt herkömmlichen, neoliberalen Pfaden. Die Vorschläge zur Kooperation geben nicht Abrüstung und Armutsbekämpfung Priorität, und die konkreten Bedürfnisse der Menschen, die Bürgerinnen- und Bürgerrechte sind nach wie vor ungelöst.

Das heißt: Es ist schwierig für uns, sozusagen ohne Bedingungen diesem Ergebnis zuzustimmen, und deshalb glaube ich und hoffe ich, dass den Änderungsanträgen unserer Fraktion morgen noch Zustimmung gewährt wird.

Clara Ponsatí Obiols (NI). – Madam President, Scotland wanted to remain in the Union, but their voice has been silenced in the negotiations, and now they're out with the rest of the UK. Across history, we have seen European borders changing by invasions and displacements of people, but when coercion is the base of stability, these only bridge the demise of Europe.

The only thing that Europe has not tried is the only thing that we can offer to our citizens and to the world: a better kind of freedom, based on democracy and consent. For us to be credible for Scots to return, Europe needs to address urgently the issue of internal enlargement. Otherwise, the Union will be doomed, like all European empires, for the same reason: for repressing the positive power of diversity. Self-determination of peoples is not a right that we don't know how to deal with; rather, it is the moral compass that will save us from our blind spots and illusions. To my very dear friends in Scotland, I say: we are eager to welcome you back in the EU.

Paulo Rangel (PPE). – (*início da intervenção com o microfone desligado*) Senhor Vice-Presidente da Comissão, Conselho, já que tantos colegas falaram sobre o Brexit e sobre as negociações para a parceria com o Reino Unido, deixem-me falar sobre o outro ponto importantíssimo deste Conselho, que é justamente a questão do plano de recuperação.

É fundamental que nós, como Parlamento, demos todo o apoio à Comissão neste plano porque ele prevê, pela primeira vez, a emissão de obrigações europeias, porque ele prevê uma recuperação baseada em subsídios e empréstimos, porque ele prevê dar prioridade àqueles que são os grandes objetivos da União Europeia para esta década, como a digitalização e, naturalmente, o *green deal*.

Temos também que lamentar o que aconteceu com o quadro financeiro plurianual onde há ainda reduções muito sérias. Queria fazer aqui, portanto, um apelo ao Conselho, ao Conselho Europeu e aos Estados-Membros, aos frugais, aos que lhes desagrada e a todos aqueles que têm posto algumas reticências a este plano da Comissão Europeia.

Esse apelo é o seguinte: se a vossa preocupação são as gerações futuras, então estejam ao lado do plano da Comissão, do plano apresentado pela Presidente von der Leyen. É isso que as gerações futuras esperam de todos vós.

Javier Moreno Sánchez (S&D). – Señora presidenta, tres mensajes en un minuto. El Parlamento y la Comisión ya hemos cumplido con la presentación de propuestas ambiciosas. Ahora le toca al Consejo llegar a un acuerdo para reconstruir Europa y para que lleguen los fondos cuanto antes a los ciudadanos, a las empresas, a las regiones que más los necesitan. También ha llegado el momento de introducir nuevos recursos propios de la Unión para rembolsar la deuda.

Segundo mensaje, al Partido Popular Europeo y a su líder Manfred Weber: no se preocupen, el Gobierno español presentará un plan de recuperación ambicioso que no deje a nadie atrás. Los socialistas no aceptaremos los planes del pasado. No queremos ni condicionalidad disfrazada ni austeridad.

Y, por último, a sus señorías del Partido Popular y sus aliados les pediría que no se equivoquen. Esta Cámara no es un anexo del Congreso de los Diputados. No utilicen esta Casa como una trinchera para atacar y derrocar al Gobierno de Pedro Sánchez. Defiendan a los ciudadanos españoles y no la «estrategia de los frugales». Aprendan a ser patriotas también cuando están en la oposición, por favor.

Jessica Stegrud (ECR). – Fru talman! Då står vi här igen. Det är återigen dags för svenska skattebetalare att rädda ekonomiskt misskötta stater och en valutaunion vi som röstat nej till. Ni talar om solidaritet, om gemenskap och om att hjälpa, om en framtid för kommande generationer. Men solidaritet kan inte byggas på att den ena sliter och den andra slösar.

Hade ni tagit ert ansvar hade ni nu krävt kraftiga reformer. I stället passar ni på att i skuggan av corona göra den ökande skuldbördan gemensam och flytta ännu mer makt till EU. Räddningspaketet kommer inte att hjälpa, inte lösa strukturella felaktigheter, inte öka konkurrenskraften eller skapa långsiktig tillväxt. Inte heller kommer det att främja den sköra sammanhållningen. Det skjuter problemen på framtiden och för över bördan på våra barn och barnbarn.

Detta är inte solidaritet, det är ansvarslöshet. Ni kallar det "next generation-EU". Jag kallar det "we don't care about next generation-EU".

Traian Băsescu (PPE). – Doamnă președintă, privind la Brexit, constatăm că pare a fi ajuns la stadiul unei confruntări. În realitate, noi avem nevoie de un acord echitabil între cele două părți. Faptul că, în ultimul timp, nu se fac progrese ne arată că este necesară o intervenție la nivelul șefilor de stat și de guvern. Este bine, cred, ca doamna Merkel, Președintele Franței și Boris Johnson să aibă o discuție pentru deblocare.

Este evident că Uniunii Europene nu i se poate cere să renunțe la criteriile pieței unice, cum nici britanicilor nu li se poate cere să accepte exact motivele pentru care au plecat din Uniunea Europeană. De aceea, atenționez că riscul lipsei unui acord este acela că fiecare stat membru va face acorduri separate cu Regatul Unit.

Margarida Marques (S&D). – Senhora Presidente, este Conselho Europeu é confrontado com dois desafios maiores.

Primeiro desafio: encontrar um acordo político que possibilite uma resposta europeia à crise e tem uma boa proposta em cima da mesa. O Parlamento Europeu foi exigente: pediu a revisão da proposta de orçamento plurianual, um fundo de recuperação a acrescentar ao orçamento da União Europeia, mutualização de responsabilidades, *eurobonds*, mais subvenções que empréstimos, aumentar e diversificar os recursos próprios como fonte de financiamento do orçamento da União Europeia.

Pediu uma resposta europeia.

Estes princípios são parte integrante da proposta da Comissão.

Segundo desafio: encontrar um acordo político sobre o futuro do orçamento da União Europeia e tem uma má proposta para o segundo período do quadro. A decisão sobre um e outro são urgentes. O Parlamento Europeu foi exigente e não deixará de o ser. Esperamos também que o Conselho esteja à altura.

Tomas Tobé (PPE). – . Fru talman! Det Europa behöver nu är att komma samman och enas om en flerårsbudget och ett återhämtningspaket. De svenska moderaterna vill stärka Europasamarbetet, men menar att det måste ske ansvarsfullt. Ska vi nu ta upp en historiskt hög belåning gemensamt så kan vi inte skicka notan till framtida generationer. Därför vill vi ställa krav på en mycket tuffare återbetalningsplan. Det är inte rimligt att återbetalningen ska börja 2028 och fortsätta i ytterligare 30 år.

Vi behöver hålla fast vid kravet på en rättsstatsprincip så att vi använder EU-medel på ett korrekt vis. Avslutningsvis, oavsett var kompromissen blir: Det är inte bidrag eller lån eller, för den delen, högre skatter som stärker vår konkurrenskraft, utan det är reformer. Europa behöver reformer. Då kommer Europa också att bli starkare.

Петър Витанов (S&D). – Г-жо Председател, видно е, че проведените до момента преговори не носят необходимия напредък. Британската страна възприема максималистичния подход, който ѝ позволява да се възползва в пълен обем от единния пазар без да се обвързва с никакви задължения. А със съжаление отбелязваме, че свободното движение на хора няма да бъде продължено и ще бъде преустановено след преходния период.

Притесненията за правата на гражданите на Европейския съюз стават още по-големи, защото наблюдавам, че в хода на преговорите Великобритания приема национално законодателство, което е в посока на ограничаване на тези права. Нещо повече, заместващото законодателство тече по-бързо от самите преговори.

Считам, че при увеличен риск да няма споразумение Европейският съюз трябва да настоява за бъдещо партньорство с амбициозни разпоредби относно движението на хора, които се базират на пълна реципрочност и недискриминация и гарантират всички права на гражданите на Европейския съюз.

Radosław Sikorski (PPE). – Madam President, as deputy Chair of the EU-UK Friendship Group, I would of course like for there to be a deal, but I'm beginning to despair.

Our red line and our politics is that we want to preserve the integrity of the single market. The British prime minister has communicated to us that Britain cannot accept a deal which puts Britain under the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice or that binds the House of Commons in any way in future in determining Britain's commercial arrangements.

That seems to me to make a deal impossible, because the nature of a treaty, any treaty, is that you will do in future what the treaty says, and not as you please. And, therefore, our red lines don't seem to touch at any point.

Therefore, I would urge you to stop demanding the impossible from our negotiators and start preparing for what is regrettable but seems to be inevitable, which is a very hard Brexit indeed.

José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil (PPE). – Señora presidenta, principio de igualdad de oportunidades, competencia leal; este principio básico ha sido clamorosamente desconocido por el acuerdo fiscal entre el Reino Unido y España, que parece permitir la continuación de un régimen fiscal que grava los beneficios obtenidos dentro del Peñón, pero no los obtenidos fuera, y que grava el juego con un impuesto simbólico.

De estos privilegios derivan consecuencias que hablan por sí solas: treinta mil empresas *offshore* en Gibraltar y el 60 % del juego *online* controlado por Gibraltar. Gibraltar tiene hoy la tercera renta per cápita del mundo, mientras que el Campo de Gibraltar adyacente tiene una renta que es seis veces inferior, una diferencia mayor que la que existe entre los Estados Unidos y México.

Hemos denunciado este régimen aquí en tantas ocasiones como hemos tenido, porque es contrario al código fiscal Monti y es contrario al código de ayudas de Estado. El Gobierno español podrá ignorar esta situación, pero la Unión Europea no puede tolerarlo, y eso debe dejarlo claro en las próximas negociaciones.

Sería bueno que en estas negociaciones nos obligásemos todos a cumplir la legalidad internacional en materia de descolonización, como unión de Derecho que somos.

Λευτέρης Χριστοφόρου (PPE). – Κυρία Πρόεδρε, δραττόμενος της ευκαιρίας της παρουσίας του Ευρωπαϊκού Συμβουλίου και της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής και ευρισκόμενος στο Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο, αυτή την ισχυρή δύναμη των λαών της Ευρώπης, θα ήθελα, με όλη τη δύναμη της ψυχής μου, να καταγγείλω για ένα ζήτημα, το οποίο είναι αποκλειστικά και μόνο ευρωπαϊκό και θα εξελιχθεί σε τραγικό ζήτημα για την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση, που είναι οι απειλές, οι εκβιασμοί και επεκτατικές επιθετικές πολιτικές της Τουρκίας ενάντια σε δύο χώρες μέλη της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης, την Ελλάδα και την Κύπρο. Οι παραβιάσεις της Τουρκίας στην Κύπρο, οι παραβιάσεις στην Ελλάδα, το παράνομο Τουρκολιβυκό μνημόνιο, δεν είναι υποθέσεις που αφορούν την Κύπρο αλλά αφορούν ολόκληρη την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση. Η ανοχή της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης, που συνεχίζει μέχρι και σήμερα να χρηματοδοτεί αυτήν την παράνομη εκβιαστική χώρα που πλήττει δύο χώρες μέλη της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης, αποθράσυνε την Τουρκία. Δεν νοείται, την ώρα που βρίσκεται παράνομα στην κυπριακή ΑΟΖ και παραβιάζει τον εναέριο χώρο της Ελλάδας και τα θαλάσσια σύνορα, να συνεχίζεται αυτή η χρηματοδότηση. Κάνω έκκληση προς την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση και προς τις ισχυρές χώρες μέλη της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης να υπερασπιστούν τα θαλάσσια σύνορα της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης με τον ίδιο τρόπο που υπερασπίζονται τα σύνορα της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης απέναντι στους παράνομους μετανάστες και, εάν χρειαστεί, να στείλουν ακόμη και το πολεμικό τους ναυτικό για να υπερασπιστεί τα θαλάσσια σύνορα της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης που βρίσκονται στην Κύπρο και στην Ελλάδα.

Jörgen Warborn (PPE). – Fru talman! Vi behöver en så nära relation med Storbritannien som möjligt. De förblir vår partner, våra allierade och vår vän. Vår geografiska närhet och våra djupa handelsförbindelser gör det omöjligt att fira nyår 2021 utan ett avtal på plats. Boris Johnson vill nu att Storbritannien ska bli bäst i Europa på business. De kommer att bli vassa konkurrenter till EU om kampen om jobb och investeringar.

Det här måste få EU att tagga till och sätta ännu högre mål för våra jobb och vår tillväxt. Precis som Storbritannien måste vi sätta fullt fokus på att kapa byråkratin och skapa bättre förutsättningar för våra europeiska exportföretag och småföretag. Det är olyckligt att de redan tidsbegränsade förhandlingarna nu sammanfaller med covid-19-pandemin. Jag måste säga att det naturligtvis vore bra med en förlängning av förhandlingsperioden, men jag välkomnar att man nu tar nya konstruktiva tag inför sommarens förhandlingar. EU och Storbritannien behöver varandra. Låt oss jobba tillsammans för ett bättre företagsklimat.

Peter van Dalen (PPE). – Voorzitter, een goede handelsovereenkomst is voor beide partijen van belang. Maar wat zien we? Het Verenigd Koninkrijk is gaan *backtracken*. Al overeengekomen aspecten gaan zij opnieuw ter onderhandeling stellen.

Ik vind dat echt afbreuk doen aan de politieke verklaring die nota bene ook door mijnheer Johnson is getekend. De vraag is dus: wil de Britse regering wel een overeenkomst? Het Britse bedrijfsleven wil die wel. De *Confederation of British Industry*, het overkoepelende Britse bedrijfsleven weet drommels goed dat onze interne markt essentieel is. Ze beseffen dat bij een *no deal* aan beide zijden van het Kanaal veel verliezers zullen zijn. En de nu al sterk krimpemde Britse economie kan dat er onmogelijk bij hebben.

Ik wil een overeenkomst met faire afspraken over de visserij, toegang voor onze vissers tot de hele Noordzee, goede afspraken over het gezamenlijk beheer van de visbestanden. En komen die visserijafspraken er niet, dan geen handelsovereenkomst!

Μαρία Σπυράκη (PPE). – Κυρία Πρόεδρε, Αντιπρόεδρε Šefčovič, οι χαμηλές προσδοκίες που καλλιεργούνται ενόψει του Ευρωπαϊκού Συμβουλίου υπονομεύουν το κλίμα αισιοδοξίας και εμπιστοσύνης που έχουν ανάγκη οι πολίτες μας και οι οικονομίες μας. Στη χώρα μου την Ελλάδα, αφού χάσαμε το 25% του Ακαθάριστου Εγχώριου Προϊόντος κατά τη διάρκεια της οικονομικής κρίσης, είμαστε τώρα αντιμέτωποι με βαθιά ύφεση εάν η Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση δεν δράσει άμεσα. Γι' αυτό και είναι απαραίτητο το Ευρωπαϊκό Συμβούλιο να αδράξει την ευκαιρία και να στείλει στις αγορές ένα σαφές μήνυμα εμπιστοσύνης, να δείξει ότι η Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση είναι έτοιμη να εγγυηθεί το μέλλον της γενιάς της. Το Ταμείο Ανάκαμψης, σε συνδυασμό με τον κοινοτικό προϋπολογισμό, μπορούν να στηρίξουν την υψηλής ποιότητας πρωτογενή παραγωγή, τον ηλεκτρισμό από ανανεώσιμες πηγές σε συνδυασμό με θέσεις εργασίας στην κυκλική οικονομία, την ψηφιοποίηση του δημοσίου τομέα και τη διασύνδεσή του με τις μικρομεσαίες επιχειρήσεις που τώρα δίνουν μάχη να ξαναοίξουν. Κυρίες και κύριοι συνάδελφοι, τα χρήματα από τις επιχορηγήσεις και τα δάνεια οφείλουν να δοθούν ώστε οι οικονομίες μας να μετασχηματιστούν. Πρέπει να δημιουργηθούν θέσεις εργασίας για τη γενιά μας και για την επόμενη γενιά.

Kati Piri, Rapporteur. – Madam President, I want to thank my colleagues for their contribution to this debate and for their continued support. Allow me also to say a special thanks to my colleague, co-rapporteur Christophe Hansen, and all the shadow rapporteurs who worked on this file. And of course, not to be forgotten, my gratitude also goes to Michel Barnier and his team for their full engagement with this House. We wish you patience and a good dose of humour in the coming weeks ahead.

As you have all clearly underlined, what we need with this deal are not short-term answers but a long-term vision, given the unprecedented challenges we are confronted with. If the UK Government does not immediately and radically change its approach to these negotiations, there is no way to reach any sort of comprehensive partnership before the end of the transition period. To be honest, under the current circumstances, I believe we must also prepare ourselves for a no-deal scenario.

Last week's data from the UK Office for National Statistics and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development show clearly the economic impact of the coronavirus crisis. It is time to turn the narrative to make the pandemic the reason for success and not the excuse for failure. That would be a disaster for citizens on both sides of the Channel. We need a deal, and we can have a deal that is good for all of us. A no-deal is neither rational nor responsible.

The next weeks are the moment of truth in many regards. The time has come for responsibility and courage. Citizens and the business community need certainty. They need predictability. The EU is ready to play its role and to fulfil their needs and their legitimate aspirations.

Christophe Hansen, Rapporteur. – Madam President, thank you, and I say to colleagues: thank you for all the contributions in this very long debate today. I wish I could respond to each and every one of your remarks, but given the time restrictions, I want to come back to the essentials, namely the many remarks I heard on the 'level playing field'.

My father, who doesn't speak English, always asks me: 'when I hear you speaking about Brexit on the radio, why do you always insist on this level playing field? What does that even mean?' So I told him, because we are both big cycling fans: 'imagine the Tour de France, all cyclists competing with a common race bike, except for Chris Froome with his Sky Team riding with E-bikes. Do you believe this would allow for a fair competition?'

The answer was of course, 'no, this is not what we want'. We want fair competition and fair play is what every good sportsman should aim for in a competition.

This Parliament wants the closest possible cooperation with the United Kingdom. This is in everyone's best interest. We will remain constructive and will be ready to discuss the fair and balanced compromises that will hopefully emerge in the coming weeks here in Brussels and in London.

Of course, it takes two to tango, as the Commission President earlier said. And, you have to be aware, this Parliament will be ready for this last dance.

Maroš Šefčovič, *Vice-President of the Commission*. – Madam President, honourable Members, dear esteemed colleague who negotiates for the EU, Michel Barnier, first a couple of remarks on the issue which was raised by Ms García Pérez, Ms Keller and Mr Ciolos, and this is of course the videoconference of the European Council this Friday and our proposal on MFF and Next Generation EU.

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for your support because it's very important for our discussions with the European Member States, and also with the public, and I really would like to reassure you that we are not losing any minute from the time between now and what I hope will be a very important historic, unprecedented and ambitious deal on both the MFF and Next Generation EU in July.

We are not losing any minute because we are talking to the governments at different levels, we are engaging with the citizens, and I personally approached all representatives of the national parliaments on Tuesday in the format of COSAC when I was explaining to them the construction architecture of the proposal and the importance of national parliaments and the European Parliament's approval ratification in the end.

Of course, for us solidarity is a must, and I believe that this European Council videoconference will allow us to narrow the differences which are still there on the table, and to prepare the ground well, what I believe will be a decisive move forward, an agreement in July.

On the second topic which was raised by the rest of the honourable Members, I would just like to inform you about how we are going to implement the Withdrawal Agreement. As you know, I am representing the European Union in this joint committee with Michael Gove, who is representing the British Government. And here we are talking about the agreement which was approved, signed and ratified by this Parliament and by the UK Parliament, and once there was a clear statement by Michael Gove that there will not be any extension of the transitional period, I did the same. And what I heard from our rapporteurs, Ms Piri and Mr Hansen, but also from Mr McAllister was that we need to accelerate our work and to make sure that the Withdrawal Agreement is properly implemented.

I'm very glad to report that the discussion of the joint committee was in a very positive atmosphere and that we could state that there is good progress in the area of the financial provisions, on the Protocol on Gibraltar, on the Protocol on the sovereign base areas of the UK in Cyprus and also on citizens' rights where I know how important this issue is for the European Parliament and for our citizens and I believe we will be able to resolve our differences definitely before the end of the year.

What is the most challenging issue is of course the application of the Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland, and here I was very clear and I made it very clear also to the UK delegations that what we need is some more operation, because we understand the aspiration, which has already presented to us. But for us, it's very important to have very concrete responses on how the UK is going to implement the VAT regime, excise and customs obligations, which are clearly stated in the Withdrawal Agreement.

I'm glad that the response I got from Michael Gove was that we will work very hard over the summer, that we will have another specialised committee session on the Irish Protocol in July, and we will come back overall what I believe will be progress in early September. So there is a lot of work, but I believe that when it comes to the Withdrawal Agreement, both sides are realising that the proper implementation is the key to trust-building, to confidence-building which we need for the good future relationship between European Union and the United Kingdom.

And how will this future relationship look? If you allow, Madam President, I will pass the floor to Michel Barnier because he's negotiating day and night with our UK colleagues and he will be able to give you the best picture.

Michel Barnier, *chef de la task-force pour les relations avec le Royaume-Uni*. – Madame la Présidente, bonsoir à chacune et chacun d'entre vous et merci à Maroš de la bonne coopération entre nous.

Je voudrais dire quelques mots en conclusion à ses côtés sur le dossier de cette négociation très complexe, extraordinaire du Brexit. D'abord remercier très sincèrement votre Parlement, Madame la Présidente, les 17 commissions qui se sont engagées et leurs rapporteurs. Comme l'a dit David McAllister, c'est la première fois, et je pense que c'est le moment, et donc je voudrais à ce titre remercier très chaleureusement Kati Piri et Christophe Hansen pour ce travail assez compliqué de synthèse qu'ils ont fait et les en féliciter.

Nous avons besoin de la vigilance, de la détermination du Parlement européen dans cette période. C'est d'ailleurs cette détermination que votre président David Sassoli a exprimée lundi à l'occasion de la conférence de haut niveau organisée avec la présidente de la commission, Ursula von der Leyen, Charles Michel, le président du Conseil européen, vous-même, et Boris Johnson. Et puis, je crois que c'est Nathalie Loiseau qui l'a dit, vous aurez le dernier mot, une fois de plus, lorsque nous aurons trouvé, je l'espère, un accord avec le Royaume-Uni.

Maroš Šefčovič vient de le rappeler, nous avons pris note de la position négative du gouvernement britannique pour prolonger éventuellement, comme nous en avons, comme nous en avons toujours la possibilité jusqu'au 30 juin, cette période de transition qui est en fait la période de négociation. Et donc cela nous place au milieu du gué: il y a quatre mois de négociations derrière nous, il y a seulement quatre mois de négociations devant nous, Kati Piri disait 204 jours tout à l'heure.

C'est donc difficile. Cela reste possible, le temps est très court et je partage le sentiment d'urgence exprimé par Boris Johnson et voilà pourquoi nous avons décidé, avec mon *counterpart*, David Frost et son équipe de négociation, qui est, comme la nôtre, très professionnelle, d'intensifier au mois de juillet, au mois d'août et au mois de septembre, ces négociations, d'avoir des discussions plus concentrées, plus ciblées, avec l'objectif et l'obligation pour nous, mais vous savez que c'est ma règle, d'avoir la même transparence avec votre Parlement, votre groupe de coordination, vos commissions et aussi avec les 27 États membres au nom desquels nous négocions.

Quelles sont les prochaines étapes? Une chose est claire, comme l'ont rappelé les trois présidents des trois institutions lorsqu'ils ont rencontré Boris Johnson lundi, ce qui compte pour nous, avant même le processus, c'est une avancée sur le fond.

C'est au Royaume-Uni de choisir ce qu'il veut et s'il veut un accord. Vous l'avez très bien dit, Madame la Ministre Nikolina Brnjac, tout à l'heure au début de cette session, c'est le choix du Royaume-Uni de vouloir ou de ne pas vouloir un accord car les conditions d'un accord sont déjà connues. Nous les avons agréées avec Boris Johnson et chaque virgule, chaque mot a été négocié âprement dans la déclaration politique pour nous engager vers un partenariat ambitieux et durable auquel votre Parlement est aussi attaché.

Non seulement un partenariat commercial sans précédent, zéro tarif, zéro quota sur tous les biens – c'est une première dans l'histoire commerciale de l'Union – mais avec un accord sur la pêche, M. Bellamy l'a rappelé, et avec un accord sur le *level playing field*, qui concernera les aides d'État, les questions fiscales, mais aussi les droits sociaux et les droits environnementaux. Christophe Hansen l'a dit à l'instant, un accord sur le fair-play, économique et social, et cet accord devra couvrir aussi l'énergie, les transports, les questions de sécurité et de défense, et sur la base de cette offre sans précédent, nous souhaitons aussi que les conditions d'accès à notre marché soient justes.

Cette déclaration politique, ces principes, nous les avons faits nôtres dans notre mandat et notre projet d'accord publié le 18 mars et cela n'est pas ouvert à la négociation.

Après quatre ans de négociations, nous voyons bien, Mesdames et Messieurs les députés, quelle est la stratégie du gouvernement britannique. D'abord, il a refusé toute discussion sur des sujets importants, la défense, la sécurité, le développement. J'ai interprété cela comme l'idée de concentrer toute la négociation sur les seules questions économiques et donc sur la défense de ses intérêts économiques.

Et puis ensuite, dans cette stratégie, le Royaume-Uni cherche à négocier, dans certains domaines, un statut très proche de l'adhésion au marché unique, de quasi-membre du marché unique de l'union douanière et de Schengen sans en avoir aucune des contraintes ou des disciplines. C'est ce que nous appelons le *cherry picking*, sur les règles d'origine, sur la reconnaissance mutuelle, les services financiers, les qualifications professionnelles, les flux de données ou les échanges d'électricité. Nous n'accepterons pas le *cherry picking*.

La deuxième partie de la stratégie britannique c'est de refuser tous les engagements clairs et forts en matière de *level playing field* afin de pouvoir garder la liberté de s'écarter des règles actuelles de l'Union et de faire de la compétition réglementaire, certains disent même que c'est la raison d'être du Brexit et l'on voit bien cette stratégie sur les données.

Je sais la position très ferme du Parlement sur ce sujet, sur les services financiers, sur les aides d'État, où le Royaume-Uni n'a jusqu'à présent donné aucune indication sur le futur cadre national des aides d'État, je le vois aussi sur les normes alimentaires et, dans ce contexte, le Royaume-Uni a souhaité même rouvrir la question des indications géographiques, qui sont pourtant protégées clairement dans l'accord de retrait qu'a évoqué Maroš Šefčovič.

Tout cela n'est pas compatible avec les bases d'un accord durable, ambitieux avec un grand pays qui restera, en toute hypothèse, notre ami, notre allié et notre partenaire. Et pourtant je reste convaincu, Mesdames et Messieurs les députés, qu'un accord est possible pour le long terme, comme l'a dit Danuta Hübner. Nous le souhaitons depuis le début et nous souhaitons donner toutes ses chances à cette négociation, comme en témoigne ce processus intensifié.

Mais, Mesdames et Messieurs les députés, comme vous m'en avez fixé la direction dans votre résolution, nous ne ferons pas d'accord à tout prix, c'est ce qu'a dit Bernd Lange tout à l'heure. Nous ne sacrifierons jamais – je reprends les mots de notre présidente Ursula von der Leyen – l'intérêt économique et politique à long terme des consommateurs et des entreprises de l'Union au profit du Royaume-Uni.

En parallèle, nous voulons voir des progrès tangibles sur la mise en œuvre de l'accord de retrait évoqué par Maroš Šefčovič, à la fois la garantie des droits des citoyens et, Madame la Présidente, cette question si importante pour la paix en Irlande qu'est la bonne application du protocole.

Enfin, si notre priorité reste et restera de parvenir à un accord, nous avons aussi la responsabilité, M. Arimont et M. Schiderwan l'ont dit tout à l'heure, de nous préparer collectivement à tous les scénarios possibles, à la fin de l'année, en cas d'accord ou en cas de désaccord. En toute hypothèse, nous devons nous préparer et nous allons nous préparer.

Je voulais vous remercier de votre confiance, celle que vous faites à l'équipe de négociation de la Commission européenne, qui est, ne l'oubliez jamais, votre équipe de négociation. Dans les prochaines semaines, qui vont être décisives, nous allons devoir démontrer certaines qualités. M^{me} Piri m'a demandé de faire preuve d'humour; là, je reconnais que j'ai une certaine marge de progrès, mais c'est important à mon âge de garder des marges de progrès. Le calme auquel m'a invité M. Danielsson, notre patience; le calme et la patience de mon côté sont inépuisables. Notre fermeté, qui est claire et nette sur la base des principes pour défendre nos consommateurs et nos entreprises. Et enfin notre unité, dont le Parlement va donner une nouvelle preuve aujourd'hui, dont je vous remercie.

President. – Thank you very much, and I hope your reserves do not run out, Mr Barnier, so good luck with the negotiations.

Nikolina Brnjac, *President-in-Office of the Council*. – Madam President, I'll first say a few words regarding negotiations on a new partnership with the UK, to which many of you devoted your comments.

With the adoption of your recommendation, our negotiator should be in a better position to engage in the very intense phase of negotiating that is coming, as it is clear for both our institutions that progress in the partnership negotiations had to go hand in hand with progress in the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement. This means that we will have to remain vigilant as regards, first and foremost, the preservation of citizens' rights, be it during the transition period or under whatever future relationship with the United Kingdom.

But our vigilance will have to be no less thorough when considering the intended economic partnership, where strong, safeguarded and robust governance will be called for to protect the integrity of the EU single market and the competitive position of EU firms. We will therefore count on your cooperation in this respect as well. In negotiation with the UK on our future relationship and partnership, our common efforts and commonality of purpose will provide the support required by our negotiator and help ensure an outcome to the benefit of the Union and its citizens.

Coming back to the MFF and recovery, the President of the European Council wants to pave the way for a deal by providing the leaders with an opportunity to discuss the MFF and the recovery package. Therefore, the Friday meeting will be an orientation debate, during which the leaders will have the opportunity to explain how they see the Commission's new proposals and whether the overall package meets their expectations. This debate will inform the work of the President of the European Council and help him bring together the necessary elements to prepare the final stretch of negotiations and build a successful compromise.

I take from this debate that we will share a sense of urgency and of ambition. We are actually aware that there is still a lot of work to be done to reconcile different interests and points of view in order to build a compromise. Ultimately, our goal is to agree as soon as possible on what is an unprecedented financial package to face an unprecedented crisis. In the remaining days of our Presidency, we will continue to be fully committed to doing our utmost to facilitate all the steps leading to such an agreement, and to do so in a way that is mindful of Parliament's views. For it has been clear since the onset of the pandemic that we can only overcome this crisis if we act jointly in solidarity.

President. – The joint debate is closed.

We have already voted on the amendments of the report by Ms Piri and Mr Hansen. The final vote takes place tomorrow morning.

Before I suspend the sitting, I would like to thank the interpreters very sincerely, because the debates were longer than we had anticipated. So my sincere thanks to our interpreters.

Written statements (Rule 171)

Gunnar Beck (ID), schriftlich. – Die Forderungen der EU in den Handelsverhandlungen mit Großbritannien sind hart und unangemessen. Unangemessen sind die Weigerung, London ein Handelsabkommen nach dem Muster des EU-Kanada-Abkommens zu gewähren, und die EU-Forderung, der EuGH solle das letzte Wort über die Auslegung eines EU-UK-Handelsabkommens behalten. Vor allem diese Forderung, dass sich Großbritannien, als nun wieder souveräner Staat, nicht einem unabhängigen Schiedsgericht, sondern dem höchsten Gericht seines Vertragspartners, der EU, unterwerfe, widerspricht sowohl der Praxis des Völkerrechts als auch der Praxis der EU selbst. Denn in nahezu allen anderen EU-Handelsabkommen erfolgt die Beilegung von Rechtsstreiten über unabhängige Schiedsgerichte. Hinzu kommt, dass der Machtanspruch und die Unparteilichkeit des EuGH selbst innerhalb der EU umstritten ist. Nach Ansicht des Bundesverfassungsgerichts darf der EuGH zwar über die Einhaltung der EU-Verträge wachen, das letzte Wort darüber aber, ob die EU sich noch innerhalb der ihr vertraglich gesetzten Grenzen bewegt, ist die Prärogative der nationalen Verfassungsgerichte. Bislang weigert sich London, auf die überzogenen EU-Forderungen einzugehen. Sollten die Handelsverhandlungen scheitern, schadet dies nicht nur britischen, sondern ebenfalls europäischen Exporteuren, Konsumenten und Arbeitnehmern. Nach dem Brexitvotum und Austritt Großbritanniens ist es an der Zeit, dass die EU endlich ihre Strafexpedition gegen das ehemalige EU-Mitglied beendet.

Enikő Győri (PPE), írásban. – Az Európai Unió következő többéves pénzügyi keretének és Helyreállítási Alapjának minden tagállam számára elfogadható megoldást kell kínálnia; a javaslat senkit sem hagyhat hátra. Így a költségvetésnek méltányosnak és kiegyensúlyozottnak kell lennie, a pénzeket igazságosan kell elosztani. A költségvetésben a pénzek felhasználásának rugalmasnak kell lennie, hiszen nem létezik általános, mindenkire alkalmazható válságkezelési megoldás. Másra kell a pénz az egyes országokban, mások a prioritások Európa déli részén, mások északon és megint mások Közép-Európában. A kelet-közép-európai tagállamok helyreállításának egy megerősített kohéziós politikára kell épülnie, amely már korábban is bizonyított; hozzáadott értéket teremtett Európában, és szerződéses céljai ugyanúgy aktuálisak,

mint a válságot megelőzően: kiegyenlíteni a fejlettségbeli különbségeket, s ezáltal erősíteni az Unió versenyképességét.

Magyarország jelentős reformokat valósított meg az elmúlt évek során, és erőfeszítéseinek köszönhetően sikeres a felzárkózásban. A Helyreállítási Eszköz forrásainak javasolt elosztási kritériumai azonban a pandémiát megelőző statisztikákon alapulnak, ezért nem tükrözik a válság valós gazdasági hatásait. Ezenkívül büntetik a jó növekedéssel és alacsony munkanélküliséggel rendelkező országokat. A jelenlegi javaslatban egy morális probléma jelenik meg: a gazdag országok több pénzt kapnának, mint a szegényebbek. Ez nem maradhat így; a fegyelmezett gazdaságpolitikát folytató tagállamok és a sikeres védekezés nem büntethető források megvonásával. A szegényebb országok nem kerülhetnek hátrányos helyzetbe a gazdagabb tagállamokkal szemben.

Alfred Sant (S&D), *in writing*. – At this week's European Council, participants should be laying the foundations for a mutually-acceptable agreement on the upcoming multiannual financial framework and the recovery package as presented by the Commission on 27 May. It is essential that the recovery package achieve its target to help relaunch the European economy. Meanwhile, the long-term goals of the Union, especially those focused on cohesion between its territories, must be upheld. We face an unprecedented crisis in the amplitude and depth of the peril it entails for the European economic system. That should be recognised in deeds, not just in words. To deal with the crisis satisfactorily, the criteria of the recent past hardly apply. Unless some way is found for effective European action that really addresses, head on, the dangers of the ongoing recession where they are being experienced, the negative social and economic impacts will multiply. With all its flaws, the plans presented by the von der Leyen Commission go a good way towards meeting this vital challenge. Its thrust has to be endorsed. Arguments about, among others, whether loans or grants should be deployed; how recovery projects should be selected and conditioned, etc. should be subordinated to this overall priority.

Christine Schneider (PPE), *schriftlich*. – Ich hoffe, dass es den Verhandlungsführern gelingen wird, die Verhandlungen jetzt zu intensivieren, damit letztendlich doch noch ein „no Deal Brexit“ vermieden werden kann. Vergleichbare Umwelt- und Sozialstandards sind zur Gewährleistung eines fairen Wettbewerbs ebenso dringend notwendig wie Vereinbarungen zur Fischereipolitik oder zur polizeilichen und justiziellen Zusammenarbeit.

József Szájer (PPE), *írásban*. – Igazságos pénzelosztás rendszert akarunk. Érvényesíteni kell az alapszerződés célját, hogy az uniós finanszírozás a kohéziót, a szegényebbek felzárkózását szolgálja. Igazságtalan, ha a szegények és a fegyelmezetlen gazdálkodók finanszírozzák meg a gazdagokat és a fegyelmezetleneket. Magyarország saját példájából tanulta meg, hogy nem szabad eladósítani a jövő nemzedékeit. Ezt nálunk az Alaptörvény is tiltja. A magyar Országgyűlés tegnap megszüntette a rendkívüli jogrendet. A kormány alkotmányos felhatalmazása és a magyar emberek összefogása gyors, hatékony cselekvést tettek lehetővé.

Magyarország elkerülte a velünk azonos méretű Belgium sorsát, ahol sajnos húszszoros az áldozatok száma. A tegnapi döntés bizonyította, hogy sajtó, Maxová európai képviselő és társai hazudtak, mikor Magyarországot támadták. Nincs alantasabb, mint a mindenkiket fenyegető veszély idején hátbatámadni a frontvonalban életekért küzdőket. Ha már segíteni nem tudtak, jobban tették volna ha nem akadályozták a harcot a vírus ellen. Életük végéig szégyellhetik magukat ezért. Mindenki megveti azokat, akik a bajban a közös mentőcsónak fenekét fújják.

Valdemar Tomaševski (ECR), *raštu*. – Vėl kalbame apie partnerystės susitarimą su Didžiąja Britanija po Brexito. Turėtume paspartinti su tuo susijusius veiksmus, kad būtų užtikrintas mūsų šalių ir piliečių saugumas. Atkreipkime dėmesį į keletą dalykų. Tolesnės derybas reiktų grįsti politine deklaracija, kuri dabar yra derybų nuoroda ir apibrėžia lankstios partnerystės parametrus. Tarpinstitucinis bendradarbiavimas turi užtikrinti mūsų piliečių, gyvenančių JK, saugumą. Labai svarbu, kad abi būsimos susitarimo šalys išlaikytų dabartinius ES vartotojų apsaugos ir piliečių teisių standartus pagal ES teisinius pasiekimus. Susitarimas turėtų užtikrinti abiejų šalių piliečių apsaugą įgyvendinant verslininkų, įdarbinančių darbuotojus ne iš JK, ypač iš Vidurio ir Rytų Europos, kurių nemaža dalis gyvena Britų salose, išpareigojimus. Taip pat turime padaryti viską, kad laisvo asmenų judėjimo tarp ES ir JK principai būtų taikomi ir po pereinamojo laikotarpio. JK pranešimas apie nukrypimą nuo šios taisyklės kelia didelį nerimą. Į būsimą partnerystę turėtų būti įtrauktos nuostatos dėl asmenų judėjimo, grindžiamos visišku abipusiškumu ir valstybių narių nediskriminavimo principu, o JK galimybė patekti į Sąjungos vidaus rinką turi būti proporcinga išpareigojimams, prisiimtiems tam, kad palengvinti asmenų mobilumą, atsižvelgiant į abipusiškumo principą dvišaliuose santykiuose. Susitarimas turi apsaugoti ES ir JK piliečius, įskaitant jų šeimos narius. Jie turėtų gauti visą reikiamą informaciją apie savo teises ir procedūras, kurių turi būti laikomasi, kad būtų įmanoma toliau gyventi ir dirbti buvimo šalyje arba laisvai keliauti į ją.

Henna Virkkunen (PPE), kirjallinen. – Euroopan talouden elpyminen on jokaisen jäsenmaan etu. Historiallisessa kriisissä on perusteltua, että käytämme kaikki EU:n mahdollistamat keinot yhteisten sisämarkkinoidemme elvyttämiseksi. Paketissa on kuitenkin vielä paljon parantamisen varaa. Itse pidän tärkeänä, että rahastosta myönnettäisiin jäsenmaille ehdotettua enemmän lainaa ja vain pieneltä osin suoria tukia.

Jotta jäsenmaiden keskinäiset vastuut eivät hämähärry, sitoutuminen hyvään taloudenpitoon on sisällytettävä varojen jakamisen kriteereihin. Samalla kun sovimme menoista, on päätettävä selkeästi myös lainan takaisinmaksun suunnitelmasta. EU:n omien varojen kasvattaminen on kannatettava ehdotus, pidän hyvänä esimerkiksi ajatusta kierrättämättömän muovin verosta. Verotus vaatii kuitenkin jäsenmaiden yksimielisen päätöksen, mitä ei tähän mennessä ole saavutettu. Nyt on tärkeää, että jäsenmaat löytävät yhteisen kannan tulevista omista varoista ja niihin suunnattavista veroista. Jos lainan takaisinmaksu jää auki, se voi johtaa EU-budjetin leikkauksiin seuraavilla kausilla pienentäen rahoitusta kaikilta EU-ohjelmilta.

Elpymisen kannalta ratkaisevinta on ohjata varat siten, että ne tukevat teollisuuden uudistumista, digitalisaatiota ja kestäväää kasvua. Mahdollisimman suuri osa paketista kannattaa kanavoida jo olemassa olevien EU-ohjelmien kautta. Tämä on tärkeää paitsi tehokkuuden myös läpinäkyvyyden ja parlamentaarisen kontrollin varmistamiseksi.

On hyvä, että komission uusimmassa ehdotuksessa osin lisätään varoja ilmastoneutraaliuuden saavuttamiseen. Samalla olen kuitenkin pettynyt siihen, että esitys leikkaa rajat ylittävää liikenne-, energia- ja digitaalista infrastruktuuria rahoittavasta CEF-ohjelmasta. Jotta taloutemme pysyy kilpailukykyisenä, tarvitsemme investointeja moderneihin yhteyksiin.

Carlos Zorrinho (S&D), por escrito. – Na sequência das posições robustas e largamente consensualizadas no Parlamento Europeu, a Comissão Europeia apresentou um fundo de recuperação de nova geração, forte, de largo espectro e com um modelo solidário. É fundamental que o Conselho adote com celeridade e sem distorções inaceitáveis essa proposta, que foi entendida pela grande maioria dos cidadãos europeus como uma prova de vida e de capacidade de resposta da União às suas necessidades. Essa aprovação sem entorses é uma condição para que o fundo possa receber o consentimento do Parlamento Europeu.

A forma excecional como foi possível ultrapassar barreiras e limitações no desenho dos diferentes programas e mecanismos de resposta tem que se transmitir aos procedimentos de concretização, de forma a que os recursos comecem a chegar o mais depressa possível a quem mais deles necessita.

As recomendações para o processo negocial do BREXIT são adequadas e devem ser escrupulosamente cumpridas. O acordo de saída tem que ser respeitado, bem como os compromissos assumidos na declaração política. É preciso também assegurar o alinhamento regulatório e defender os interesses do sector europeu das pescas e os direitos dos cidadãos da União.

(The sitting was suspended at 18.40)

VORSITZ: KATARINA BARLEY

Vizepräsidentin

23. Wiederaufnahme der Sitzung

(Die Sitzung wird um 19.05 Uhr wieder aufgenommen)

24. Konferenz zur Zukunft Europas (Aussprache)

Die Präsidentin. – Als nächster Punkt der Tagesordnung folgt die Aussprache über die Erklärungen des Rates und der Kommission zur Konferenz zur Zukunft Europas (2020/2657(RSP)).

Ich weise die Mitglieder darauf hin, dass es bei dieser Aussprache keine spontanen Wortmeldungen gibt und keine blauen Karten akzeptiert werden.

Nikolina Brnjac, President-in-Office of the Council. – Madam President, thank you for the opportunity to once again discuss with you the conference on the future of Europe; a reflection that today seems more important than ever in view of the unprecedented challenges our Union is facing.

The situation has no doubt radically changed since we last had a chance to discuss the issue in this plenary back in January. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has, in the meantime, left deep marks on our societies and economies, leaving no one and nothing unaffected, including the plans we had for the conference.

For obvious reasons over the last few weeks and months, we had to focus our attention on the most pressing priorities for our citizens; foremost the health emergency and its economic and social consequences. If anything, however, the crisis has shown us how important it is to reflect together on the future of our Union. The Presidency therefore remains strongly committed to reaching a consensus in the Council as soon as possible, with the aim of finding an agreement with Parliament and the Commission on the timing and manner of launching the conference and on its overall concept.

However, I want to strongly underline that we are doing our best to find swift agreement in the Council on this important issue. That work is still ongoing and has intensified over the last week at COREPER, ministerial and other high political levels. On 9 May, in his address to mark Europe Day, the Croatian Prime Minister, Mr Plenković, stressed the paramount value of the future of Europe open debates with our citizens and other stakeholders for shaping the vision of our common European future. He invited all EU Member States to reach a consensus as soon as possible, as well as the agreement with Parliament and the Commission.

On 26 May, the Presidency also included a discussion on the conference on the agenda of the informal videoconference of Ministers of European Affairs. As it emerged from these exchanges, the design of the conference will of course need to take into account the recent developments. The Presidency is therefore working on the revised text of the Council's position in order to also reflect the COVID-19 reality.

We take note of Parliament's new resolution on the conference on which you will vote in this plenary which similarly seeks to reflect the new reality. At the same time, we believe that the nature of the conference should not fundamentally change in the light of the pandemic. The conference should contribute to the development of our policies in the medium and long term, so that we can better tackle current and future challenges while taking into account as many views of different stakeholders as possible.

While the lessons of the COVID-19 crisis should be included in our reflection, we also consider that the crisis has further highlighted the importance of the already identified priorities of the 2019-2024 strategic agenda. These priorities range from strengthening our single market to successfully delivering the green and digital transition, and delivering concrete results for the benefit and well-being of our citizens. Most importantly, we remain convinced that the upcoming conference should be an inclusive process involving our three institutions in full respect of the interinstitutional balance and of our respective roles. Likewise, Member States should be involved equally, including their national parliaments, and shared ownership remains important.

Finally, let me reiterate that to deliver on our priorities, as well as defining a vision of Europe in 10 to 20 years, cooperation among institutions will be imperative. As the coronavirus crisis has reminded us all, divisions make us weaker. Only by overcoming them will we be able to proactively shape our future.

Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the Commission. – Madam President, last time I had the opportunity to address this House on the Conference on the Future of Europe was on 15 January, a few short months ago. Since then, our world has changed significantly.

We are not yet out of the crisis, so we cannot be certain of the impact that this will have on our work for the moment. My key message to you today is that the Conference on the Future of Europe is now more important than ever before. It is an exercise in democratic participation, which showcases the European way. Our common rights and values are central to the resilience of our societies and will be the basis on which we build our recovery from the corona crisis. I am convinced that we must continue to move forward together with ambition and vision.

I see my job as reaching out to each and every European citizen. The COVID-19 pandemic shows us the importance of solidarity. It has also shown how together we can recover, repair and come out stronger from this crisis, as President von der Leyen recently said here in this very Chamber. I agree and would add that only together can we build the present and the future that citizens deserve. And please note this: the present and the future.

The Commission has proposed a clear, structured plan that aims to lead us out of crisis and into sustainable and long-term economic growth, based on a green transition and a digital transformation, as requested by the European Council. The recently-announced comprehensive package for European recovery, with its overall budget of EUR 1.85 trillion, will help Europe recover from the crisis and support multiple European sectors as we emerge from this period of constraint. This includes major initiatives like Next Generation EU, which will boost the European budget in the first crucial years of the recovery and contribute, together with the reinforced budget for 2021-2027, to making it sustainable, inclusive and fair for everyone, including those in disadvantaged areas and those who were hit hard by the crisis. Together we will come out of the crisis.

The Conference on the Future of Europe is an excellent tool to engage and involve all Europeans. I look forward to the joint declaration by the Parliament, the Council and the Commission and later – as soon as possible – to launching the Conference on the Future of Europe. Let's be honest. Politics is no longer business as usual. We must be brave, have the courage of our convictions and deliver for the citizens. They demand it of us and we have a mandate to respond. We need to strengthen our representative democracy even more by offering an opportunity for enhanced participative democracy.

I rely on your support for making this joint declaration a reality as soon as possible. We need to agree on the structure, scope and main principles of the Conference and establish principles for those who want to become our partners in this exercise. Yesterday, at the COSAC meeting, the national parliaments made it clear that they want to be partners in this joint endeavour, and we need to consolidate this partnership approach. We are not competing for influence here. We need to work together to be able to reach out to as many citizens as possible. They count upon the Council of Ministers to reach an agreement on a mandate to enable us to start as soon as possible the negotiations on the joint declaration so that the Conference can be launched as soon as possible. This is the Commission standpoint.

In this context, I would like to say a few words on democracy and the Conference on the Future of Europe. During these times, people feel left behind. They blame democracy itself sometimes. While unfortunate, this also shows the importance of democracy and its relevance in our daily lives. Who present here today could have imagined the way in which COVID-19 has infected our European Union in so many different ways at so many different levels? Surely this current crisis shows now more than ever that democracy and democratic institutions have a key role to play.

We understand that citizens' trust in democracy cannot and should not ever be taken for granted. Citizens have been asking for greater participation in policy-making, and we need to listen to this call. By involving citizens and civil society even more, we will help to reinforce democracy in the European Union. Let us have the courage to put innovative tools to work for democracy and citizens, starting with the Conference on the Future of Europe.

To conclude, I will end by reminding you why we are having the Conference on the Future of Europe. It is for the current and the next generations of Europeans. Together we – citizens and institutions – will find ways to give Europeans a greater say on what the Union does and how it works for them. Let us have the courage to make a success of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Paulo Rangel, em nome do Grupo PPE. – Senhora Presidente, ao Conselho e em particular à Senhora Vice-Presidente da Comissão, queria também agradecer as palavras.

Primeiro ponto, que acho que é essencial dizer aqui, é que é muito bom o entendimento que os grupos, eu diria pró-europeus desta casa, foram capazes de encontrar para dar um novo impulso à Conferência sobre o Futuro da Europa e, portanto, este era o primeiro ponto que queria sublinhar. É que nós estamos claramente unidos e temos uma visão que é uma visão partilhada sobre aquilo que deve ser a conferência.

Segundo ponto, queria também dizer que hoje, como aliás o Conselho parece ter descoberto agora mais recentemente, é mais importante a Conferência sobre o Futuro da Europa do que era há 6 meses atrás e há 6 meses atrás ela já era muito necessária, mas agora é mais importante. Porquê? Porque a pandemia não é que tenha criado problemas novos, ela tornou muito mais patentes os problemas que já existiam e, portanto, é necessária agora.

Há uma consciência por parte das populações, dos cidadãos, dos problemas que a Europa vive, nomeadamente os problemas que têm a ver, por um lado, com aquilo que devem ser os grandes objetivos do projeto europeu, quais os novos grandes objetivos e, por outro lado, também os problemas de democracia, os problemas de Estado de Direito, os problemas de participação dos cidadãos e, portanto, estes que eram, digamos assim, os grandes objetivos e princípios da conferência são hoje, claramente, mais necessários do que antes.

Segundo ponto que é muito importante: é fundamental perceber que, nestas circunstâncias, nós temos de envolver os cidadãos na mesma e temos de dar um *follow-up* e tirar consequências desta conferência.

São dois pontos que estão também na resolução, mas o ponto mais importante, e aqui tenho de me dirigir ao Conselho e acompanhar a Comissão: pedir ao Conselho que tome uma decisão, pedir ao Conselho que finalmente tome uma posição sobre esta matéria, porque, meus caros amigos, não bastam apenas palavras bonitas. Nós ouvimos sempre da Presidência palavras muito belas, mas não vimos nenhum avanço, nenhuma ação e continuamos a ver uma grande hesitação no Conselho.

Ora isto também é um sinal para os cidadãos europeus. Não pode o Conselho queixar-se da falta de democracia e depois estar a atrasar cada vez mais a Conferência sobre o Futuro da Europa.

As gerações presentes e as gerações futuras merecem outro tratamento e, por isso, o Conselho deve rapidamente tomar a sua posição e nós levarmos este processo democrático, como não tem precedentes, por diante.

Iratxe García Pérez, *en nombre del Grupo S&D*. – Señora presidenta, la gran mayoría de los retos de nuestros días no conocen fronteras. Las desigualdades, las pandemias, el cambio climático, la digitalización, son desafíos a los que nos enfrentamos sin tener en cuenta el lugar donde vivimos. También necesitamos acelerar el cambio en el sistema de toma de decisiones de la Unión, pasando de la unanimidad al sistema de mayoría en algunos aspectos cruciales. Ya antes de la crisis de la COVID-19 lo estábamos planteando: una conferencia europea que refleje y defina su futuro.

Esta conferencia es ahora más necesaria que nunca. La COVID-19 ha puesto de manifiesto algunas carencias serias de la Unión, que deben de ser abordadas, entre ellas, la falta de competencia en materia sanitaria, el caótico cierre de fronteras y, también, la falta de solidaridad. Si a esto le añadimos el riesgo de que no haya ningún acuerdo entre los Estados miembros para aprobar el plan de recuperación, entonces nos enfrentaremos a una crisis económica y social sin precedentes.

Lamentablemente, el Consejo sigue dando largas. Mientras que el Parlamento y la Comisión han estado listos desde enero para lanzar esta conferencia, el Consejo aún no ha sido capaz de lanzar un acuerdo. Señorías, necesitamos tener una Unión Europea más fuerte en el futuro, y esto no podemos hacerlo solos en la burbuja de Europa. Necesitamos abrir un gran debate, y en esto tiene una gran responsabilidad el Consejo. Pueden contar con un Parlamento consciente de la responsabilidad que tenemos para abordar los cambios, los desafíos y para construir una Europa más fuerte con la ciudadanía.

Guy Verhofstadt, *on behalf of the Renew Group*. – Madam President, the reason for this resolution is very simple: it is not a resolution to the Commission, it is not a resolution to the colleagues in the Parliament, it is a resolution that is in fact made for the Council. I hope that the Council this time can reach an agreement so that we can launch this conference, because let's be honest, it becomes more and more like the monster of Loch Ness. From time to time it appears, then it disappears, it is more like an illusion, like a fantasy and we must avoid that.

This is serious business, this conference is not one or other little instrument for the European Parliament. This conference is vital, it is crucial for the future of our European Union, because let's face it, this Covid crisis is another illustration of it. This Covid crisis will change the world. It is a world that will be completely different, a world that will no longer be dominated, I think, by the United States of America who is withdrawing from the international scene for the moment. It may well be dominated by China who wants to become, and who already is, a world power and who wants to dominate the world and international scene.

Between America and China there will be Europe stuck between them and if we don't want to be stuck between the US at the one hand and China on the other hand, and if we want really the instruments to defend the interests of our citizens, we need another European Union. This European Union is not fit for purpose. Not fit for the future and we all know it. The Council knows it, the Commission knows it and certainly our citizens know it. So it's time now to start really this exercise because we have not a lot of time, maybe we can tell that to your colleagues in the Council. There is the Covid crisis, there are precedent crises, tomorrow there could be another challenge.

So my hope is that we can take a decision to make this common declaration between the three institutions and we can start this conference as early as possible in September.

Hélène Laporte, *au nom du groupe ID*. – Madame la Présidente, mes chers collègues, la Commission européenne a lancé une réflexion sur l'avenir de l'Europe, qu'elle envisage comme un dialogue direct entre elle-même et les citoyens.

Il est vrai que le traité de Rome et ses pays signataires étaient pleins d'espoir devant le projet européen, mais tout cela semble si loin. Et si les crises que nous connaissons marquaient le chant du cygne de cette Europe fédéraliste et technocratique? L'Union européenne tombe de Charybde en Scylla: échec sanitaire face à la pandémie de COVID-19, échec autour des questions des frontières et du déconfinement, échec à ce jour également d'un consensus sur le plan de relance. Mais ne nous y trompons pas, les échecs ne datent pas, hélas, d'aujourd'hui.

Alors quel avenir pour l'Europe? Pour décider d'où l'on va, il faut savoir d'où l'on vient. Les racines de l'Europe, sa culture, ses blessures et sa grandeur ne sont pas un héritage négociable, la mondialisation a fait de notre continent une terre de passage et de repentance. Les peuples sont attachés à leur terroir, leur pays, leurs grands hommes. Le dogme ultralibéral a vécu, le fédéralisme doit être revu à l'aune des leçons du passé. L'Europe des nations, que nous appelons de nos vœux, constituera un chemin d'espoir pour les peuples désireux de retrouver enfin leur souveraineté.

Daniel Freund, *on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group*. – Madam President, I have 90 seconds of speaking time today. That's the same amount that the European Council took to discuss the outcome of the last major exercise of citizen consultation. We talked to hundreds of thousands of Europeans in over 1 600 citizens' dialogues. When I read now the draft Council mandate, I have to say that I am shocked the outcome of the two-year debate on the conference should simply be another discussion of the Council behind closed doors. How do you explain to citizens that we are having a debate on the future of Europe, but that you don't really want them to change anything, that we're excluding the possibility of treaty change, of real change, before the debate has even started? I think that's absurd.

So we are in a situation where, for the second time in a decade, we are slipping into the worst economic crisis. Millions of Europeans are losing their jobs, particularly young people. Many of them had just gotten out of the last crisis. The question now is: can we or do we want to afford losing another decade, or are we finally going to address the structural shortcomings of this Union, and make sure that we get out of this crisis faster than the last one.

I hear in the Council that the conference has become a bit of a running joke, a running gag. I think this House has made it very clear that citizen participation is not a joke, that meaningful reform of the Union is not a joke, and that coming out of this crisis stronger and more united is not a joke. So the Council really needs to stop joking around now. Let's start working on the future of Europe, I think it is about time.

Zdzisław Krasnodębski, *w imieniu grupy ECR*. – Pani Przewodnicząca! Moja grupa polityczna także uważa, że niezbędna jest głęboka reforma Unii, szczególnie – i tu się zgadzamy – w świetle ostatnich doświadczeń z pandemią, która pokazała, jak bardzo jesteśmy nieprzystosowani, nieprzygotowani na sytuację egzystencjalnych zagrożeń. Popieramy również ideę organizacji konferencji o przyszłości Unii Europejskiej, jeśli ta konferencja miałaby mieć rzeczywiście otwarty charakter i dopuszczała do głosu także tych, którzy nie hołdują federalistycznej ortodoksji. Niestety po wypowiedziach kolegów trudno mieć taką nadzieję i uznawać za uzasadnioną.

My uważamy, że należy dążyć do przywrócenia Unii jako europejskiej wspólnoty suwerennych narodów opartej na eurorealistycznej wizji konfederacyjnej Europy, która szanuje prawa i legitymację demokratycznych państw członkowskich. Musimy wzmocnić jej duchowe fundamenty. Jeśli czegoś powinniśmy się nauczyć z historii XX w., to tego, jak niebezpieczne są próby totalnej przebudowy społeczeństwa.

Pani przewodnicząca von der Leyen przypomniała w swoim dzisiejszym wystąpieniu o zasadzie „jedność w różnorodności” jako podstawie europejskiej integracji. Jednak w rzeczywistości od dawna zamiast różnorodności mamy w Europie do czynienia z postępującą uniformizacją kultur, opinii i zbiorowości. Narody czują, że powoli odbiera się im prawo stanowienia o sobie. A więc Unia Europejska staje się coraz bardziej aeuropejska, odwracając się od swoich tradycji filozoficznych i religijnych, od swojej przeszłości. Musimy na nowo uczynić ją europejską we właściwym sensie tego słowa.

Helmut Scholz, *im Namen der GUE/NGL-Fraktion*. – Frau Präsidentin! Ich schließe mich meinen Vorrednerinnen und Vorrednern an, die alle sagen: Jawohl, wir brauchen endlich eine Positionierung des Rates, gemeinsam mit Parlament und Kommission diese Konferenz aufzunehmen.

Acht Monate sind vergangen, seit die Präsidentin der Kommission den Menschen in Europa diese Konferenz versprochen hat. Das Europäische Parlament hat sofort angefangen, sehr intensiv daran zu arbeiten, wie wir diese Konferenz bewegen können. Viele Fragen bezüglich der künftigen organisatorischen und institutionellen Ausgestaltung und des Verfassungsauftrags dieser Konferenz sind auch noch zu klären, also die Zeit drängt einfach und wir müssen uns bewegen, oder wir machen uns als EU-Institutionen nicht nur lächerlich, sondern erschüttern das Vertrauen in Demokratie und Mitgestaltungsfähigkeit der Europäischen Union weiter.

Das Regierungssystem der EU leidet unter einer Reihe von schwerwiegenden Mängeln – das wissen wir alle –, die im letzten Jahrzehnt deutlich zutage getreten sind: Euro-Krise, Migrationskrise, Defizite bei der Rechtsstaatlichkeit. Darüber hinaus ist die EU mit dem Brexit mit weiteren Krisen konfrontiert. Sicherlich haben wir auch Meinungsverschiedenheiten: über die Erweiterung, über den neuen Mehrjährigen Finanzrahmen, über die EZB oder auch darüber, wie der COVID-19-Pandemie begegnet werden soll.

Sowohl die alten wie auch die neuen Krisen werden durch die institutionellen Schwächen der gegenwärtigen Verfassungsarchitektur der EU nur verstärkt. Und das verlangt dringend, mit den Bürgerinnen und Bürgern die Handlungsfähigkeit der EU auf den Prüfstand zu stellen und effektive und legitime Veränderungen in transparenter Weise vorzunehmen.

Deshalb – glaube ich – brauchen wir diesen Selbstreflexionsprozess. Deshalb brauchen wir die Konsultation mit Bürgerinnen und Bürgern in dieser Konferenz, damit nicht wieder nur ein Konsultationsmechanismus und noch ein Dialog aufgesetzt werden, sondern wir zu realen Veränderungen kommen, um diese Zukunftsfragen zu bewältigen.

Also lieber Rat, lassen Sie uns nun bitte mit der Organisation der Konferenz beginnen! Denn wir brauchen diese Konferenz dringender denn je.

Fabio Massimo Castaldo (NI). – Signora Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, cara Commissaria, la crisi socioeconomica causata dal Covid-19 ha reso ancora più chiara ed evidente la necessità di riavvicinare i cittadini alle istituzioni europee. In un recente sondaggio commissionato proprio dal nostro Parlamento, si è evidenziato come il 57 % dei nostri concittadini sia insoddisfatto della solidarietà dimostrata dagli Stati membri durante questa emergenza.

Collegli, è tempo di agire e di trasformare una difficoltà in opportunità. Dobbiamo superare una volta per tutte quegli ostacoli e quei paradossi giuridici, come l'unanimità per superare l'unanimità delle clausole passerella, per rafforzare la base giuridica e l'azione concreta dell'Unione per il sociale, per la salute, per ridurre le disuguaglianze crescenti e per difendere tutti quei diritti e quella solidarietà che ci chiedono a gran voce i cittadini. Dobbiamo farlo dal basso, dobbiamo farlo anche modificando i trattati, se serve, senza precluderci alcuno strumento.

Il mondo è cambiato, l'Unione deve cambiare. Il Parlamento è pronto a giocare questa partita globale per difendere i nostri valori e il nostro progetto e al Consiglio diciamo: con questa risoluzione svegliatevi e non perdetevi più tempo, perché quel capitale è il più prezioso che non possiamo permetterci di svilire in alcun modo.

Danuta Maria Hübner (PPE). – Madam President, I would agree with all of you that we have been involved in debating the Conference on the Future of Europe for so long that I believe the time has come to make it happen. We are Members of the European Parliament, whose obligation, actually, is political courage and political bravery, and we have been elected by citizens. But we are also citizens of the European Union and we can see, as citizens in our daily life across Europe, citizens' attachment to a Europe that cares about her own citizens and a Europe that is open to the world. The pandemic has also shown disparities between what we as citizens expect from Europe and what it can do for us today. There are empty spaces in Europe's capacity to act which can be captured again by anti-European populists. That is why this conference and the direct engagement of citizens is so important. The conference is potentially a ground-breaking opportunity to achieve a more democratic and legitimate union, but it can also help us make Europe more effective.

Let me finish by saying that it would be a shame if this conference did not open up the path towards making our Treaties future-proof, adjusting the Treaties to citizens' expectations, with a view to boosting their chances in an entirely changed global world. As citizens said to me, 'the boat of history has just arrived on our shores and we cannot miss it'. I wanted to share this with you.

Domènec Ruiz Devesa (S&D). – Señora presidenta, tenemos la oportunidad, tenemos la obligación, señorías, de hacer que Europa sea más democrática, más transparente, más eficiente y más cercana a los ciudadanos.

Hace veinte años —y el señor Verhofstadt lo recordará muy bien—, con la Declaración de Laeken, iniciamos el último debate oficial sobre el futuro de Europa. Sus señorías han enumerado los distintos retos a los que nos enfrentamos; la pandemia es solamente el último.

Señora representante del Consejo, usted ha visto la posición de la Comisión -muy clara- y la posición del Parlamento, respaldada por el 80 % de la Cámara -hasta el señor Castaldo, de los no inscritos, nos apoya-. ¿A qué están esperando ustedes, señores y señoras del Consejo? ¿A qué están esperando?

Nosotros tenemos una posición desde el mes de enero. Han pasado seis meses. Sabemos que el Consejo se toma su tiempo, que es más lento, pero hasta ese punto parece excesivo.

Se lo pido de verdad. Necesitamos que el Consejo tenga una posición y que en septiembre podamos empezar esta Conferencia sobre el Futuro de Europa, y que lo hagamos —como ha dicho la señora Hübner— sin exclusiones, también abordando, si es necesario, el debate sobre la reforma de los Tratados.

Gunnar Beck (ID). – Frau Präsidentin! In Straßburg sprach ich von Sigmund Freud und neurotischer Flucht in die Krankheit: Krankheit befreit von Mühsal der Gesundung und verheißt Entlastung und Urlaub von der Realität. Prophetische Worte! Die Corona-Krise ist die jüngste zahlloser EU- und Euro-Krisen: Politiker ringen die Hände, wie stets nicht wissend, was tun. Nur eines wissen hier alle: mehr EU nun!

Die Bühne dazu – die Konferenz zur Zukunft Europas: Die EU soll effektiv, demokratisch und bürgernah werden. Geplant sind aber nicht Bürgerentscheide, sondern strukturierte Bürgerdialoge, orchestriert von EU und Pro-EU-NGOs. Und effektiv heißt hier: Bevormundung, Umverteilung und Überschuldung. Im Ergebnis: nicht Gesundheit, sondern der Sinkflug. Denn das Problem der EU ist, dass ihr irgendwann das deutsche Geld ausgeht. Deutschland und die EU gehören auf die Freud'sche Couch.

Mairead McGuinness (PPE). – Madam President, can I just say to Mr Beck that you must not have read the memo, because these are not orchestrated dialogues with citizens; these are citizens' dialogues, we don't orchestrate and we will not orchestrate. In fact, this Parliament is saying very clearly to the Council, and is frustrated by the Council's lack of ability to come to a decision. We want to engage with our citizens and it's not for today or tomorrow, it's for the future.

None of us has predicted the pandemic and yet look how it has changed how we work. Look at the impact on citizens, on families and societies. Why can't we discuss this openly? Can I just say the words 'as soon as possible' were used by the Council — asap. When I hear that, to me it means now, not in a year's time, today. So please, you are hearing the frustrated voices of this Parliament collectively, except for one or two, who want you to move forward and to sit down with the Parliament to engage with national parliaments, with citizens, with the Commission and create a better Europe. It is not about more, it is about better.

Gabriele Bischoff (S&D). – Frau Präsidentin! Sie hören das hier: Wir haben hier ein Parlament, das sich wundert, warum eine einzige Institution der Europäischen Union nicht den ersten Schritt schafft zur Zukunft Europas. Denn wir entscheiden im Moment nicht über Vertragsänderungen, es ist kein komplexes Mandat, es ist eine Einigung auf ein Mandat, in Verhandlungen zu treten, diese Konferenz überhaupt zu gestalten. Deshalb ist diese Entschließung da, um einen klaren Appell zu formulieren und zu sagen: Wie kann das sein? Seit sechs Monaten – Januar, Februar, März, April, Mai, Juni — gelingt es nicht, sich auf ein einfaches Mandat zu einigen.

Stattdessen bleibt man in den Schützengräben, hat sich da eingegraben, die Blockaden dauern an, und man kriegt es nicht hin, den ersten Schritt zu tun. Wenn wir es nicht schaffen, diesen ersten Schritt zu gehen, und wenn der Rat das nicht schafft, dann hängen wir alle mit drin und dann werden wir Europa nicht stabilisieren können. Deshalb sagen wir hier nochmal: Wir haben es gehört, es ist auch für uns hier, dass wir sagen: Wie kann das sein, dass man diesen ersten Schritt nicht schafft? Der Appell auch an die deutsche Ratspräsidentschaft: Kriegt das hin, kriegt das in Bewegung, wir müssen jetzt endlich anfangen!

Peter Kofod (ID). – Fru formand! Konferencen om Europas fremtid bliver udelukkede én stor hyldest til EU. Konklusionen vil ende med at være mere EU og flere penge til EU. Nu er det efterhånden et år siden, jeg blev valgt til Europa-Parlamentet. Dengang var jeg EU-skeptiker, nu er jeg EU-modstander. Jeg have Danmark ud af EU. Vi skal ikke tvinges til at dele børnepenge, dagpenge eller alle mulige andre vedfærdsydelse ud. Jeg vil ikke betale mere for bureaukratiet, flytecirkuset, det gigantiske EU-budget eller blive ved med at dele milliardgaver ud. Jeg vil ikke have EU's åbne grænser og masseindvandring, og jeg vil ikke lade EU underminere vores arbejdsmarked eller give råderet over vores socialpolitik, sundhed eller udlændingepolitik. Jeg vil have kontrollen tilbage, friheden tilbage – jeg vil have Danmark tilbage. I har overbevist mig om, at dette system hverken kan rettes eller reddes. Dette system er dømt til historiens mødding, og jeg er sikker på, at en dag ude i fremtiden, vil Danmark forlade EU.

Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the Commission. – Madam President, many thanks for this opportunity to engage with you on the Conference on the Future of Europe. I think that your feedback is very important to our work and I really do appreciate what I heard today. I appreciate your contributions and your will to make the Conference happen, so thank you once again.

Let me remind ourselves that when the Commission communication shaping the Conference was adopted on 22 January earlier this year, the Union was in the seventh consecutive year of growth and forecasts pointed to an expansion in 2020-2021. Today, with millions of citizens slowly coming out of confinement and the global recession unfolding, the perspective has radically changed. However, our determination to engage with citizens and ensure their voice is heard has not changed from that moment.

A key message from me today is that the Conference on the Future of Europe remains crucial. In fact, I would go so far as to say that because of the pandemic, it is now more important than ever before. European citizens should have greater say on what the Union does and how it works for them. Answering the difficult questions helps to save lives. Let me stress that we want the Conference to be an open, inclusive and transparent and structured debate.

I referred earlier to the Commission communication on the Conference. The principles stated in it are still valid. The Conference should allow citizens to focus on what they consider to be important. The Commission's political priorities and the European Council Strategic Agenda provide a broad framework. Having already held many dialogues with citizens, I am convinced that issues such as healthcare and the European Union's response to the public health crisis will now have a more prominent role in the dialogues among citizens.

Despite challenging circumstances, we aim to launch the Conference on the Future of Europe as soon as possible. Or, as Ms McGuinness said just now, once the Council has adopted its mandate, we can agree on a joint declaration. We are committed to follow up on what is agreed by the Conference. This will be the measure of our success and I commit to it fully.

Prior to the Coronavirus outbreak, I was on a listening tour of the European Union. I had planned to visit all 27 Member States but I did only 10. In the first six months of my mandate, in my mission, I was focusing on national and regional examples of where citizens are structurally involved in decision-making processes because getting the feedback mechanism will be key for the Conference on the Future of Europe this time. A feedback mechanism is one of the most important things in this Conference and this is different from previous consultations.

We need to make sure that ideas found in local discussions can be meaningfully discussed at European level. Just like the honourable Members today said, I insist that the Conference on the Future of Europe must be representative of geography, gender, age, socioeconomic background and level of education of citizens. It must also be inclusive of minority populations. All are part of our Europe's diversity.

It is important to keep an open mind. As I have said to you before, I believe that we should not predetermine the outcome. This is what we agreed many, many months ago, so we should not predetermine outcome or restrict the issues for discussion.

This is an important moment for us. We have the potential to lay the ground for a new type of politics, for a new dynamic to complement representative democracy together. Only together can we do this. Together, we can reinforce the link between European Union policymaking and the citizens' increased trust. Increased trust, increased legitimacy. Let us make the Conference on the Future of Europe a real success for our citizens.

Thank you once again for your contributions and I'm looking forward to the Council agreeing on a joint declaration and then we can start; I think September would be the best timing to start this. Thank you once again.

Nikolina Brnjac, *President-in-Office of the Council*. – Madam President, to conclude I wish to thank you once again for the useful debate we have had today. I have listened carefully to your views on this important subject and I have taken good note of them.

The Presidency is completely dedicated to finding common ground in the Council. The conference is very important to all of us, but personally I regret very much that we were not able to launch it in Dubrovnik during our Presidency. Before the outbreak of the pandemic, the Croatian Presidency spared no effort when it came to facilitating an agreement towards the Council mandate on this issue. Let me reassure you that we will continue to work with vigour and ambition in this direction.

The conference is a new project and some of the stakeholders have far-reaching ambitions for this exercise. It is expected that Member States approach it with different ideas, views, experiences and priorities. In any case, we are seeking consensus.

As this is a very important and emotional debate for the Presidency, and my last plenary as minister-delegate, allow me a few words in my native Croatian.

Poštovani predsjedavajući, u prvom hrvatskom predsjedanju Vijećem suočili smo se s izazovom kakav nije viđen od osnivanja Europske unije.

Ponosna sam na našu zajedničku brzu reakciju, na predanost svih kolega, ponosna sam što smo osigurali kontinuitet donošenja odluka u Vijeću, ali i stalnu komunikaciju ministara u svim formacijama Vijeća.

Danas posebno želim zahvaliti svim zastupnicama i zastupnicima u Europskom parlamentu koji su nastavili raditi zajedno s kolegama u Vijeću i Komisiji, na vrhuncu krize, kako bi se usvojili prvi paketi mjera za suočavanje europskog zdravlja, gospodarstva i društva u cjelini s pandemijom COVID-a 19. Nadam se da ćemo zajedno jednako uspješno raditi na planu oporavka za Europsku uniju. Hvala vam što ste s entuzijazmom podržali hrvatski program i prioritete predsjedanja. Vaša suradnja bila nam je neprocjenjiva u ovih šest mjeseci.

Dopustite da završno izrazim svoje čvrsto uvjerenje da ćemo do kraja mjeseca pronaći konsenzus oko stajališta Vijeća o Konferenciji o budućnosti Europe.

Zdrava, otporna, odgovorna, snažna i sigurna Europa, po mjeri naših građana, mora biti naš prvi prioritet. Želim vam svima puno uspjeha u daljnjem radu na dobrobit europskih građana i vidimo se ponovo. Bila mi je iznimna čast predstavljati prvo hrvatsko predsjedništvo Vijećem u Europskom parlamentu.

Die Präsidentin. – Herzlichen Dank, Frau Präsidentin, für die Arbeit der vergangenen sechs Monate, die für Sie sicherlich sowohl aufregend als auch anstrengend waren, und für die gute Zusammenarbeit.

Gemäß Artikel 132 Absatz 2 der Geschäftsordnung wurden zwei Entschließungsanträge eingereicht.

Die Aussprache ist geschlossen.

Die Abstimmung über die Änderungsanträge findet heute, 17. Juni 2020, und die Schlussabstimmung findet am Donnerstag, 18. Juni 2020, statt.

Schriftliche Erklärungen (Artikel 171)

Margarita de la Pisa Carrión (ECR), por escrito. – Para evitar los peligros de una Europa demasiado centralizada o una Europa totalmente fragmentada, el Grupo ECR cree imprescindible que el factor de cohesión fundamental se base en responder a las necesidades reales de concordia y prosperidad de los Estados miembros. Necesidades que tienen que ver con seguir un pragmatismo de corte humanista y trascendente donde los principios y valores —pilares de nuestras leyes— se fundamenten en derechos humanos como la defensa de la vida, la libertad y la dignidad.

Estos, a su vez, no pueden florecer sin fomentar políticas encaminadas a fortalecer la institución de la familia. Una familia como medida y criterio de una sociedad sana y centrada en las necesidades reales de todos sus miembros, porque es donde se educa y protege mejor a hombres y mujeres, jóvenes y niños, en un permanente ejercicio creativo de liberar sus competencias y capacidades.

Bajo esta perspectiva de fortalecimiento de esta unidad básica y primaria lograremos una verdadera coherencia en nuestra propuesta de una comunidad de naciones soberanas, donde rijan los principios de subsidiariedad, proporcionalidad y transferencia y puedan respetarse plena y coherentemente.

Ангел Джамбазки (ECR), *в писмена форма*. – Конференцията за бъдещето на Европа се организира от Парламента, Съвета и Комисията, като се очакваше тя да започне през май 2020г., както и да продължи 2 години. Факт, Конференцията е изключително нужна, особено в свят, коренно променен от кризата, в който Европа ще търси своето място между САЩ и Китай. В тази ситуация ЕС ще има нужда от ясни цели, каквито тъкмо Конференцията за бъдещето на Европа може да начертае. Безспорно е, че провеждането на Конференцията е шанс да се проведат така нужните реформи в ЕС, за да може той да бъде по-близо до гражданите. За да се прекратят практиките на разделение на Източна и Западна Европа. За да се сложи край на лицемерието и на практиката на Европа на две скорости. За тази цел е задължително да бъдат чути всички гледни точки. Засега се дава предимство на крайно-федералистките утопии, доказано провалили се по време на пандемията и истерията, свързана с нея. По всичко личи, че Парламентът е застанал изцяло и категорично зад организирането и провеждането на Конференцията, докато Комисията и особено Съветът не са на същото ниво на готовност. Призовавам организирането и провеждането на Конференцията да се проведе, спазвайки принципа на субсидиарност и уважавайки суверенитета на страните членки.

João Ferreira (GUE/NGL), *por escrito*. – A «Conferência sobre o Futuro da Europa» pretende atribuir uma aparência democrática a um processo de integração que desprezou e afrontou a vontade dos povos, sempre que esta se revelou contrária aos intentos daqueles que determinaram e determinam o rumo da UE.

Recorde-se o processo da «Convenção sobre o Futuro da Europa», que lançaria as bases para uma «constituição europeia», numa operação de mistificação então dinamizada e que agora se pretende, em traços gerais, repetir.

Tal como se verificou com a «Convenção», a «Conferência sobre o Futuro da Europa» procura impor de novo um roteiro e objetivos políticos pré-determinados, escondendo as responsabilidades da UE na atual situação económica e social e visando o aprofundamento das suas políticas, que estão na origem do agudizar das desigualdades sociais, do aumento das assimetrias de desenvolvimento e do incremento de relações de domínio *versus* dependência entre países. Uma vez mais, procuram criar ou aprofundar mecanismos de controlo e de condicionamento das políticas orçamentais e económicas de Estados – como são a «União Económica e Monetária», o «Tratado Orçamental», a «Governação Económica», o «Semestre Europeu» ou a «União Bancária» –, que representam um inaceitável e grave obstáculo ao pleno exercício de competências soberanas de países como Portugal, fundamentais ao seu desenvolvimento económico e social.

Εμμανουήλ Φράγκος (ECR), *γραφώς*. – Η παρούσα συζήτηση λαμβάνει χώρα σε μια κρίσιμη στιγμή για την ΕΕ. Μετά την επέλαση του Covid-19, τα κράτη μέλη αγωνίζονται για την οικονομική τους ανάκαμψη και η ΕΕ οφείλει να διαδραματίσει ηγετικό ρόλο. Η Διάσκεψη για το Μέλλον της Ευρώπης, τώρα περισσότερο από ποτέ, πρέπει να είναι μια ανοικτή διαδικασία, που να εμπλέκει όσους περισσότερους κοινοτικούς και εθνικούς φορείς είναι εφικτό, ώστε να εκφραστεί αμεσότερα η βούληση των πολιτών και να ενισχυθεί η δημοκρατική νομιμοποίηση της Ένωσης. Για τον ίδιο λόγο, θεωρούμε πως σημαντικότερο ρόλο πρέπει να διαδραματίσουν τα Εθνικά Κοινοβούλια, λόγω της ισχυρότερης δημοκρατικής εντολής, καθώς και το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο και ο Θεσμός της Κοινωνίας των Πολιτών. Στόχοι της Διάσκεψης θεωρούμε πως πρέπει να είναι, ιδίως, η ενεργητικότερη συμμετοχή των πολιτών στην διοίκηση, η ενίσχυση του ρόλου του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και των άμεσα εκλεγμένων οργάνων της Ένωσης, η πρόβλεψη περισσότερων μέσων και θεσμών άμεσης δημοκρατίας, η ενίσχυση του ρόλου των Εθνικών Κοινοβουλίων, η διάχυση και αποκέντρωση των εξουσιών. Πιστεύουμε, επίσης, πως προτεραιότητα πρέπει να αποτελέσει ο πλήρης έλεγχος των μεταναστευτικών ροών και η δίκαιη κατανομή του βάρους του προβλήματος, ο σεβασμός της κυριαρχίας των κρατών μελών, καθώς και η αποτελεσματική προστασία των ευρωπαϊκών συνόρων.

Cindy Franssen (PPE), schriftelijk. – Het wordt stilaan tijd om eens grondig na te denken over de Europese Unie in zijn huidige vorm. Het Verdrag van Lissabon is inmiddels al 10 jaar geleden in werking getreden, de Schumanverklaring vierde dit jaar zijn 70e verjaardag. De vraag over de toekomst van Europa werd door de coronacrisis alleen maar pertinenter. Corona heeft duidelijk bepaalde pijnpunten in de constructie van onze Unie blootgelegd. Ondanks de sterke inhaalbeweging nadien, kreeg de EU in het begin van de crisis geen grip op de uiteenlopende maatregelen van de lidstaten. We mogen hier niet blind voor zijn en moeten durven lessen te trekken. Ook om de socio-economische gevolgen – die de grootste zijn sinds WO II – te boven te komen is er veel veerkracht nodig en een sterke Unie die daadkrachtig kan optreden. Ik pleit vandaag voor een grondig debat over de rol van de Europese Unie bij grensoverschrijdende gezondheids crises, zodat we in de toekomst beter voorbereid zijn. De gereedheidskist van de Europese Unie is op dit vlak te beperkt gebleken voor de grote werken die men van de Unie verwacht. We moeten dit momentum aangrijpen om te reflecteren over hoe we de EU efficiënter en vooral daadkrachtiger kunnen maken.

Leszek Miller (S&D), na piśmie. – W ostatnich kilku latach Unia Europejska jak nigdy wcześniej jest poddawana próbie. Głównie ze względu na brexit i inne następujące kolejno kryzysy związane z zadłużeniem strefy euro, niekontrolowanym napływem migrantów, łamaniem rządów prawa czy wreszcie z wybuchem pandemii koronawirusa. Ujawniły one liczne niedostatki zarówno w systemie zarządzania Unią, jak i w zakresie posiadanych przez nią kompetencji. Jestem przekonany, że znajdujemy się zatem w sytuacji wymagającej zdecydowanej reakcji, i liczę na to, że efektem mającej się rozpocząć niedługo konferencji ws. przyszłości Europy będą rekomendacje zasadniczych zmian o charakterze konstytucyjnym. Powinny one przewidywać, w mojej ocenie, przekazanie na poziom Unii większego zakresu kompetencji oraz zmiany instytucjonalne zakładające m.in. zniesienie zasady jednomyślności w Radzie, powierzenie Komisji Europejskiej roli rzeczywistego unijnego rządu poprzez ograniczenie roli Rady Europejskiej, zmniejszenie składu Komisji i uzależnienie go od wyników wyborów do PE. Istotne znaczenie ma ponadto wzmocnienie pozycji Parlamentu Europejskiego, przyznanie mu większych kompetencji kontrolnych, uprawnień budżetowych na równi z Radą czy skutecznego prawa inicjatywy legislacyjnej (niezależnego od decyzji Komisji). Uważam też, że jeśli nie wszystkie państwa członkowskie będą zainteresowane dokonaniem głębokich reform i dalszym zacieśnianiem współpracy (jednomyślność), to pogłębienie integracji mogłoby nastąpić dzięki zawarciu nowego traktatu pomiędzy zainteresowanymi państwami członkowskimi, w oparciu o istniejący system instytucjonalny UE.

Bogdan Rzońca (ECR), na piśmie. – Europa przechodzi trudności, wciąż walczymy z pandemią COVID-19, której konsekwencją będą problemy gospodarcze. Popieram prace nad Konferencją w sprawie przyszłości Europy. Może to być forum do refleksji nad odpowiedzią UE na pandemię, ale właśnie z uwagi na ten kryzys konferencja nie powinna być priorytetem. Ważne, aby nad przyszłością Europy miały okazję pochylić się wszystkie instytucje UE z poszanowaniem ich traktatowych kompetencji oraz – w równym stopniu – państwa członkowskie. Nie możemy zapomnieć o parlamentach narodowych, ich udział wzmocni demokratyczną legitymację konferencji. Przyszłość Europy to wspólnota narodów, gdzie doceniane są poszczególne tradycje, świadoma swej historii i korzeni. Cele, które mamy na horyzoncie, to kryzys gospodarczy po COVID-19, demografia, powrót do wartości.

Europa nie może negować wartości uniwersalnych i absolutnych. Potrzebujemy Europy, która chroni i broni najsłabszych, których głos jest niesłyszalny. Nie wystarczy, aby Europa miała tylko chrześcijańskie korzenie, taką musi mieć przyszłość. Parafrazując słowa papieża Franciszka, trzeba powiedzieć, że nadeszła pora, aby wspólnie budować Europę, która obraca się wokół gospodarki tak mocno, jak wokół świętości osoby ludzkiej, wartości niezbywalnych. „Europę śmiało obejmującą swoją przeszłość i z ufnością spoglądającą na swoją przyszłość, aby w pełni i z nadzieją żyć swoją teraźniejszością. Nadeszła chwila, aby (...) krzewić Europę uczestniczącą, niosącą wiedzę, sztukę, muzykę, wartości humanistyczne, a także wartości wiary”.

László Trócsányi (PPE), írásban. – Egyetértek a képviselőtársaimmal abban, hogy az Európa jövőjéről szóló Konferencia megindítása időszerű. A 2008-as gazdasági válságtól kezdődően a hosszú 2010-es évek gyakorlatilag különböző krízisek sorozatát jelentették – gazdasági, pénzügyi, migrációs válságokét, a terrorista támadások elszaporodását, valamint a jelenlegi járványhelyzetét. Európának, az európai államoknak ellenállóbba és hatékonyabbá kell válniuk a válságok kezelése terén. Olyan problémák megoldásán kell dolgozni, amelyek az európai nemzetek és az európai polgárok javát szolgálják. Nem szabad hagyni, hogy az ideológiai tartalmú „ever closer union” elve kösse le az Európa jövőjéről való gondolkodást.

Az európai államok jelenleg számos kihívással néznek szembe. Versenyképessé kell válniuk világpiacon és biztonságot kell nyújtaniuk a polgáraiknak. Választ találniuk a társadalmak elöregedéséből fakadó demográfiai kihívásra. Nemet kell mondaniuk az európai kultúra értékeit tagadó tömeges migrációra. Újra kell indítaniuk gazdaságaikat, amiben együttműködésre vannak ítélve. Olyan Unióra van tehát szükségünk, amely ebben nyújt segítséget az európai nemzeteknek. A Konferencia jó keretet szolgáltat a viták lefolytatásához, de eredményes csak akkor lehet, ha senki sem sajátítja ki magának. A vélemények szabad ütköztetése megköveteli, hogy a nemzeti parlamentek is részt vehessenek ebben a gondolkodásban. A nemzeti parlamentek egyfelől a népszuverenitás hordozói, másfelől az európai szerződések urai, így nélkülük nem remélhető sikeres európai jövőkép felvázolása.

István Ujhelyi (S&D), írásban. – Történelmi időkét élünk, amelyek történelmi változásokra sarkallnak mindannyiunkat. A globális koronavírus-járvány világosan és egyértelműen át kell, hogy alakítsa gondolkodásunkat és viszonyulásunkat olyan betokosodott, szent téhennek gondolt dogmákhoz is, mint például a tagállami hatáskör. A járvány megmutatta, hogy nem ismer sem határokat, sem időzónákat, a vele szembeni hatékony fellépés csak mélyen integrált és koordinált lehet. Amikor Európa jövőjéről beszélünk, az egyik első és legfontosabb kérdés, amit asztalra kell tennünk, az a következő: meddig hagyjuk, hogy a tagállamok közegészségügyi rendszerei között ilyen mély szakadék legyen? Milyen európai közösség az, amelyiknek az egyik polgára háromszor nagyobb eséllyel kap kórházi fertőzést, mint alig párszáz kilométerre lakó európai polgártársa?

Amikor Európa jövőjéről gondolkodunk, akkor meg kell tudnunk válaszolni: rendjén van-e az, hogy egy kelet-európai tagállamban a hatályos protokollok és ellátás-minőségi különbségek miatt kevesebb eséllyel diagnosztizálják időben egy európai polgár daganatos betegségét, mint tőle nyugatabbra. Szerintem nincs rendjén. Szerintem egy felvilágosult, szolidáris európai közösség nem tűrheti ezeket a mély különbségeket. Tarthatatlannak tartom, hogy az egészségügy szervezését tagállami hatáskörben hagyva az Európai Unió csak megvonni tudja és megvonni szokta a vállalt az ilyen állapotok miatt. Éppen ezért felül kell vizsgálni a tagállami hatásköröket és elsőként minőségi minimum-sztenderdeket kell meghatározni a közegészségügy területén! Én ezen dolgozom! Ezt vállalom!

25. Mitteilung des Präsidenten

Die Präsidentin. – Ich habe noch eine kurze Mitteilung zu machen: Ich möchte Sie informieren, dass die Ergebnisse der ersten Abstimmungsrunde um 20.00 Uhr statt um 20.15 Uhr bekannt gegeben werden.

26. Schutz strategischer europäischer Sektoren vor ausländischer Übernahme in der Zeit nach COVID (Aussprache)

Die Präsidentin. – Als nächster Punkt der Tagesordnung folgt die Aussprache über die Erklärungen des Rates und der Kommission zum Schutz strategischer europäischer Sektoren vor ausländischer Übernahme in der Zeit nach COVID (2020/2663(RSP)).

Auch zu dieser Aussprache gibt es keine spontanen Wortmeldungen und keine blauen Karten.

Nikolina Brnjac, President-in-Office of the Council. – Madam President, the members of the European Council, in their joint statement on 26 March, underlined that the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes an unprecedented challenge for Europe and the whole world, requiring urgent, decisive and comprehensive action at EU, national, regional and local levels. They pledged to do everything that is necessary to protect our citizens and overcome the crisis by preserving our European ways and way of life.

Members of the European Council also welcomed the Commission guidelines on the screening of foreign direct investment and called on the Member States to take all the necessary measures to protect strategic assets and technology from foreign investments that could threaten legitimate public policy objectives. In the words of the leaders, this will contribute to the EU's strategic autonomy during the crisis and afterwards.

It is clear that the European Union will not get out of this crisis by closing its doors to international trade and investment. Many European companies are fully integrated in the global supply chain and a significant share of our employment is made possible thanks to international trade and investment. Global trade and investment will therefore remain fundamental for Europe's recovery and growth. The European Union needs to diversify and solidify its global supply chains to ensure the continuous flow of goods and services and to be better prepared for future crises. However, at this time the European Union also needs to be particularly vigilant to ensure that we preserve those assets that are crucial to our security and that are part of the backbone of our economy. This will directly affect our capability to recover fast.

The economic crisis resulting from COVID-19 has weakened many European companies who have seen their stock prices fall. The danger of predatory takeovers by foreign companies, in particular those in state hands or with strong state support, is very real. The EU's openness to foreign direct investment therefore has to be balanced with adequate tools and protection. EU rules already provide a framework to guarantee the protection of legitimate public objectives and Ministers for the internal market and industry regularly discuss the competitiveness of the EU economy and in particular its industry.

The discussion focused on strengthening the European strategic economic sectors and value chains and, in this context, also the protection from foreign takeovers. Ministers have welcomed the new industrial strategy for Europe that was presented by the Commission in March. They support the action announced by the Commission to reinforce the EU's strategic digital infrastructures, to develop synergies between civil, defence and space industries, to secure the supply of pharmaceuticals and their ingredients, and to broaden EU access to raw materials, to give just a few examples.

At the informal video conference last Friday, 12 June, Ministers from the internal market and industry also discussed the Commission's communication on the recovery plan package adopted on 27 May. They welcomed the measures proposed by the Commission to strengthen EU resilience and strategic autonomy across key technologies and value chains, while preserving the benefits of an open economy.

Ministers also welcomed a new European Strategic Investment Facility under InvestEU to support European resilience and investment in strategic industrial chains, notably those linked to the green and the digital transition. The Ministers took note of the Commission's intention to propose a reinforced foreign direct investment screening mechanism, which would help the EU to protect its strategic assets, infrastructure and technologies from foreign direct investments that could threaten the security of the public order.

The existing FDI screening regulation was already a priority file for the three institutions during the past legislature. This regulation was agreed very swiftly and in a very consensual manner by the co-legislators. Our collective engagement in this dossier has made the EU better able today to face the challenge in front of us. As you know, a significant and increasing number of Member States already have a screening mechanism in place and many others are accelerating the creation of their national contact points. The cooperation and exchange of information among Member States and with the Commission about potential foreign takeovers affecting our security or public order has increased sharply.

The Commission is regularly analysing and reporting on investment trends in an expert group, as foreseen in the regulation. Moreover, the upcoming Commission White Paper on an instrument on foreign subsidies will be a good opportunity to address the issue of state subsidies from third countries that have the potential of further disrupting the level playing field in the EU single market. The examples I have just mentioned show how institutional cooperation has improved the situation on the ground for our companies.

Finally, allow me to reiterate that the Council and the Member States will take all the necessary measures to protect strategic assets and technology from foreign investments that could threaten legitimate public policy objectives.

Margrethe Vestager, *Executive Vice-President of the Commission*. – Madam President, Honourable Members, this debate today in the European Parliament is extremely timely, protecting Europe's strategic sectors from foreign takeovers in a post-Covid world.

And I think we all realise that the current geopolitical context, the global economic environment, is probably the most difficult in recent history. Openness to trade and investments and to a rule-based multilateral order, they are all being challenged.

So today, the European Commission has adopted a White Paper, which launches a public consultation on ideas for future rules to make sure that foreign subsidies won't undermine the level playing field in Europe's single market.

Right now, as we start to rebuild from the damage that the coronavirus is doing, we need the single market more than ever.

Foreign investment is an important source of jobs and growth and very much welcome in Europe, but when foreign governments give subsidies to support investment and operations in the single market, that can affect our level playing field in several ways.

To give you a couple of examples: if businesses are being subsidised that are already in Europe; if businesses are being helped by foreign subsidies to buy European businesses; subsidies can help foreign companies to outbid rivals in public tenders and some subsidised companies can even get access to money from the European budget.

In this White Paper, we produce three different modules with three different ways to deal with these situations.

Module 1 is a general market scrutiny instrument to capture all market situations where foreign subsidies would distort the single market.

The competence would be shared between Member States and the Commission and if a subsidy is found to distort the single market then redressive measures could be imposed. Or if the subsidy investment or economic activity has a positive impact that outweighs the distortion, the Commission could decide not to pursue it further. And this is what we call the EU interest test.

Module 2 specifically addresses distortions caused by foreign subsidies facilitating acquisitions of EU companies.

The Commission would be the competent supervisory authority and a transaction could not be closed whilst the Commission's review is still pending. Here, commitments might be accepted to allow for the acquisition and also here an EU interest test could be applied.

Module 3 addresses the issues that might arise in public procurement and sets out a mechanism where bidders would have to notify any financial contribution received from third countries.

The competent authorities would then assess whether there is a foreign subsidy and whether that has made the procurement procedure unfair. The bidder would be excluded from the procurement process on this basis.

Finally, we also propose to look at access to EU funding in the context of foreign subsidies, both when EU funds are implemented by the Member States and when they're implemented by the European Commission directly. Obviously, these are complex matters.

So, we are launching a public consultation. It will be open for 14 weeks until 23 September. And we hope to get a wide range of views and suggestions and this obviously is the best possible way of starting this consultation by getting the views of the European Parliament.

Phil Hogan, *Member of the Commission*. – Madam President, as my colleague, Executive Vice-President Commissioner Vestager, has said, the debate in the European Parliament this evening is very timely, for the reasons that she has just outlined, but also, we are living in a global public health challenge that is having profound consequences on our economies and on our daily lives. The COVID-19 emergency has exposed our vulnerability in many respects, and one of them is the resilience of our strategic industries in their capacity to respond to the vital needs of the European people.

We all agree that investment, including foreign direct investment (FDI), will play a central role in our economic recovery in each Member State, but foreign direct investment will also contribute to bridging the gap of domestic financing for the EU's economic recovery and future ambitions, including greening our economy and making it fit for the digital age. In addition, foreign direct investment turbocharges research and innovation. Foreign-owned firms account for a quarter of business in terms of R&D in France, Germany and Spain, between 30% and 50% in Portugal and Sweden, and more than 50% in Austria, Belgium and Ireland.

But foreign investments should not happen at the expense of our own internal security. This is where our FDI Screening Regulation plays a very important role in addressing the concerns when foreign investment may put European security or public order at risk. The Commission is closely following developments in the European Union, and at the end of March, we issued, as the Council President has said, special guidance to Member States on the protection of Europe's strategic assets, ahead of the full application of the FDI Screening Regulation in October 2020. It reminds Member States of the interdependencies that exist in the European single market. It calls on all of them to seek advice and coordination in cases where foreign investments could, actually or potentially, now or in the future, have an effect on public order or security. Those Member States that have screening mechanisms should take full advantage of that and use them, and those that do not should certainly put them in place as soon as possible.

Europe has a strict and unique system of state aid control and transparency in place, but there is increasing concern that some third countries do not shy away from intervening in our markets with massive amounts of subsidies, and such third-country subsidies will then distort the European Union's internal market. So investors receiving such subsidies could aim to acquire EU companies and could, thanks to their state financing, outbid other companies, including European companies. As Executive Vice-President Vestager said, the Commission has today adopted a white paper, which launches a very important public consultation on the ideas for future roles to make sure that foreign subsidies don't undermine the level playing field in Europe's single market. I look forward to hearing your views.

VORSITZ: OTHMAR KARAS

Vizepräsident

(Die Aussprache wird unterbrochen)

27. Bekanntgabe der Ergebnisse der Abstimmung: siehe Protokoll

28. Schutz strategischer europäischer Sektoren vor ausländischer Übernahme in der Zeit nach COVID (Fortsetzung der Aussprache)

Der Präsident. – Wir setzen nun unsere Aussprache über die Erklärungen des Rates und der Kommission zum Schutz strategischer europäischer Sektoren vor ausländischer Übernahme in der Zeit nach COVID (2020/2663(RSP)) fort.

Christophe Hansen, on behalf of the PPE Group. – Mr President, China is not the only state on a shopping spree for companies weakened by the impact of the pandemic. Yet, it is definitely the proverbial elephant in the room in this debate. It leaves no doubt that our China policy could do with a healthy dose of realism. We should not adopt the approach of President Trump, who acts more like the proverbial elephant in the china shop.

The white paper on foreign subsidies gives good options, but actions speak louder than words. Actions such as the pioneering countervailing duties levied on imports of fibreglass stemming from Chinese state-subsidised companies producing abroad in Egypt. But more can be done: a China taskforce, to speak with China with one single voice on all different levels; secondly, we can beef up our FDI screening instrument; thirdly, we can move forward on the instrument for public procurement.

If we are to keep up public support for our trade policy, we must equip it with the tools to enforce fair competition.

Agnes Jongerius, *namens de S&D-Fractie*. – Voorzitter, de economische effecten van de coronacrisis mogen niet gebruikt worden om winst te maken over de rug van verzwakte bedrijven. Miljoenen banen in Europa zijn al afhankelijk van de grillen van buitenlandse investeerders. De werknemers van Apollo Vredestein en Tata Steel kunnen daarover meepraten. Zij boksen op tegen besluitvorming op directietafels, ver ver weg.

Er moet een herziening komen van de regels rond buitenlandse investeringen, met daarin een duidelijke definitie van wat strategische sectoren zijn. Zijn dat alleen de fabrieken die medische hulpmiddelen maken, bijvoorbeeld, of zijn we bereid om andere strategische sectoren voor ons continent veilig te willen stellen? We mogen niet toekijken hoe bedrijven met oneerlijke subsidies de crisis aangrijpen om op koopjesjacht te gaan. Het is aan ons allemaal om banen en bedrijven te beschermen.

Stéphanie Yon-Courtin, *au nom du groupe Renew*. – Monsieur le Président, Madame la Vice-présidente exécutive, Monsieur le Commissaire, chers représentants du Conseil, chers collègues, en décembre 2019, la Présidente Ursula von der Leyen annonçait que la Commission qu'elle présidera jouerait un rôle géopolitique fort.

Le livre blanc que vous présentez aujourd'hui sur les subventions étrangères est vraiment un pas dans cette direction, et je tiens à le saluer, d'autant plus dans le contexte actuel où la Commission européenne travaille intensément à la gestion de la crise, notamment via l'encadrement temporaire des aides d'État.

Dans le rapport annuel sur la politique de concurrence, dont je suis rapporteure et qui sera voté demain, nous appelons, avec les collègues, la Commission européenne à renforcer la politique de concurrence dans la mondialisation et à assurer la réciprocité avec les États tiers en matière de marchés publics et d'aides d'État. Notre constat est clair, nous devons adapter nos règles à la situation actuelle pour remédier à deux vides juridiques.

D'abord, nos règles d'aides d'État ne s'appliquent pas aux opérateurs non-européens qui ont pourtant pleinement accès à notre marché unique et, enfin, ni les règles antitrust, ni le contrôle des concentrations de l'Union européenne ne prennent en compte les subventions étrangères. Imaginez, Mesdames et Messieurs, un match de football où les règles de l'équipe étrangère accueillie seraient beaucoup plus clémentes que celles de l'équipe qui joue à domicile. Inutile de regarder le match, parce que sans être voyant, on sait déjà à l'avance qui le remportera, mais de façon totalement injuste!

La crise de la COVID-19 nous a alertés sur la nécessité de préserver nos secteurs clés pour parvenir à une Europe résiliente. Les rachats hostiles d'entreprises affaiblies par cette crise ne peuvent être monnaie courante, sous prétexte que nous n'avons pas su les empêcher, et je me réjouis des pistes avancées ce jour par la Commission, qui permettront d'investiguer et d'empêcher ce type de comportement prédateur.

Toutefois, le chemin est encore long, et j'espère que la consultation publique répondra à ces questions, en particulier: quelle répartition des pouvoirs entre la Commission et les États membres, quelle liberté pour les États membres qui, dès maintenant, acceptent volontiers les investissements étrangers ou les rachats de leurs fleurons nationaux par des entreprises étrangères largement subventionnées?

Une chose est sûre, si nous voulons que cela fonctionne, nous devons rester unis, sinon nos partenaires commerciaux joueront davantage sur notre diversité que notre unité.

Kim Van Sparrentak, *on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group*. – Mr President, President Trump's alleged interest in buying the German biotech company CureVac was an eye-opener. I welcome the initiatives taken by the Spanish and German Governments to better screen foreign direct investment and create the possibility to veto hostile foreign takeover bids on health care companies. The further steps taken by the Commission are also a good step in the right direction.

The health and pharmaceutical sector is crucial for the public health of Europeans. We must put public health before shareholder profits and that's why we need an increase in public funding with clear guidelines. We need a change in the research and development model for pharmaceuticals, based on open science and cost transparency. Changing the pharmaceutical sector for the benefit of everyone will be a lot harder if European pharmaceutical companies fall into foreign hands. That's why this sector in particular needs to be protected from hostile foreign takeovers, especially the ones that come from a very nationalistic interest.

Johan Van Overtveldt, namens de ECR-Fractie. – Voorzitter, elk initiatief om onze ondernemingen te beschermen tegen overnames, niet in het minst door Chinese groepen die staatssubsidies genieten, verdient alle lof en steun. China speelt het inderdaad niet volgens de internationale regels. De interne markt wordt continu afgeschermd. De juridische willekeur ten aanzien van buitenlandse investeerders is alomtegenwoordig en dat land speelt een vrij dominante rol in de steeds meer om zich heen grijpende cyberspacecriminaliteit.

Bescherming is goed, bescherming is prima, maar onvoldoende om ons ondernemingsweefsel zijn oude elan terug te geven, dat toch wel zwaargehavend is door deze crisis. Ik denk dat er op dat vlak twee maatregelen of twee ingrepen absoluut structureel noodzakelijk zijn. Een: versterking van de interne markt. Zonder die interne markt kunnen ondernemingen onmogelijk concurreren op de internationale markt. En twee, de realisatie van de interne kapitaalmarkt, die nodig is om de nodige fondsen voor bedrijven te genereren en om er ook voor te zorgen dat die middelen efficiënt gebruikt worden.

Emmanuel Maurel, au nom du groupe GUE/NGL. – Monsieur le Président, que de temps perdu! Il a fallu attendre 2020 et une crise d'une ampleur inédite pour que la Commission et le Conseil s'émeuvent des pratiques agressives de certaines puissances et de leurs multinationales en matière commerciale sur les marchés publics sur les acquisitions étrangères dans les secteurs stratégiques.

Il a fallu attendre 2020 pour que certains découvrent qu'à l'OMC, par exemple, la Chine ou les États-Unis ne sont pas vraiment des fanatiques de la réciprocité. J'ai vu que M^{me} Vestager et M. Breton avaient dit qu'ils avaient été naïfs. C'est bien de le reconnaître, mais maintenant, il faut cesser de l'être et il faut réagir. J'ai lu avec attention votre Livre blanc. Tout d'abord, je le trouve compliqué: vous avez trois niveaux d'enquête, des formulaires innombrables, etc. Je pense qu'il faut aller à l'essentiel, il faut être clair, simple, pragmatique. Il faut arrêter, comme vous le faites trop souvent, de vouloir restaurer à tout prix le marché pur et parfait. Il n'a jamais existé et il n'existe pas.

Allons à l'essentiel: il faut protéger nos entreprises, nos emplois, nos savoir-faire; il faut un *Buy European Act*. Il faut qu'en matière d'acquisitions d'entreprises étrangères, ce soit non pas la règle, mais l'exception. Il faut défendre les entreprises et les salariés européens.

Mislav Kolakušić (NI). – Poštovani predsjedavajući, poštovane kolege, pravo na istinu i pravo na istinite činjenice jedno je od temeljnih prava čovječanstva.

Da bismo mogli donijeti ispravne odluke mi moramo saznati činjenice. 10. ožujka 2020. godine zatražio sam da ne zatvaramo vrata Europskog parlamenta, da ostanemo ovdje i saznamo istinu o virusu, o jednoj od bezbrojnih mutacija virusa iz porodice Corona i bolesti COVID-19. Umjesto toga, mi smo zatvorili vrata Parlamenta i time dali pravo i drugima da zatvaraju vrata svojih parlamenata, nadalje, trgovina, da ukinemo prijevoz, da ukinemo kompletnu ekonomiju.

Što se dogodilo? Dgodila se neviđena ekonomska katastrofa. Nama sada slijedi drugi val, mi moramo saznati činjenice, moramo pozvati najpoznatije epidemiologe i virusologe u ovaj dom, postaviti im pitanja da znamo kako ćemo reagirati u 10. mjesecu.

Der Präsident. – Herr Kollege! Darf ich aber schon klarstellen, dass das Europäische Parlament die Türen nie zugemacht hat, sondern wir die einzige internationale, multinationale Organisation sind, die mehrsprachig und *remote* die Arbeit ständig weitergeführt hat und ihre Handlungsfähigkeit als Bürgerkammer Europas unter Beweis gestellt hat?

Lídia Pereira (PPE). – Senhor Presidente, a pandemia da Covid-19 está a provocar consequências devastadoras na economia europeia com as exportações da União a poderem cair perto de 470 mil milhões de euros até ao final deste ano. A volatilidade dos mercados deixa as empresas europeias suscetíveis a ofensivas estrangeiras.

É, por isso, urgente tomar medidas concretas que as protejam e, sobretudo, quando protagonizadas por empresas participadas ou detidas por Estados. A velha máxima de que o capital não tem nacionalidade é válida apenas e até ao momento em que esse capital deixa de ter como motivação a sua remuneração e passa a ser uma arma política, cultural e civilizacional. Este tipo de ameaça é ainda maior quando incide sobre sectores estratégicos, infraestruturas ou tecnologias.

Precisamos de uma União pragmática, uma economia atrativa e um quadro regulamentar que permita monitorizar a origem do capital estrangeiro em todo e qualquer processo de fusão e aquisição.

Raphaël Glucksmann (S&D). – Monsieur le Président, chers collègues, port du Pirée, aéroport de Toulouse, Alstom. Jusqu'ici, tout chez nous était à vendre.

La Commission réagit enfin avec ce Livre blanc. Le filtrage des investissements étrangers est en effet vital, mais c'est insuffisant. Je vais vous raconter l'histoire d'une usine française, celle de Gerzat, la dernière usine capable de produire en Europe des bouteilles d'oxygène pour nos hôpitaux et nos sapeurs-pompiers. Il y a un an, la direction anglo-américaine de Luxfer, a décidé de fermer cette usine, malgré des bénéfices en augmentation de 55 %, et nous voici aujourd'hui totalement dépendants, pour produire cela, des États-Unis ou de la Turquie. Luxfer est le nom d'un abandon de solidarité et d'un abandon de souveraineté.

Alors, chers collègues, nous avons un bras armé de 2 000 milliards d'euros: la commande publique. Il faut aujourd'hui un *Buy European Act*. Nous ne pouvons pas rester comme cela, incapables de produire des bouts de tissu ou des médicaments de base. Les citoyens européens ne nous le pardonneraient pas, et ils auraient raison.

Reinhard Bütikofer (Verts/ALE). – Mr President, in protecting Europe's strategic sectors there is no single silver bullet – we need the whole toolbox. That's why I welcome the White Paper that looks at ways of reining in foreign subsidies, but we also will need to strengthen our investment screening approach vis-à-vis predatory takeovers. Even though the volume of capital invested has decreased recently, the number of investments has grown, which means that investment from China is going after smaller companies that still might have a strategic role. So I think we should try to start amending our investment screening mechanism once it comes into force in October and we could learn a lesson from this.

In addition, I think in order to protect our strategic sectors we must also protect their supply chains, and there it would be interesting to learn from Japan where they're investing into relocating in order to protect supply chains, and they do that together with ASEAN countries. We could think of doing that with Western Balkan countries and other partners too.

Tom Berendsen (PPE). – Voorzitter, de komende jaren bepalen hoe wij als Europa de toekomst ingaan. En we keren de rest van de wereld niet de rug toe. Een uitgestoken hand blijft belangrijk, maar we moeten wel duidelijke regels stellen om onze eigen belangen te dienen. Niet meer naïef zijn! Wie op onze markt actief wil zijn, moet zich aan de regels houden en die regels moeten de Europese belangen dienen.

Een Amerikaanse overheid die hier op zoek is naar een coronamedicijn alleen voor Amerikanen, dient ons belang niet. Chinese staatsbedrijven die hier op zoek zijn naar strategische koopjes, of dat nu om havens, hoogwaardige technologiebedrijven of orders voor elektrische bussen gaat, dienen ons belang niet.

Om ons belang te dienen, moeten we ervoor zorgen dat op onze markt ook onze regels, onze normen en waarden gelden. Zo beschermen we onze plek in de wereld en zo zorgen we er ook voor dat de banen van de toekomst ook hier in Europa worden behouden. Ik roep de Commissie dan ook op: zet uw plannen van vandaag snel om in actie!

Phil Hogan, *Member of the Commission*. – Mr President, first of all can I thank all of the contributors to this important issue. I want to make some concluding remarks by insisting on the fact that the European Union has an open market. It welcomes foreign investments. But foreign investments certainly need to be screened, and I agree with the speakers Glucksmann, Bütikofer and Hansen who have advocated that we need to be looking at an even stronger measure than we have in place for foreign direct investment, but this was the will of the co-legislators to have a light-touch, data-driven data-collection mechanism, and therefore we in the Commission would certainly advocate a stronger measure here, if this is possible.

So in that respect the foreign direct investment screening mechanism that will come into effect in October needs to be strengthened. Also I think if there were two issues that we need your assistance on, then it would first of all be to respond in a very clear way and in a very strong way to the White Paper that has been issued by my colleague Commissioner Vestager today, in terms of getting a good response about how we need to do more in dealing with the issue of farm subsidies and that they are competing on an uneven playing field with the European companies.

And secondly your strong political support would be very welcome for moving on the international procurement instrument, which has been left a little bit in abeyance by a certain institution, so I call on the Council and Parliament and the Commission to work more closely together in order to ensure that we get this particular piece of legislation enacted as quickly as possible.

Margrethe Vestager, *Executive Vice-President of the Commission*. – Mr President, let me just echo what my colleague just said – and what Mr Bütikofer suggested – we need a toolbox. There's no such thing as a silver bullet when it comes to these matters. They are complicated matters. But there are solutions to be found. And what we're doing here is to express the fact that we will not – at the cost of businesses in Europe and consumers in Europe – sacrifice fair competition. Because it serves us well. It gives us choice, it gives us affordable prices, it gives us innovation. But in the same vein, of course we will not let go of fair competition. We will stand up for European businesses when they are being unfairly challenged by businesses who get foreign subsidies for acquisitions, maybe even for their operating costs – the most harmful subsidy of all is to have someone pick up your bills in doing that.

I hope that we can continue a strong cooperation on this. I really hope that you will encourage the co-legislator on the international procurement instruments, because here we need reciprocity and we need tools for that. I also hope that you will insist that we get better procurement rules, because procurement is a competition, and those who are the most efficient, with the highest quality, they should win: not those who come with a subsidy in their luggage.

Right now, European governments are doing the best they can to help businesses come through the damage that the coronavirus is doing, but they do that in a controlled way, they do that in a transparent way, they do that in a way that preserves the single market that will help us recover and create the jobs that have been lost. The reason why we're dealing with foreign subsidies is that we have no control, no transparency, and that is why we stand up against this today. So thank you very much for the very broad support. I very much look forward to our future cooperation, also on these files.

Nikolina Brnjac, *President-in-Office of the Council*. – Mr President, this has been a very useful debate for all of us and I would like to thank you for Parliament's continuous engagement and interest in this topic. I have taken good note of all your comments and interventions, and I will convey them to my colleagues in the Council. As I mentioned earlier, the economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has made many European companies vulnerable to hostile takeovers by foreign companies. For this reason, the EU has to ensure that we preserve those assets that are crucial to our society and to our economy, and those that assist the post-crisis recovery.

The new EU legislation to create the first EU-wide framework for the screening of foreign direct investment was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in March 2019 and has now entered into force and can be fully applied from 11 October 2020.

Finally, allow me to reiterate that the Council and the Member States will take all the necessary measures to protect strategic assets and technology from foreign investments that could threaten legitimate public-policy objectives.

Der Präsident. – Die Aussprache ist geschlossen.

Schriftliche Erklärungen (Artikel 171)

Beata Mazurek (ECR), na piśmie. – Negatywne skutki kryzysu związanego z COVID19 jeszcze długo będą odczuwane w Europie i na świecie. Choć małymi krokami staramy się powrócić do normalności, to nie możemy zapomnieć o wyzwaniach, jakie czekają na nas w nowej „pokoronawirusowej rzeczywistości”. Musimy zrobić wszystko, by chronić naszą gospodarkę przed czynnikami zewnętrznymi, które mogą oddziaływać na jej osłabienie. Musimy wspierać nasze firmy, stwarzając odpowiednie mechanizmy zabezpieczające je przed przejściami przez podmioty z krajów trzecich. Strategiczne gałęzie przemysłu, m.in. przemysł obronny, przemysł informatyczny czy medyczny, powinny pozostać domeną państw członkowskich. Trzeba wzmocnić rynek wewnętrzny, wzmocnić politykę konkurencyjności, byśmy byli lepiej przygotowani na kolejne kryzysy.

Musimy działać rozsądnie. Nie możemy zamykać się na inwestycje zagraniczne, które przysłużą się do szybszej odbudowy gospodarczej. Nie mogą one jednak zagrażać naszemu bezpieczeństwu. Potrzebny jest ich stały monitoring, potrzebna jest kooperacja pomiędzy państwami członkowskimi i bieżąca wymiana informacji. Nie możemy działać hermetycznie. Poprzez dobrą współpracę lepiej zabezpieczymy nasze interesy. Nasze działania muszą być zdecydowane. Pamiętajmy o tym, że chroniąc naszą gospodarkę, chronimy rynek wewnętrzny oraz konsumentów, a przede wszystkim obywateli Unii Europejskiej.

Andżelika Anna Moźdzanowska (ECR), na piśmie. – Kryzys związany z COVID -19 to zagrożenie przejściami przedsiębiorstw z sektorów strategicznych przez inwestorów z państw trzecich. Rozporządzenie PE i RE dotyczące monitorowania bezpośrednich inwestycji zagranicznych w UE zacznie obowiązywać dopiero od października 2020 r. Polska jako jeden z 14 krajów ma regulacje na szczeblu krajowym i stosuje ustawę z dnia 24 lipca 2015 r. o kontroli niektórych inwestycji. Rząd Polski, wspierając polskich przedsiębiorców, wprowadził pakiet rozwiązań „Tarcza antykryzysowa” na ponad 312 mld zł, który ma ochronić polskie państwo i obywateli przed kryzysem wywołanym pandemią koronawirusa. Wchodzenie inwestorów z krajów trzecich na teren Europy już się dzieje. Na celowniku są firmy strategiczne z punktu widzenia bezpieczeństwa publicznego (np. energetyka), ochrony zdrowia, nowych technologii i firmy z kluczowych branż, w Polsce m.in. sektor meblowy. Trzeba pamiętać, że nie tylko płynność finansowa jest powodem łatwych przejść. Przepływ danych know-how, pozyskiwanie środków unijnych na B+R przez firmy z krajów członkowskich stanowią łakomy kąsek, a ich utrata może mieć bardzo negatywne skutki. Musimy być szczególnie czujni i chronić sektory strategiczne. Sprawdzanie źródła pochodzenia kapitału firm, które chcą inwestować w UE, oraz powiązań z rządami państw trzecich to podstawowe działania. Europa nie może stać się narzędziem w globalnej „wojnie handlowej”.

Edina Tóth (PPE), írásban. – A koronavírus-járvány után számos európai cég piaci értéke csökkent, meggyengült likviditási helyzetük miatt befektetőkre lehet szükségük. Sajnos hosszú ideje vonzó befektetési célpontok például EU-kívüli országok cégeinek az európai technológiai vállalatok. A távol-keleti érdeklődés most ismét felerősödött. Úgy tűnik, hogy a vállalatok a koronavírus-járvány miatti helyzetet ki is használják, különösen hiszen így fejlett technológiához juthatnak. Úgy vélem, hogy a hatékony védekezés érdekében mindenképp összehangolt európai választ kell adni e kérdésre, a tagállamoknak pedig a helyi sajátosságoknak megfelelően a koronavírus-járvány miatt intézkedések egyik elemének kell tekinteni a felvásárlások elleni intézkedések meghozatalát.

Meggyőződésem, hogy a magyar és a lengyel kormány intézkedése kijelölte a helyes utat és jó példával szolgálnak. A visegrádi országok két tagállamának válságkezelési intézkedéscsomagjának ugyanis egyik célja az volt, hogy megelőzzék a stratégiai vállalatok külföldi felvásárlását. A kelet-európai döntéshozók tehát egyre inkább aggódnak amiatt, hogy uniós kívüli országok államilag támogatott vállalatok túlságosan nagy befolyást szerezhetnek a kontinens kulcsfontosságú cégekben és ezen keresztül az érzékeny infrastruktúrához, miközben ugyanezen országok továbbra is a saját gazdaságukat védik a hasonló külföldi befektetésektől. Nyomatékosan kérem a Bizottságot, hogy kellő gondossággal figyelje az ambíciózus felvásárlási terveket, s azonnal tegye meg a szükséges lépéseket, s alakítsa ki a szükséges uniós eszköztárat a belső piac torzító hatásainak kiküszöbölése végett.

29. Zweite Abstimmungsrunde

Der Präsident. – Bevor wir in den nächsten Punkt der Tagesordnung eintreten, kommen wir zur zweiten Abstimmungsrunde. Die Dossiers, über die wir nun abstimmen, sind der Tagesordnung zu entnehmen, die heute zu Beginn der Sitzung angenommen wurde. Die Abstimmungsrunde ist von 20.32 Uhr bis 21.45 Uhrgeöffnet. Es kommt dasselbe Abstimmungsverfahren zur Anwendung, das wir schon kennen. Alle Abstimmungen erfolgen namentlich, und die Mitglieder können ihre Stimmabgabe und die Ergebnisse der Abstimmungen in dem Dokument einsehen, das auf der Website der Plenartagung veröffentlicht wird.

Ich erkläre damit die zweite Abstimmungsrunde für eröffnet, und ich betone noch einmal, dass Sie bis 21.45 Uhr abstimmen können. Die Ergebnisse dieser Abstimmungsrunde werden morgen zu Beginn der Sitzung um 9.00 Uhr bekannt gegeben.

30. Tourismus und Verkehr im Jahr 2020 und darüber hinaus (Aussprache)

Der Präsident. – Als nächster Punkt der Tagesordnung folgt die Aussprache über die Erklärung der Kommission zu Tourismus und Verkehr im Jahr 2020 und darüber hinaus (2020/2649(RSP)).

Wie die letzten Vorsitzenden darf ich noch einmal wiederholen, dass es keine spontanen Wortmeldungen gibt und dass keine blauen Karten akzeptiert werden.

Adina-Ioana Vălean, Member of the Commission. – Mr President, thank you very much for inviting the Commission for this debate to discuss what is of course on the mind of everyone nowadays. The vision of the Commission for the recovery of tourism and transport, as we gradually emerge on the other side of the Coronavirus pandemic. I am sincerely happy to be back with you.

As the summer holidays approach, it is clear that we need to consider transport and tourism together. How would we physically go on holiday if no trains, boats, planes or cars were moving, or indeed moving across borders?

However, getting the economy moving requires people moving too, and that requires trust and coordination. What we need to offer citizens is clarity, non-discrimination and seamless connectivity.

We all know too well that the transport and tourism sectors have been the hardest hit by the pandemic, and particularly passenger transport. Traffic across modes has been down by at least 80% compared to the previous year. Transport is a vital enabler for many sectors, including tourism, and ensures the transport of goods that we all depend upon. It is in fact the backbone of the single market and economic activity as such. So restoring transport in the EU and beyond must be accelerated, while keeping health requirements in mind.

Our guidelines of 13 May set out a common framework for the progressive and safe restoration of transport services and connectivity. They provide general principles applicable to all transport services and specific recommendations for each transport mode. We have also proposed guidelines on the safe resumption of tourism services across the entire ecosystem, such as in hotels and restaurants, or for tour operators.

Additional guidelines were presented for restoring free movement and for making vouchers more attractive. With these guidelines we have all the necessary tools at hand to restart with this important part of our economy, as of now, well ahead of the economically so important summer of 2020.

No endeavour can ever be risk free. However, our guidelines and the protocols developed by our agencies take all precautionary measures and provide the best available practices for reducing risks, all while making the resumption of passenger transport possible.

These guidelines should be complemented by widespread information about the measures taken, so that each European can make responsible and well-informed decisions about how to limit health risks while travelling.

Any measures imposed in the transport sector have to be proportionate and risk-based. It is very important that Member States are, as of this week, leaving the general transport bans or internal borders restrictions behind and favour instead more targeted measures. This means increasing cleaning, using protective equipment, prioritising electronic ticketing or avoiding crowding in hubs. Cumulatively, these targeted measures can provide the much needed trust for people to restart travelling.

Because of the unique nature of aviation, the EU Aviation Safety Agency and the European Centre for Disease Control have published additional operational recommendations based on the Commission's general guidelines. It clarifies that a number of appropriate measures should be taken. This can, in conjunction with inbuilt features in aircraft, such as hospital grade filters, permit the reduction of risks to acceptable levels.

Acting together is key, since transport is by nature a cross-regional and cross-border activity. It goes without saying that restoring links must always be coordinated, in particular we need to ensure that any measures applied at points of arrival and departure are mutually acceptable, otherwise travel will become prohibitively burdensome, expensive and in some cases impossible.

In this regard, we will also continue our good cooperation with Member States through our network of transport contact points established at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis in the context of the Green Lanes guidelines.

Safety is not the only thing needed to inspire trust. Trust is also built on precedent and the precedent we wanted to defend is that consumers should be protected in the EU at all times. The Commission has been clear throughout this crisis that the rights of passengers to reimbursement shall not be restricted. Consumers, especially those who have been hit economically by the crisis, will only get back to travelling for leisure and tourism if they can rest assured that their travel packages and flights are to be reimbursed if cancelled.

In addition to all that, resuming passenger transport and tourism requires business continuity for all the sectors. Securing working capital, funding of operations, public support for businesses to maintain investment pipelines are all vital economic prerequisites for regaining connectivity and building a transport system that is fit for the future.

The Commission has therefore proposed a robust and comprehensive package for the recovery of the EU economy. Although specific economic sectors do not have ring-fenced funding in the recovery package, it is clear that those economic ecosystems, such as transport and tourism, will be able to benefit from several funding opportunities.

I therefore seek your support in adopting this package swiftly. It provides a unique window of opportunity for funding in transport, tourism, automotive, aeronautics, and ship manufacturing, as well as all other industries needed to ensure sustainable, resilient and affordable connectivity for 2020 and beyond.

I will devote all my efforts in convincing Member States and private stakeholders in using the EU instruments available, to increase liquidity and to get firmly on a recovery path.

The Commission's proposed recovery package to kick-start the European economy contains an array of opportunities for transport under the EUR 1.1 thousand billion MFF and the EUR 750 billion in the Next Generation EU programme.

The recovery package includes a reinforced budget for the Connecting Europe facility, with an additional EUR 1.5 billion for the general envelope to stimulate further infrastructure investment. It will accelerate the completion of the Core TEN-T network due by 2030. It will stimulate the Digital and Green Transition with clear priority given to the most decarbonised modes, rail and inland navigation, and it will accelerate the deployment of clean technologies such as alternative fuel infrastructure, in line with our Green Deal agenda.

We are also proposing an enhanced InvestEU with an increased budget of EUR 31.6 billion. This will include a new Strategic Investment Facility, the InvestEU's fifth window to support critical infrastructure and the development of resilient value chains, including for new clean technologies that are essential for the transport sector.

In addition, the sustainable infrastructure window has almost doubled in size in our proposal and now has a EUR 20 billion guarantee which can stimulate private investment in sustainable transport infrastructure and fleet renewal.

With a total budget of EUR 560 billion the recovery and resilience facility can benefit all sectors of the economy, including transport. Member States will submit their plans — recovery and resilience plans — by April next year in order to receive grants or loans. I am sure that investment in sustainable transport systems will be high on the recovery agenda of Member States, as this is mentioned in almost all country reports of the EU Semester on which the national plans will have to be based.

Of course there is also the solvency support instrument under the European Fund for Strategic Investment with EUR 26 billion which can mobilise additional private capital to support eligible companies in the sectors most impacted by the Coronavirus.

All these instruments will continue to support our priorities of sustainability and digitalisation — the focus of our upcoming Strategy in Transport communication. The Coronavirus changed a lot, but not the need for smarter sustainable mobility. 80% of the CEF budget for transport is already contributing to climate action. For the entire MFF and the Next Generation EU we propose an overall target of 25% climate mainstreaming. For transport it could be even higher.

I would like to conclude by commending you for the European Parliament resolution highlighting many of the challenges and solutions taken. As we look forward, we are of course learning lessons from our experiences over the last few months. The situation was unprecedented, and I would dare to say that we are now wiser and better prepared. I am looking forward to your questions and comments. Thank you very much.

Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, *en nombre del Grupo PPE*. – Señor presidente, el sector turístico, sin duda, y el sector del transporte han sido los sectores más castigados por la pandemia: un tercio de la humanidad en confinamiento, el tráfico aéreo por debajo del 90 %, la actividad turística prácticamente nula. El sector turístico es el pilar de nuestro crecimiento económico. De hecho, ha sido el aliado más potente de la economía europea. Europa es el primer destino turístico del mundo. Hablar de turismo es mucho más que hablar de ocio; es hablar de cohesión, de solidaridad, de cultura, de vertebración, de futuro. Urge, por tanto, una respuesta europea.

El Grupo popular europeo, y el español, concretamente, ha querido ser locomotora en la respuesta. Y por esto pedimos, en primer lugar, que sea prioritario en el plan de recuperación y, en segundo lugar, una hoja de ruta clara. Necesitamos certezas, necesitamos coordinación y necesitamos seguridad.

Necesitamos seguridad en los protocolos sanitarios y en los protocolos, también, de seguridad +que sean comunes; que las medidas europeas se reconozcan por unos y otros+; necesitamos ayuda a las pymes, porque el tejido productivo del turismo está compuesto en más del 90 % por pymes; necesitamos conectividad +volver a poner en marcha la conectividad para las Islas Baleares o para las Islas Canarias, para las regiones ultraperiféricas, es clave.

Y necesitamos también una estrategia para el futuro del turismo europeo. Hacemos un llamamiento a la acción. No podemos perder ni un minuto, porque está en juego el futuro de Europa. No hay solidaridad. Europa no existe sin solidaridad, pero tampoco Europa existiría sin el turismo.

István Ujhelyi, *a S&D képviselőcsoport nevében*. – Elnök Úr! Szociáldemokrata képviselőként 27 millió, és benne több mint ötszáz ezer magyar munkavállaló nevében és érdekében szólok most Önökhöz. Igen, a balatoni borászat pincére, a budapesti hotel recepciós, a máltai utazásszervező, de a német légitársaság stewardesse is azt kérdezi, hogy mit tesznek konkrétan értünk. Merthogy a tagállami kormányok ez idáig leginkább úgy tekintettek a turizmusra, mint egy örökké gyümölcsöt adó fára. Nem akarták táplálni, a maga természetességében gondolták, hogy adóbevétel mindig lesz, munkát mindig terem. Most jöhetünk rá mindannyian, hogy ez mennyire nem így van.

Ezért a szociáldemokrata frakció követeli, hogy azonnali segítségnyújtás kell, és konkrét eszközökkel, az újjáépítési tervből. Kríziskezelő mechanizmus kell, amit hosszú távon bármikor elő tudunk venni, ha hasonló helyzetbe kerülünk. Kell egy európai utasgarancia rendszer, és ami nagyon fontos: hosszan fenntartható és okos, új európai turizmusstratégia van szükség. Mi erre tettünk javaslatot, most lélegeztetőgépre kell tenni a szakmát és a munkaadókat, a munkavállalókat és azután pedig egy fenntartható okos terv kell, hogy mindig gyümölcsözzön az európai turizmus.

José Ramón Bauzá Díaz, *en nombre del Grupo Renew*. – Señor presidente, señora comisaria, llevamos meses escuchando hablar de datos y de compromisos abstractos: que el turismo representa el 10 % del PIB de la Unión Europea, que es un sector estratégico para la Unión, que la Comisión está totalmente comprometida con los países que más dependemos de él...

Pero la Unión Europea no puede conformarse simplemente con eso. No podemos simplemente recibir recomendaciones a sabiendas de que no están siendo seguidas por el resto de los países miembros. ¿Por qué la Comisión Europea pide el 13 de mayo que se acabe con las cuarentenas obligatorias cuando otros países, como España, imponen su propia cuarentena?

¿Por qué la apertura de fronteras se ha producido de una manera descoordinada, de modo que países con características epidemiológicas similares se han diferenciado y han espaciado la apertura en el período de un mes?

¿Por qué, dentro de la propia Unión Europea, se están vetando unos países a otros?

¿Por qué un sector que emplea a veintidós millones de personas y que supone el 12 % del total de trabajadores de la Unión no recibe ni un solo céntimo de euro como partida presupuestaria dedicada al turismo?

Que el turismo es un sector absolutamente relegado y secundario para la Comisión lo hemos oído en esta Cámara demasiadas veces, y, desgraciadamente, me temo que lo seguiremos oyendo. Ya con la crisis de la quiebra de Thomas Cook dijimos que era necesario, más que nunca, elaborar una estrategia común que nos permitiera adelantarnos a las desgracias y no improvisar. Y desgraciadamente, otra desgracia ha venido y se ha vuelto a improvisar.

Querida señora comisaria, como portavoz de Renew Europe, como eurodiputado de Ciudadanos y como expresidente del Gobierno de las Islas Baleares, una región absolutamente vinculada al turismo, les he propuesto nuestro concepto de marca Europa, basado en tres pilares: la apertura de fronteras, los estándares de calidad y de seguridad comunes y, también, la promoción de la Unión Europea como destino turístico.

Señora comisaria, tiene nuestro total y absoluto apoyo para ejercer el liderazgo político que la Unión Europea necesita. Estaremos siempre y en todo momento a su lado. Por el turismo y, sobre todo, por Europa y también por los europeos.

Roman Haider, *im Namen der ID-Fraktion*. – Herr Präsident! Leider ist ja der Tourismus die von der Krise am stärksten betroffene Branche überhaupt, und deswegen ist es wirklich sehr bedauerlich, dass Kommissionspräsidentin von der Leyen heute in ihrer Rede mit keinem einzigen Wort auf den Tourismus eingegangen ist.

Was es jetzt braucht, um der enorm wichtigen Tourismusbranche im Speziellen, aber auch dem für Europa vitalen Transport- und Verkehrswesen im Allgemeinen wieder auf die Beine zu helfen, sind einerseits unbürokratische Finanzhilfen, die auch wirklich bei den Unternehmen ankommen. Andererseits ist es aber auch gerade jetzt fatal, wenn die Kommission in diesem Bereich auf besonders strenge Einhaltung von Klimazielen pocht.

Der *Green Deal* wird sich im Bereich Transport – gerade dort – und auch für den Tourismus als massiver Hemmschuh erweisen, wenn hier nicht gravierende Änderungen vorgenommen werden. Anstatt den Tourismus- und Transportunternehmen weiterhin Prügel zwischen die Beine zu werfen, sollte die Kommission bei den Finanzhilfen und beim Aufbau eines leistungsfähigen Hochleistungsnetzes, das auch umweltgerecht ist, ansetzen.

Tilly Metz, *im Namen der Verts/ALE-Fraktion*. – Herr Präsident, sehr geehrte Frau Kommissarin! Nach den COVID-19-Sperrmaßnahmen müssen wir eine sichere, nachhaltige und koordinierte Wiedereröffnung des Tourismus- und Verkehrssektors sicherstellen.

Ich begrüße in dem Sinne die Leitlinien und Empfehlungen der Kommission. Lassen Sie uns auch nach vorne schauen, um uns auf den Transport und den Tourismus vorzubereiten, den wir in Zukunft wollen. Die Klimakrise wird auch mit dem Ende der Pandemie nicht verschwinden, und der Verkehrs- und Tourismussektor muss seinen Beitrag zur Verringerung unseres ökologischen Fußabdrucks leisten.

Die Krise hat uns gelehrt, dass Gesellschaften und Menschen ihre Gewohnheiten drastisch ändern können. Wir sind zu Hause geblieben, haben aufgehört zu fliegen und begonnen, mehr Rad zu fahren und mehr spazieren zu gehen. Wir haben jetzt eine einmalige Möglichkeit, das Konzept Tourismus neu zu gestalten und in nachhaltige Verkehrsträger wie den Zug – insbesondere Nachtzüge – und das Rad und die dazugehörige Infrastruktur zu investieren. Es ist auch eine Gelegenheit, die Agrarökologie und die Entwicklung der ländlichen Gebiete im Sinne des Tourismus zu fördern.

Ich fordere einen Plan für nachhaltigen Tourismus in Europa und somit eine Win-win-win-Situation: gute Arbeitsbedingungen, volle Kassen für die Anbieter, eine gesunde Umwelt – und somit ein sicheres Reiseerlebnis für die Reisenden.

Kosma Złotowski, w imieniu grupy ECR. – Panie Przewodniczący! Pani Komisarz! Niewiele branż poniosło w wyniku tego kryzysu tak duże straty jak transport i turystyka. Z dnia na dzień firmy operujące w tych sektorach musiały po prostu całkowicie zawiesić działanie. Odbudowanie potencjału zajmie im lata i będzie wymagało ogromnego wysiłku organizacyjnego i finansowego, który dziś spoczywa przede wszystkim na barkach państw członkowskich. Dlatego same wytyczne opublikowane przez Komisję to za mało. Potrzebne jest rzeczywiste wsparcie, które nie będzie obwarowane niemożliwymi do spełnienia celami klimatycznymi. Wdrażanie nowych przepisów, takich jak niezwykle kosztowny i szkodliwy pakiet mobilności, powinno zostać zawieszono. Komisja powinna także dokonać przeglądu przepisów, które mogą w tych nadzwyczajnych warunkach stanowić dodatkowe obciążenie. Właściwy kierunek wskazało piętnaście państw członkowskich, apelując w kwestii voucherów w transporcie lotniczym. Szkoda, że w tej kwestii Komisja zignorowała rozsądne argumenty.

Έλενα Κουντουρά, εξ ονόματος της ομάδας GUE/NGL. – Κύριε Πρόεδρε, ο τουρισμός είναι ισχυρός επιταχυντής της ανάπτυξης και είναι ο οικονομικός κλάδος που χτυπήθηκε περισσότερο από την υγειονομική κρίση. Κινδυνεύουν εκατομμύρια θέσεις εργασίας με υποβάθμιση των εργασιακών δικαιωμάτων και με οριζόντιες μειώσεις μισθών και εισοδημάτων. Ο τουρισμός είναι οι άνθρωποι της φιλοξενίας και δεν μπορεί να υπάρξει χωρίς αυτούς. Οφείλουμε να στηρίζουμε τις μικρομεσαίες επιχειρήσεις που ασφυκτιούν από έλλειψη ρευστότητας για να επιβιώσουν στην κρίσιμη αυτή περίοδο. Οφείλουμε να αποτρέψουμε χρεοκοπίες και εξαγορές τους από ισχυρούς, καθώς και σοβαρές στρεβλώσεις στις τιμές που θα πλήξουν τον υγιή ανταγωνισμό, την αγορά και τους ίδιους τους καταναλωτές. Σήμερα λοιπόν ζητούμε την ασφαλή επανεκκίνηση των ταξιδιών, με μαζικά τεστ, χωρίς την οικονομική επιβάρυνση των πολιτών, την άμεση στήριξη της εργασίας και των επιχειρήσεων για να παραμείνουν ανταγωνιστικές την επόμενη μέρα, καθώς και ουσιαστικά εργαλεία για το μέλλον, προϋπολογισμό για τον τουρισμό, ευρωπαϊκό μηχανισμό διαχείρισης κρίσεων που να περιλαμβάνει προστασία και αποζημίωση των ταξιδιωτών σε περίπτωση πτωχεύσεων, καθώς και μία ολοκληρωμένη ευρωπαϊκή στρατηγική για τον βιώσιμο τουρισμό.

Dorien Rookmaker (NI). – We are in the midst of the COVID crisis and transport has problems, but transport is the solution as well.

Why should we go for an HSPRN – a high-speed passenger rail network – connecting all major cities in the European Union amidst a COVID-19 crisis? Because public spending makes sense to combat the economic crisis. It is logical, because to invest in a green project for a sustainable future that is beneficial for all makes sense; because infrastructure investment is needed for economic growth; because future generations would like to know where the money we are spending today went. That is why we need an ambitious, tangible programme with a budget that makes it possible. That is why we should go for an HSPRN – a high-speed passenger rail network.

Massimiliano Salini (PPE). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, signora Commissaria, grazie per questa discussione. È una discussione che dà la possibilità di lavorare su una risoluzione che tocca un punto, come i colleghi hanno detto e ripetuto più volte, nevralgico. L'impatto della crisi ha compiutamente indebolito il settore turistico.

Il settore turistico ha una caratteristica imponente: intercetta molti altri settori, come spesso accade. Il turismo intercetta i trasporti, la cultura, lo sviluppo economico. C'è un tema in particolare – non mi ripeterò –, un tema che mi colpisce e che credo debba essere oggetto di attenzione e debba essere oggetto di specifici finanziamenti nel *Recovery Fund*, sarebbe un errore non prevederli: la tutela della professionalità del capitale umano delle miriadi di piccole imprese, che nel settore turistico, con fatica, negli anni, hanno costruito un personale capacissimo e che oggi potrebbero perdere.

Una piccola impresa educa per anni nel settore alberghiero, nel settore della ristorazione, un personale che oggi rischia di perdere. Su questo l'impatto sociale potrebbe essere molto grave, e lo pagheremmo tutti, anche a livello culturale. Intervendiamo a questo proposito, prontamente.

Johan Danielsson (S&D). – Herr talman! Det är passande att det är just den här veckan som vi i Europaparlamentet antar vår resolution om turism, en vecka som inleddes med att många av våra landsgränser nu återigen öppnades. Nu går också startskottet för sommarledigheter och semesterar. Det är ju viktigt att vi klarar av att öppna upp för turism och resande i Europa, dels för turister som får möjlighet att se nya saker, uppleva saker, men framför allt för de 22 miljoner européer som är beroende av turismen i sitt arbete och för sina inkomster.

Som så många har var inne på: Ska det här fungera så kräver det att de som reser, de som ska turista är trygga. På flyget, på tågen, på bussen, på hotellanläggningar och så vidare. Men det kräver också att de som arbetar på hotellen, de som arbetar på restaurang eller i butiker, de som städar, är trygga när de går till sitt arbete.

Så vi måste säkerställa att vi när vi nu successivt öppnar upp våra ekonomier också garanterar hälsa och säkerhet för alla de miljontals människor som arbetar inom de här sektorerna. För ekonomin är viktig, men det är också viktigt att vi garanterar människors hälsa på arbetet.

Marco Campomenosi (ID). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, grazie signora Commissaria Vălean per essere qua, le occasioni di confronto con lei e con il suo collega Breton sono diverse e abbiamo già avuto modo di parlare di che cos'è l'impatto sul turismo e sul trasporto di questa crisi e di quanto sia ampio.

Io interverrò questa sera soprattutto sul tema del turismo proprio perché, l'hanno detto i miei colleghi, è un settore importantissimo. Solo nel mio paese, l'Italia, esso rappresenta il 13 % del prodotto interno lordo. Si è parlato molto di come intervenire a livello economico. In verità si potrebbe anche intervenire a costo zero, semplificando a livello normativo attraverso il potere legislativo che, a Bruxelles, la Commissione ha.

Mi riferisco, per esempio, alla direttiva servizi, ne abbiamo parlato anche con il Commissario Breton. Si può intervenire sul campo di applicazione. Da anni gli investimenti per il settore balneare in Italia sono bloccati proprio per il rischio e le problematiche che possono derivare dall'applicazione di una direttiva che data 2006 e oggi siamo nel 2020. Si può intervenire per escludere quel settore.

Peter Lundgren (ECR). – Herr talman! Jag anser att turism inte är något som EU egentligen ska blanda sig i. Turism är ofta en nationell, regional och väldigt ofta lokal fråga. Jag tror vi måste inse att denna sommar framför allt inte kommer att bli ett turismår som det brukar se ut. I Sverige, till exempel, har vi en regering som hanterat pandemin så fruktansvärt illa att vi inte är välkomna till vissa länder helt enkelt. Svenskar släpps inte in.

Därför tror jag att vi måste inse att det kommer att ta tid innan vi kommer tillbaka igen, när turismen kommer att bli som den var förr. Vi kommer inte se slutet på den här pandemin på ganska lång tid framöver, är jag rädd. Men turismen behöva hållas under armarna, hjälpas, och det gör man bäst från de olika medlemsländernas regeringar, inte från EU, som har en iver att stoppa fingrarna i precis allting som en nationstat sköter bättre.

Ismail Ertug (S&D). – Herr Präsident, sehr geehrte Frau Kommissarin! Ich denke, dass uns die Corona-Krise unsere Grenzen deutlich aufgezeigt hat. Sie hat uns gezeigt, dass diese Europäische Union leider doch nicht die Union ist, die wir uns wünschen. Aber das heißt, dass wir daran arbeiten müssen, dass diese Europäische Union besser wird. Wir haben 27 Millionen Menschen in der Europäischen Union, die im Tourismusgewerbe arbeiten und – die Zahlen kennen Sie, Frau Kommissarin – 10,3 % des europäischen BIP erwirtschaften. Allein der Pauschaltourismus hat im Jahr 2017 130 Milliarden EUR an Umsatz eingebracht.

Daher müssen wir die Probleme der Gegenwart lösen, denn die kleinen Unternehmen, die Reisebüros und die Leistungsanbieter haben Liquiditätsprobleme, und diese Liquiditätsprobleme müssen wir angehen. Wir als sozialdemokratische Fraktion schlagen eben einen *European Travel Guarantee Fund* vor, der würde ungefähr fünf bis sieben Milliarden EUR kosten. Verglichen mit den 32,9 Milliarden EUR, die die Mitgliedstaaten derzeit aufwenden, um allein die Airlines zu retten, ist das ein mickriger Betrag. Daher unsere Aufforderung, und dann die Aufforderung an die Kolleginnen und Kollegen im Parlament, diesem Fonds so zuzustimmen.

Adina-Ioana Vălean, Member of the Commission. – Mr President, well, thank you all very much for your comments. I think we are all on the same page here. We all recognise the importance of the sector of tourism and the sector of transport for all our economies. We are all worrying about how this is going to unfold in the future and how we are going to emerge from this crisis.

I said in the beginning, I gave some hints, well, you know, I'm thinking, and I'm sure many of you are doing the same thing, that we need to develop a sort of an emergency plan so that next time if, God forbid such a thing will come again, we will be prepared, for the second one.

And then we have to debate the lessons learned and I think this is also something very important that needs to be done very soon. We have to learn from the lessons that this crisis taught us in order to become better, and as has been said, it showed us our limits.

But on the other hand, now we are talking about tourism because it's been hit so hard. It's true that it's a long debate on subsidiarities and what each of the Member States of the European Union should deal with and what is the degree of implication.

Of course, usually, when problems occur, everyone is looking towards Brussels and I would really have wished that we would have had the money to step in, but we didn't have the money, at European level, to step in for the liquidity crisis. So we had to ask the Member States.

We put forward this flexible framework for State aid, to step in and help with liquidity. We had to protect the consumers while we were helping the companies with liquidity.

I heard several of you – and this is a floating idea going around – because it is a lesson learned, that what you do with the liquidity issue – if a huge amount of reimbursement or compensation would be asked for in case of cancellation. And I know there is this idea of a European fund. But it has to be in a budget and of course if the Member States would like to put money together for such a fund that's one thing, on the other hand, with all the complicated discussions we have with the budget, with the MFF and everything, I haven't seen any true appetite for creating new things at the European level.

We have to admit the fact that there are several – at national level – several schemes of guaranteeing these kind of packages and I think that here, this can be shared, and lessons learned by Member States should include also the fact that we cannot live without having a fund to guarantee all of this, or else it won't work and the liquidity problem will be very difficult to solve.

There are, and probably you are right, we are thinking about this, that by using State aid, it might create disparities or imbalances in the competition in the market because of some Member States having a larger fiscal capacity to step in and help companies, others less. Then we feared creating an unbalanced situation for the future.

But that's why, for example, we imagine that we proposed the solvency instrument, which would be aimed through the European Investment Fund, especially to step in and help, including by buying equity, those companies which were less helped and they would be in need of better help at the European level because they didn't receive it at the national level.

So, we are advanced and we are engaged with the European financial institutions, with the EIB, to map and see how all the instruments we have put in place, which is quite an exhaustive list, can be used for various situations.

But anyway, our aim is to support those who are not helped and there are viable companies to be helped through this financial instrument at European level.

Transport workers are critical and I think from the very beginning, from the very first guidelines we put forward, we stressed the importance of them being treated as critical workers. So that's why we didn't have them put in quarantine when they're crossing the border or one or the other.

We, in all the guidelines we had for each mode, we insisted on the protective measures to be taken, especially for workers in transport. And I think this is the same for tourism and for the hospitality industry, because if the workers are getting sick or if they are not protected, it makes it a no-brainer.

So, I think everyone started that. We have to have them safe in order to have them providing services. So this is something I'm totally supporting.

For small and medium-sized enterprises, we had put very quickly in place some instruments – by my colleagues, of course, in the Commission.

For example, we have the SURE programme, which is an instrument to support, especially jobs. We put in EUR 100 billion in loans for SURE, especially to support short-time work schemes and to help the Member States to protect the jobs, the employees and the self-employed against the risk of dismissal and loss of income. Is it enough? I don't know.

We are of course in a continuous process of evaluating how all these proposals we have had are actually working.

And also, the idea behind the creation of the Next Generation EU fund is especially for the recovery, it is foreseen for recovery. We have been thinking of front-loading a lot of money at the beginning of next year or so from the MFF. So this will be an injection of capital and funds, which would translate ultimately into jobs and profitability for the companies in economic sectors.

I think this would cover more or less some of the issues you have raised. Of course, we would love to see simplified procedures.

There are also messages from you, which I will take to my colleagues in the college, so that we can further reflect on the situation.

While we are talking about the future, you will receive our strategy; you will see that we are aiming at putting it to consultation. By the end of the year, you will receive our strategy for sustainable and smart transport. I would add also resilient.

So that will be a great opportunity for us to look to the future. But the future cannot be but sustainable and smart. So also when we are talking about tourism, I think, for tourism itself, the future has to be sustainable, and this is a debate we will have to have, because I don't want to forget about that.

There are also lots of schemes at regional level for tourism – because we saw, in relation to the situation with the crisis, it has a footprint, which is regional and the necessities and challenges are different from one region to another. So, through the regional funds, I know that financing was made available.

Finally, let's not forget that this is a health crisis. This is a health crisis. And the situation with the virus and the epidemiological situation is so different from one place to another. We need to trust. We need to make people understand that as long as we don't have a vaccine or a viable treatment, there is a risk. And we have to continue to live with the virus.

So this is the situation and a most unfortunate one. But we need to adapt and try to be safe and restart the connectivity and the services in tourism and in transport.

Thank you very much for having me this evening and I'm looking forward to our next encounter.

Der Präsident. – Gemäß Artikel 132 Absatz 2 der Geschäftsordnung wurden sieben Entschließungsanträge eingereicht.

Die Aussprache ist geschlossen.

Die Abstimmung über die Änderungsanträge findet am Donnerstag, 18. Juni 2020, und die Schlussabstimmung am Freitag, 19. Juni 2020, statt.

Wir bereits erwähnt, wird am Donnerstag um 9.00 Uhr das Ergebnis der zweiten Abstimmungsrunde bekannt gegeben.

Schriftliche Erklärungen (Artikel 171)

Magdalena Adamowicz (PPE), na piśmie. – Rozprzestrzenianie się wirusa COVID-19 na terenie Unii Europejskiej doprowadziło do niemal załamania się branży turystycznej w Europie. Dlatego pilnie potrzebne jest wsparcie dla przedsiębiorców, w szczególności osób samozatrudnionych oraz małych i średnich firm, aby pomóc im w zarządzaniu płynnością finansową, utrzymaniu miejsc pracy i zmniejszeniu niepotrzebnych obciążeń administracyjnych. Tysiące przedsiębiorstw, zwłaszcza tych mniejszych, walczy dzisiaj o przetrwanie, a wiele z nich zmaga się z niewypłacalnością. Pomoc potrzebna jest natychmiast. W tym kontekście należy po raz kolejny zwrócić uwagę na obecny brak konkretnego instrumentu finansowego Unii Europejskiej, który pomógłby w odbudowie branży turystycznej po pandemii. Co więcej, w kolejnych wieloletnich ramach finansowych na lata 2021-2027 również zabrakło specjalnej linii budżetowej dla turystyki. Uważam, iż, biorąc pod uwagę doświadczenia ostatnich miesięcy, należy podjąć szeroką dyskusję na temat całościowej polityki Unii Europejskiej w dziedzinie turystyki, która jest niezwykle ważnym sektorem europejskiej gospodarki.

Pablo Arias Echeverría (PPE), *por escrito*. – La Resolución común aprobada por el Parlamento Europeo propone medidas concretas a la Comisión Europea para afrontar la recuperación de los sectores turístico y del transporte y salir de la crisis causada por la pandemia de la COVID-19. Estos dos sectores son de los más afectados y es fundamental una respuesta ágil y coordinada por parte de las instituciones europeas. La confianza sanitaria y económica y la seguridad jurídica es lo que da certidumbre al sector del turismo y transporte para reactivar su actividad.

En esta línea, la Resolución común incluye varias propuestas de la Delegación Española del Partido Popular en el Parlamento Europeo, como la elaboración de un sello de certificación europeo que garantice los máximos protocolos de higiene en infraestructuras y medios de transporte, con el fin de generar confianza entre los turistas, la aplicación de medidas para la recuperación del turismo en las regiones insulares y en las regiones ultraperiféricas (RUP), o la necesidad de una línea presupuestaria dedicada al turismo sostenible dentro del próximo marco financiero plurianual (2021-2027). También incluye, a petición nuestra, la necesidad de elaborar una estrategia a largo plazo para el turismo que sienta las bases para que el sector esté preparado ante posibles crisis futuras.

Josianne Cutajar (S&D), *bil-miktub*. – It-turizmu kien l-aktar qasam milqut mill-pandemija. Minn hawn 'l hemm dmirna huwa li naraw li ma jkunx l-aktar wiehed li jdum ihoss l-impatt. Dan fl-interess tal-istabbiltà ekonomika tal-istati membri, kif ukoll għall-ġid tal-miljuni ta' haddiema Ewropej li hobżhom jiddependi mit-turizmu. Ir-riżoluzzjoni hija f'lokha, għax tiehu kunsiderazzjoni tad-diffikultajiet kbar li esperjenza l-qasam turistiku Ewropew fix-xhur li għaddew imma ma tieqafx hemm. Thares lejn kif is-settur jista' jissahha u jsir aktar reżiljenti għal krizijiet potenzjali fil-futur. Żgur li s-settur ma johroġx mill-krizi jekk f'qasir żmien nerggħu nispicċaw f'emergenza ta' sahha pubblika. Għaldaqstant l-Ewropa tehtieg aktar koordinament ta' regoli l-aktar fejn jidhlu vawċers u rimborsi ta' vjaġġi kkanċellati, tixrid ta' informazzjoni u kriterji ta' eżaminazzjoni tal-kundizzjoni medika li jiddeterminaw persuna tithallix taqsim fruntiera. Filwaqt li dan il-Parlament qed jitlob strateġija Ewropea komprensiva, is-settur turistiku fil-pajjiżi membri jehtieg jibbenefika minn aktar flessibbiltà fl-infiq tal-gvernijiet nazzjonali biex mill-aktar fis johroġ mill-krizi. Wasal iż-żmien li nimplimentaw minnu-fih il-Mekkaniżmu ta' Kontroll tal-Krizi (CMM) li ilna niddiskutu xhur shaħ. B'koordinament Ewropew u b'implimentazzjoni mill-awtoritajiet pubbliċi tal-pajjiżi membri, dan il-mekkaniżmu għandu jagħti l-garanziji neċessarji lill-konsumaturi, inkluż f'każ ta' falliment tal-kumpaniji tat-turizmu u l-ivjaġġar. Azzjonijiet f'waqthom issa biss jistgħu jsahhu l-fiduċja tal-pubbliku fl-ivjaġġar.

Miriam Dalli (S&D), *in writing*. – The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the tourism and travel sectors. Travel restrictions have already distressed the entire tourism value chain and affected approximately 27 million employees. To counter the devastating impact of COVID-19, we need to use the crisis as an opportunity to develop a comprehensive and future-proof European strategy that stabilises and rebuilds the sector and incorporates the European Green Deal. We must re-establish our citizens' trust by ensuring consumer and passenger rights and protection. The European Commission has already clarified the voluntary nature of travel vouchers, but enforcement and widespread communication of this rule is lacking. A European Travel Guarantee Fund would address this issue by securing the financial liquidity of the tourism and travel sector while also guaranteeing consumer rights. Further, the establishment of uniform EU health guidelines along with Member State specific guidelines is vital for passenger protection. We must also develop a roadmap for sustainable tourism and travel by focusing on the creation of a non-toxic circular economy, urgently pushing the aviation and maritime industries to cut emissions, investing in digitalisation, and investing in sustainable tourism schemes for businesses – particularly SMEs, which must be guaranteed immediate access to liquidity and support.

Andor Deli (PPE), *in writing*. – Tourism is extremely important and Member States are doing their best to help their companies, and small and family businesses. The EU must help and supplement these efforts, through the Recovery programme. But true recovery can only happen if we rebuild the trust of travellers. To achieve this, coordination between the Member States is key. The Commission should facilitate this process, but it must remain within the remit of the national authorities to decide on lifting or introducing travel restrictions in view of their own assessment of the situation. There cannot be a one-size-fits-all solution, because it can backfire through an increasing number of infections. In the light of social distancing and lower capacities I am convinced that we must broaden the variety of European travel destinations. Therefore, in the coming weeks we must promote a much wider range of cities and regions. I am counting on the Commission to support such efforts. That would not only broaden the number of destinations and help the local hospitality sector, but it would make European tourism more sustainable and balanced, stopping over-tourism at certain locations.

Tomasz Frankowski (PPE), *na piśmie*. – Kryzys spowodowany pandemią Covid-19 odbił piętno na nas wszystkich. Obostrzenia spowodowane kwarantanną, zakazem przemieszczania się oraz dramatyczne w skutkach spowolnienie gospodarki przyczyniło się do upadku wielu przedsiębiorstw z sektora transportu i turystyki. Chciałbym podziękować Komisji Europejskiej za szereg rekomendacji umożliwiających stopniowe i skoordynowane udostępnianie usług i placówek turystycznych oraz usług transportowych. Ważne jest, aby podczas reaktywacji europejskiej gospodarki, przyjąć za priorytet ochronę przedsiębiorstw oraz jak najaktywniejsze wspieranie miejsc pracy. Małe i średnie przedsiębiorstwa stanowią 99% wszystkich firm w Europie, tworząc 2/3 ogółu miejsc pracy. W tej kwestii potrzebne są bardziej elastyczne wymagania administracyjne oraz lepszy dostęp do pomocy finansowej, gdyż to właśnie te przedsiębiorstwa są w stanie ożywić europejską turystykę. Chciałbym również zaapelować do Komisji Europejskiej o zwiększenie wsparcia dla sektorów kultury oraz sportu, które pełnią istotną rolę dla rozwoju turystyki. Na popularności zyskuje szczególnie turystyka sportowa, zwłaszcza w postaci uczestnictwa w wielkich wydarzeniach sportowych, która przyciąga kibiców oraz sportowców nawet do najbardziej odległych regionów.

Karol Karski (ECR), *na piśmie*. – Sektor podróży i turystyki wytwarza 3,9% PKB UE oraz zatrudnia 5,1% całej siły roboczej, czyli obejmuje ok. 11,9 mln miejsc pracy. W powiązaniu z innymi sektorami gospodarki wartości te wzrastają do 10,3% PKB i 11,7% ogólnego zatrudnienia, co oznacza 27,3 mln pracowników. W Polsce branża transportowa wypracowuje około 15% PKB. Sektory transportu i turystyki to sektory najbardziej dotknięte kryzysem wywołanym przez koronawirusa. Ograniczenia nałożone na przemieszczanie się i podróże w następstwie pandemii spowodowały spadek międzynarodowych przyjazdów o 60%–80%. Szacuje się, że spadek dochodów hoteli i restauracji może wynieść 50%, operatorów turystycznych i biur podróży – 70%, a linii żeglugowych i linii lotniczych – 90%. W konsekwencji pandemii zagrożonych jest 6,4 mln miejsc pracy w UE. Przedsiębiorstwa walczą o przetrwanie. Dlatego tak ważne jest, aby zagwarantować im szybkie wsparcie szczególne, zapewniając linie kredytowe w celu utrzymania płynności, a także pożyczki obrotowe, finansujące wypłatę wynagrodzeń. W długofalowej perspektywie natomiast konieczne jest wdrożenie środków, które dadzą turystom pewność, że będą mogli znów podróżować do Europy i w jej obrębie. Niezbędne jest również utrzymanie strategicznej infrastruktury transportowej, takiej jak porty i koleje, tak aby uchronić ją przed zagranicznymi przejściami. Należy również odrzucić nowelizację pakietu mobilności, którego przepisy dodatkowo pogrążą przedsiębiorstwa.

Łukasz Kohut (S&D), *in writing*. – There are many factors which influence the choice of a holiday destination. Among them, very importantly, cultural heritage. Sixty-eight percent of Europeans point to this factor. Cultural tourism accounts for forty percent of European tourism. European projects, such as the European Capital of Culture, provide a great drive for cultural tourism. The 2020 Capitals – Rijeka and Galway – have sadly missed out in a special predicament, because of the pandemic. They need to rapidly adjust their programmes prepared for years in advance. A second wave or future virus could follow. We do not know if coronavirus will not come back with a second wave. Or some other new virus. However, being prepared is crucial. We must have preparedness, action plans, contingency all in place in advance for projects such as the European Capital of Culture for the future. Only in this way will we encourage future applicants for the title, among them the Silesian city of Katowice with the surrounding Metropolis of Zagłębie Dąbrowskie and Upper Silesia. Thank you very much!

Ondřej Kovařík (Renew), *písemně*. – Cestovní ruch je nejen jedním z klíčových sektorů evropské ekonomiky, ale také jeden z nejvíce zasažených pandemií COVID-19. I když aktuálně čelí řadě různých problémů, má také možnost vytvořit či chopit se nových příležitostí. Nyní je nutné vynaložit úsilí ze strany všech členských států ke společné obnově cestovního ruchu. Bezpečnost, veřejné zdraví a expertní doporučení by měly být klíčovými faktory. Občané by také měli být dostatečně informováni o podmínkách a hygienických opatřeních, které byly zavedeny a jsou v platnosti v jednotlivých destinacích.

Julie Lechanteux (ID), *par écrit*. – Face à la crise de la COVID-19, la Commission présente une série de mesures totalement insuffisantes. Par contre, les députés du Rassemblement national proposent des mesures concrètes: un Plan Soleil immédiat de 50 milliards d'euros et une grande campagne de sensibilisation au tourisme local; l'annulation des charges fiscales et sociales pour l'année 2020 pour les entreprises de la filière touristique qui ont réalisé moins de 70 % de leur chiffre d'affaires habituel; la suppression de la CFE pour 6 mois; l'accélération de la procédure de remboursement du chômage partiel; l'obligation pour les banques d'accorder les prêts garantis par l'État; la mise à contribution des assurances dans la perte d'exploitation des entreprises; l'aide et le conseil à la mise aux normes sanitaires des établissements et des activités; l'aide à la formation des personnels sur les nouveaux protocoles sanitaires; l'aide à l'adaptation des entreprises à la nouvelle donne: clientèle locale, mise en avant de produits locaux; l'extension des terrasses sur la voie publique en liaison avec les maires, sans coût supplémentaire; la reconduction automatique en 2021 de tous les contrats de concession.

Marian-Jean Marinescu (PPE), *în scris*. – Turismul este un sector important ca număr de lucrători și ca produs intern brut, în unele state depășind 15 %, dar și ca punte socială. Din păcate, politicile care vizează cel mai mare număr de cetățeni, educație, sănătate, turism nu sunt în competența Uniunii. Comisia Europeană a elaborat deja recomandări pentru turism care să ajute acest sector să iasă cu bine din criza Covid-19.

Pentru a rezista la alte crize, pentru a avea o abordare comună, pentru a atrage cât mai mulți turiști din afara Europei, este necesar să avem o politică comună în domeniul turismului, cu reguli armonizate, cu categoriile de entități turistice care se bucură de aceleași standarde privind funcționarea și infrastructura.

În acest moment nu avem o abordare similară în ceea ce privește protecția turistului sau a personalului din domeniu, pentru că toate aceste lucruri sunt la latitudinea fiecărui stat membru. În acest caz, trebuie găsită o soluție care să nu implice o schimbare de tratat, ci mai degrabă căi indirecte.

În turism avem la dispoziție prevederile legate de protecția consumatorului, care este un sector de competență partajată. Plecând de la asigurarea protecției turistului, am putea ajunge chiar la niște drepturi ale acestuia, ca în cazul pasagerilor.

Ελισάβετ Βόζεμπεργκ-Βρυωνίδη (PPE), *γραφώς*. – Οι αρνητικές επιπτώσεις της πανδημίας στον τομέα του τουρισμού συνεχίζονται σε πανευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο και έχουν πλέον αποτυπωθεί στα ποσοτικά μεγέθη του πρώτου τριμήνου 2020. Στην Ελλάδα, που αποτελεί έναν από τους δημοφιλέστερους τουριστικούς προορισμούς, έχει καταγραφεί ήδη μείωση στον εισερχόμενο τουρισμό κατά 5,6% ενώ στις αντίστοιχες εισπράξεις η πτώση φτάνει το 17,1% σε σύγκριση με την ίδια περίοδο του 2019. Η Ελληνική κυβέρνηση απέδειξε ότι κάνει πρωταθλητισμό στον έλεγχο της πανδημίας, γεγονός που είναι αισιόδοξο προανάκρουσμα για την επανέναρχη της τουριστικής περιόδου, σημαντικού παράγοντα στην οικονομία της Ελλάδος και της ΕΕ. Εντούτοις, στο πολύ κρίσιμο αυτό χρονικό σημείο, ένα βήμα πριν από το καθολικό άνοιγμα της τουριστικής περιόδου, η ρευστότητα παραμένει ακόμα ζητούμενο. Η Ελλάδα έχει εξ αρχής υποστηρίξει το Ευρωπαϊκό Πρόγραμμα Ανάκαμψης αλλά ο τουριστικός κλάδος έχει ανάγκη από άμεσες χρηματοδοτήσεις, με επιδοτήσεις που θα επιτρέψουν σε όλες τις τουριστικές επιχειρήσεις να επαναλειτουργήσουν κανονικά και σε εκατοντάδες χιλιάδες ανθρώπους να επιστρέψουν στις θέσεις εργασίας τους. Είναι χρέος μας να ανατρέψουμε την κρίση ρευστότητας, που έχει θέσει σε σοβαρό κίνδυνο τη βιωσιμότητα του κλάδου την επόμενη μέρα. Η ΕΕ επιβάλλεται να ηγηθεί αυτής της προσπάθειας με τα απαραίτητα κεφάλαια υπό μορφή προχρηματοδοτήσεων, που θα οδηγήσουν στη διατήρηση της ανταγωνιστικότητας του ελληνικού και ευρωπαϊκού τουρισμού.

Iuliu Winkler (PPE), *în scris*. – UE face acum primul pas către elaborarea unei strategii europene pentru turism. Aceasta ar trebui să asigure o abordare coordonată la nivelul întregii Uniuni și a tuturor statelor membre într-un domeniu care este esențial pentru economia noastră. PE a solicitat în dezbaterile din lunile aprilie și mai acțiune imediată, deoarece turismul, împreună cu transporturile, reprezintă cele mai greu afectate sectoare economice de pandemia de coronavirus. O strategie în domeniul turismului trebuie să dispună și de resurse financiare, de aceea solicitarea formulată în rezoluția PE cu privire la o linie bugetară dedicată turismului sustenabil în MFF 2021-2027 este crucială.

Salut comunicarea Comisiei cu privire la turism și transport, precum și pachetul de măsuri destinate depășirii crizei provocate de coronavirus în aceste domenii. Am convingerea că, pe lângă intervenția de urgență, avem nevoie de o abordare pe termen lung. Acum, 6,5 milioane de locuri de muncă din domeniul turismului sunt în pericol, zeci de mii de IMM-uri riscând să-și înceteze activitatea. Momentele cele mai critice sunt încă în fața noastră, iar măsurile imediate propuse de Comisie, implementate în strânsă cooperare cu statele membre, ar putea asigura revenirea în sectorul turistic și salvarea a numeroase întreprinderi și locuri de muncă.

31. Erklärungen zur Abstimmung: siehe Protokoll

32. Berichtigungen des Stimmverhaltens und beabsichtigtes Stimmverhalten: siehe Protokoll

33. Tagesordnung der nächsten Sitzung: siehe Protokoll

34. Schluss der Sitzung

(Die Sitzung wird um 21.15 Uhr geschlossen.)

Legende der verwendeten Zeichen

*	Konsultationsverfahren
***	Zustimmungsverfahren
***I	Ordentliches Gesetzgebungsverfahren, erste Lesung
***II	Ordentliches Gesetzgebungsverfahren, zweite Lesung
***III	Ordentliches Gesetzgebungsverfahren, dritte Lesung

(Das angegebene Verfahren entspricht der von der Kommission vorgeschlagenen Rechtsgrundlage.)

Abkürzungen der Ausschüsse

AFET	Ausschuss für auswärtige Angelegenheiten
DEVE	Entwicklungsausschuss
INTA	Ausschuss für internationalen Handel
BUDG	Haushaltsausschuss
CONT	Haushaltskontrollausschuss
ECON	Ausschuss für Wirtschaft und Währung
EMPL	Ausschuss für Beschäftigung und soziale Angelegenheiten
ENVI	Ausschuss für Umweltfragen, öffentliche Gesundheit und Lebensmittelsicherheit
ITRE	Ausschuss für Industrie, Forschung und Energie
IMCO	Ausschuss für Binnenmarkt und Verbraucherschutz
TRAN	Ausschuss für Verkehr und Fremdenverkehr
REGI	Ausschuss für regionale Entwicklung
AGRI	Ausschuss für Landwirtschaft und ländliche Entwicklung
PECH	Fischereiausschuss
CULT	Ausschuss für Kultur und Bildung
JURI	Rechtsausschuss
LIBE	Ausschuss für bürgerliche Freiheiten, Justiz und Inneres
AFCO	Ausschuss für konstitutionelle Fragen
FEMM	Ausschuss für die Rechte der Frau und die Gleichstellung der Geschlechter
PETI	Petitionsausschuss
DROI	Unterausschuss Menschenrechte
SEDE	Unterausschuss Sicherheit und Verteidigung

Abkürzungen der Fraktionen

PPE	Fraktion der Europäischen Volkspartei (Christdemokraten)
S&D	Fraktion der Progressiven Allianz der Sozialdemokraten im Europäischen Parlament
Renew	Fraktion Renew Europe
ID	Fraktion Identität und Demokratie
Vers/ALE	Fraktion der Grünen/Freie Europäische Allianz
ECR	Fraktion der Europäischen Konservativen und Reformer
GUE/NGL	Fraktion der Vereinigten Europäischen Linken/Nordische Grüne Linke
NI	Fraktionslos



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AUSFÜHRLICHE SITZUNGSBERICHTE VOM 18. JUNI 2020

(C/2024/4769)

EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT

SITZUNGSPERIODE 2020-2021

Sitzungen vom 17. bis 19. Juni 2020

BRÜSSEL

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AUSFÜHRLICHE SITZUNGSBERICHTE VOM 18. JUNI 2020

PRESIDÊNCIA: PEDRO SILVA PEREIRA

Vice-Presidente

1. Eröffnung der Sitzung

(A sessão é aberta às 9h03)

2. Bekanntgabe der Ergebnisse der Abstimmung: siehe Protokoll

3. Außenpolitische Folgen der COVID-19-Krise – Das nationale Sicherheitsgesetz der Volksrepublik China für Hongkong und die Notwendigkeit aufseiten der EU, Hongkongs hohes Maß an Autonomie zu verteidigen – Die Reaktion der EU auf die etwaige Annexion von Teilen des Westjordanlands durch Israel (Aussprache)

Presidente. – Podemos agora passar aos debates previstos na nossa ordem do dia e, como sabem, começamos com um debate conjunto sobre as declarações do Vice-Presidente da Comissão e Alto Representante da União para os Negócios Estrangeiros e a Política de Segurança, a quem agradeço a sua presença, declarações relativas às consequências da crise da COVID-19 para a política externa (2020/2646(RSP)), também sobre a lei da segurança nacional da República Popular da China para Hong Kong e a necessidade da União Europeia de defender o elevado grau de autonomia de Hong Kong (2020/2665(RSP)) e ainda sobre a resposta da União Europeia à possível anexação da Cisjordânia por Israel (2020/2687(RSP)).

Gostaria de recordar aos senhores deputados de que neste debate conjunto não haverá procedimentos «catch the eye» nem perguntas na forma de «cartão azul».

Dito isto, passo então a palavra ao Sr. Vice-Presidente da Comissão e Alto Representante da União para os Negócios Estrangeiros e a Política de Segurança, Josep Borrell, a quem, mais uma vez, agradeço a sua presença.

Josep Borrell Fontelles, *Vicepresidente de la Comisión / Alto Representante de la Unión para Asuntos Exteriores y Política de Seguridad.* – Señor presidente, señoras y señores diputados,

Mr President, we have three issues to discuss. I will go directly to the three of them.

First, from the European Union response to the coronavirus crisis, it's clear that the global pandemic needs global solutions, and the European Union must be at the centre of the response. To do so, in April we launched a Team Europe response to support our partner countries facing the pandemic. I have already presented this in your committee meetings. On 8 June, we discussed at the Foreign Affairs Council on Development how to move forward quickly and we mobilised EUR 35 billion to help the most vulnerable countries in Africa, Latin America and our neighbourhood. One could say that it is not fresh money but just redirecting already-allocated resources, but anyway, it was very important to give priority to the pandemic.

The extension of the key European Union programmes for refugees is also crucial during this crisis, and we appreciate Parliament's efforts to approve the necessary Draft Amending Budget in July to allocate more than EUR 400 million in support of Syrian refugees.

In the new MMF proposal, we have included a top-up for external action policies, financed through the Next Generation European Union instrument. Part of this funding will go to humanitarian aid, and part to the provision of a higher ceiling for the External Action Guarantee under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).

We have also provided for an additional provisioning of EUR 10.5 billion, and with that, we could provide guarantees up to EUR 130 billion under European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) operations, as well as additional macro-financial assistance and loans to third countries. This will allow us to help to boost sustainable and green investment in our partner countries worldwide. I hope I can count on your support so that we can maintain an ambitious level of resources for our EU external action. Let me say that it is badly needed – because this crisis will be a crisis of biblical consequences. Look at the situation, for example, in Latin America, where things are becoming worse. Happily, in Africa, things are not as bad as expected. But, in general, both health and economic consequences of this crisis will be very important and, I am afraid, long lasting.

The second issue in our debate today is about the People's Republic of China and the national security law for Hong Kong. Let me frame my answer on a very evident fact. COVID has accelerated existing trends, with tensions between China and the US growing by the day, and I want to repeat what I have already said and written many times: that Europe needs to find its own way when it comes to balancing its relations towards both actors. Yesterday, the French Minister of Foreign Relations was saying more or less the same thing in the French press and I think it's quite a shared point of view at the Foreign Affairs Council.

But independence does not mean equidistance. The transatlantic partnership remains the most important and strategic relationship for the European Union. We maintain divergences with the current administration in the US, that's clear, evident, with regard to their stand on multilateralism about the International Criminal Court, for example, the last one. Nevertheless, we seek positive engagement wherever possible.

Our relationship with China does not fit into a single category. I am sorry for the people who would like to have simple schemes. This is not possible. This is complex, and complex it will remain, and it needs to be based on trust, transparency and reciprocity. China is clearly a necessary partner, like it or not, to solve global challenges such as the global pandemic and climate change. No one can imagine that we can solve climate change without a strong commitment from China's side. At the same time, human rights remain a contentious issue in our relations. I raised these concerns on the situation in Hong Kong with the Chinese Foreign Minister last week. We had a long conversation: more than three hours face to face. I think it was a useful and frank conversation about all issues of a complex relationship and, for sure, the adoption of a security law for Hong Kong is not in conformity with China's international commitments, particularly under the Sino-British Joint Declaration enshrined in the Basic Law of Hong Kong.

Pressure on Hong Kong's autonomy and fundamental freedoms affect us directly. It's not just a matter for the Hong Kong people. It's a matter of values, principles and the need to uphold international commitments, seriously undermining the «one country, two systems» principle and Hong Kong's autonomy. As you may be aware, I made this point very clear in my declaration on behalf of the EU27 on 22 and 29 May. On that issue, there was unanimity, something that is less and less frequent in the debates at the Foreign Affairs Council. I also raised these matters in the United Nations Security Council when I had the opportunity to address this body, on the very day this decision was adopted. I am at your disposal during the question and answers to discuss the specific measures taken by the EU and to go deeper into this issue.

On the third point, on the possible Israeli annexation in the West Bank: let me turn now to this issue, the possible annexation by Israel of parts of the occupied Palestinian territory. There, our position is clear, although, once again, it's difficult to find unanimity. But there is very much a strong majority of countries that continue supporting a negotiated two-state solution based on international parameters and considering that any annexation would be against international law.

Consequently, we strongly urge Israel to refrain from any unilateral decisions that would lead to this annexation of any part of occupied Palestinian territory. I had the opportunity of expressing this point of view in my phone calls to the new Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Defence of Israel.

This would constitute a serious violation of international law. In March, in Geneva, 27 Member States agreed on that. At the last Foreign Affairs Council, unhappily, unanimity was not found on this same issue, but as I said, very much a strong majority of countries continue to support this principle.

Second, this would cause real damage to the prospects for a two-state solution.

Third, it would negatively affect regional stability, our relations with Israel, and between Israel and Arab states, and potentially the security of Israel, which is something not negotiable for us. Let me stress that also. And finally, from a European Union perspective, annexation would inevitably have significant consequences for the close relationship we currently enjoy with Israel.

My time is reaching the end. I will stick to my time. I will not prejudice today the specific impact of a possible annexation, but let me underline that the European Union has its own obligations and responsibilities under international and European law, and as agreed in the mid-May Foreign Affairs Council, we engage with our Israeli partners to avoid such a step before it's too late. We are using all our diplomatic capacities in order to put pressure for that not to happen. As I said, I opened a constructive conversation with Alternate Prime Minister Gantz and Foreign Minister Ashkenazi, where I expressed in the same terms as I explained to you the gravity of such an announcement. I have also been in close contact with the Palestinian leadership and other key Arab representatives. Several EU Foreign Ministers passed the same messages on, and we held an important discussion with the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo earlier this week. This issue took an important part of the one-and-a-half-hour discussion with Mike Pompeo. In the coming weeks and months, we will continue engaging with the parties and the international community in support of a negotiated two-state solution based on the international parameters and which ensures equal rights for all.

Thank you very much, Mr President, for giving me half a minute more. Thank you for your attention. I need to stop here. I think my time is over, but I will remain at your disposal for the many issues I am sure you will raise during our dialogue.

Presidente. – Muito obrigado, Senhor Vice-Presidente, pelas declarações sobre temas muito importantes todos eles.

David McAllister, on behalf of the PPE Group. – Mr President, as I am convinced that we should stand up for fostering the European Union strategic autonomy for promoting multilateral solutions and for defending our interests in a spirit of solidarity, I welcome today's debate on the foreign policy consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We all know that this pandemic will not only lead to more medical, social and economic changes of a tremendous dimension, but it will also, as the High Representative and Vice-President, Josep Borrell, has pointed out, also be a potential geopolitical game changer. To name just a few examples, we are witnessing the deterioration of democracy and fundamental freedoms in many parts of the world, increasing disinformation campaigns, as well as cyberattacks and isolationism instead of multilateral cooperation. As the European Parliament, we should make clear that unprecedented global threats arising from the pandemic call for strong and coordinated measures.

I welcome that, in the months and weeks to come, all the committees for external policies in our Parliament want to focus even more on our global response. With today's debate, but also with upcoming hearings as well as the reports the respective committees are working on, hopefully we can highlight the importance of the foreign policy dimension for the fight against a global pandemic and we can send a strong signal of solidarity with our partners across the world.

Tonino Picula, on behalf of the S&D Group. – Mr President, the implications of COVID-19 on foreign affairs are multiple; from international relations and trade development to the future of the multilateral order in general. We have to take up full responsibility to lead the global fight against the pandemic that will be based on our core values and principles. Our priorities should be to assist the most vulnerable communities, promote access to the vaccine, support a ceasefire and keep medical equipment and food supply chains open for everybody. At the same time, we cannot set aside our interests. This is why the fight against disinformation has to be our priority. We welcome the new communication and expect it to boost our resilience. Finally, in a sincere multilateralist spirit of close cooperation with key global institutions such as the UN, the WHO and the G20, we must act to help our international partners dealing with the consequences

of this pandemic and lead the way towards sustainable development as a core principle for recovery.

Malik Azmani, *on behalf of the Renew Group*. – Mr President, at the start of its mandate, the European Commission announced its geopolitical ambition. Europe was to become a global player.

The Coronavirus is putting this ambition to the test. In the last few months, the virus has forced our world to become smaller, keeping us locked down in our houses. And yet, this virus has become a global challenge reaching all corners of the world. It has shown us how connected and interdependent we have become.

However, it seems it is idealistic to think we can globally unite to face this crisis. It is disheartening to see examples where countries have attempted to use COVID-19 to divide Europe and even to act against our interests through so-called Corona diplomacy, disinformation campaigns, and with the escalation of tensions in, for example, Libya and at the Chinese-Indian border. We have to realise that the world keeps turning fast.

It is vital Europe starts acting in a more assertive way to face the challenges ahead with a clear and unified voice in the global arena. This is the moment for the Commission to live up to its geopolitical ambition, leading the search for answers on finding the origins of the virus, leading the global community in the search for a vaccine that will need to be made available to all people and countries, and leading the way to protect European interests, together with our liberal democratic allies in the world.

In the absence of global leadership by the United States, the European Union has to fill this void. Therefore, I call on everyone here present to embrace this global opportunity and responsibility. The European Union can make a difference if it decides to take its seat at the table on the world stage with renewed determination.

Marco Dreosto, *a nome del gruppo ID*. – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, gentile Vicepresidente Borrell, è evidente come la crisi dovuta alla pandemia di Covid-19 stia evidentemente mutando gli equilibri geopolitici globali. In questo contesto, la Cina non si è certamente comportata da partner affidabile durante la crisi sanitaria e l'iniziale silenzio non può essere perdonato.

Noi ribadiamo con forza, come ha più volte richiesto il nostro segretario Matteo Salvini, la necessità di un'indagine internazionale per comprendere le cause e le origini del virus. Il regime comunista ha le sue colpe e l'Unione europea deve avere la forza di pretendere questa indagine.

Vede, le sembrerà stano sentirselo dire da qualcuno della Lega, ma lei, in qualità di Alto rappresentante, ha avuto più chiarezza nei confronti della Cina che, ahimè, il governo italiano. Troppe voci, specie provenienti dal Movimento 5 Stelle, incluso il ministro degli Esteri Luigi Di Maio, non hanno avuto la forza e il coraggio di condannare Pechino, rischiando di mettere l'Italia nell'orbita dei paesi vassalli della Cina.

Chiediamo con forza questa indagine. A breve si vedrà la differenza tra chi è libero e chi non lo è, tra chi sceglie la libertà e chi, invece, guarda al Partito comunista cinese come un modello da seguire.

Reinhard Bütikofer, *on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group*. – Mr President, Mr Borrell, colleagues, the fundamental crisis, which has captivated the globe is driven by the COVID-19 pandemic. But it's also characterised by two novel features.

It's the first international crisis, since decades, in which the United States withdraws from any possible international leadership role, while China has been at the centre of this crisis, more than ever before, and this is not for the better.

This situation reflects the ongoing continental drift in international relations. On the one hand, we have a hegemonic battle between two superpowers, on the other, international institutions are being weakened – in particular multilateral institutions – and undermined. Through the impact of the crisis, these tendencies are being accelerated.

For our EU this constitutes an imperative to step up to the plate and to shoulder our own international obligations more confidently.

We have a mixed record. We failed when we imposed import-export bans for PPEs. We did well when the Commission organised a donors' conference for financing vaccine research and we will lead a coalition at the WHO to require an inquiry into the origin and the spread of the pandemic.

But the challenges are many and they are huge. Battling for our values and our interests means finding allies and showing our opponents that we mean business.

And let me end by making a remark regarding Hong Kong. I welcome the recent statement by the G7.

Through our resolution, this EP will say that the EU will not just criticise. We want China to understand that reneging on international obligations doesn't come free of cost. This message should be shared with Chinese leaders at the EU summit on Monday.

Witold Jan Waszczykowski, w imieniu grupy ECR. – Panie Przewodniczący! Señor Borrell! 20 lat temu polski minister spraw zagranicznych wraz z amerykańską sekretarz stanu zainicjowali w Warszawie Wspólnotę Demokracji – wielką koalicję demokracji światowych. Właśnie w dwudziestą rocznicę podjęcia tej inicjatywy polski prezydent Andrzej Duda został zaproszony do Białego Domu, jako pierwszy przywódca europejski odwiedzający Stany Zjednoczone po lockdownie spowodowanym pandemią. Prezydenci będą rozmawiać oczywiście o stosunkach bilateralnych, ale i o tym, jak odrodzić współpracę transatlantycką. Europa powinna współpracować na rzecz współpracy transatlantyckiej – nie dzielić wspólnoty, nie separować się od Stanów Zjednoczonych, nie wybierać między Stanami a Chinami. Razem wobec wirusa, kryzysu i wyzwań bezpieczeństwa. Apeluję zatem do Pana, Señor Borrell, i do Pana Europejskiej Służby Działań Zewnętrznych, aby przyłączył się Pan do wysiłków polskiego prezydenta na rzecz odrodzenia współpracy transatlantyckiej.

Özlem Demirel, im Namen der GUE/NGL-Fraktion. – Herr Präsident! Seit Monaten nun reden wir über Corona. Und diese Pandemie zeigt sehr deutlich, was für Fehler in dem ökonomischen und politischen System vorherrschen. Jahrzehntlang lautete das Dogma der EU: privat vor Staat. Auf der einen Seite hatten wir – allein im Zeitraum von 2011 bis 2018 – 63 Mal eine Aufforderung an Mitgliedstaaten gerichtet, Kürzungen und Privatisierungen im Gesundheitswesen vorzunehmen. Auf der anderen Seite besteht die Verpflichtung, im Rahmen von PESCO die Militärausgaben stetig zu steigern.

Herr Borrell, Millionen Europäerinnen und Europäer stehen vor großen sozialen Herausforderungen, verlieren ihren Arbeitsplatz oder Teile ihres Einkommens. Ausgerechnet jetzt wollen Sie im EU-Haushalt erstmalig über 25 Milliarden EUR für die Erforschung und Beschaffung von Kriegsgerät ausgeben – und das, obwohl Artikel 41 Absatz 2 das ausdrücklich verbietet.

Warum möchten Sie nicht verstehen, dass man Bomben und Panzer nicht essen kann und dass man damit auch keine Menschen gesund pflegen kann? Sie sagen: Wir brauchen *hard skills*. Die Zeit des naiven Europas ist vorbei. Ich sage: Naiv wäre zu glauben, dass diese Aufrüstungsspirale und diese aktualisierte geopolitische Ausrichtung mehr Frieden und Sicherheit bringen.

Antoni Comín i Oliveres (NI). – Señor presidente, señor vicepresidente, la Unión Europea debe mostrar al mundo que es inaceptable utilizar la lucha contra la pandemia como una excusa para debilitar el Estado de Derecho. Ahora más que nunca, es necesario que la política exterior de la Unión esté presidida por sus valores fundacionales: la defensa de los derechos humanos y las libertades democráticas. Y es necesario que los representantes de la Unión ante el mundo puedan representar con credibilidad estos principios.

Esta semana hemos conocido unos documentos de la CIA de los años 80 donde se indica que el Gobierno español, presidido por Felipe González, acordó la formación de un grupo de mercenarios, los GAL, para combatir fuera de la ley el terrorismo. Dicho brevemente: terrorismo de Estado. Y en 1998 usted mostró públicamente su solidaridad con un ministro y un secretario de Estado pocos días después de que fueran condenados a cárcel por el caso.

(El presidente interrumpe al orador).

Presidente. – Por favor, peço ao orador que respeite os temas que estão na nossa ordem do dia porque, caso contrário, a intervenção subverte a ordem do dia que está estabelecida.

Quer concluir a sua intervenção, por favor?

Antoni Comín i Oliveres (NI). – Señor alto representante, con todo el respeto personal, pero con toda la exigencia ética y con toda la contundencia política, le pregunto: ¿ratifica usted su apoyo a los responsables del terrorismo de Estado? De su respuesta depende no solo su legitimidad para actuar como alto representante sino la credibilidad del conjunto de la Unión ante la comunidad internacional.

Presidente. – Recordo a todos os colegas que foi acordada uma ordem do dia com três temas para a nossa discussão e que, naturalmente, intervenções sobre temas que não constam da ordem do dia representam uma subversão da ordem do dia que está afixada. Portanto, peço que respeitem a agenda da nossa reunião.

Michael Gahler (PPE). – Herr Präsident! Die wirtschaftlichen Folgen der COVID-19-Krise bewirken eine weitere politische Destabilisierung von Staaten und ganzen Regionen, die sowieso schon von Krisen und Konflikten betroffen sind. Manche Akteure versuchen, ihre geplante Agenda im Schatten der Krise durchzuziehen, ohne große Aufmerksamkeit zu erregen. Dem sollten wir entgegenreten!

China muss daran erinnert werden, dass die Vereinbarung mit Großbritannien betreffend Hongkong eine völkerrechtlich verbindliche Vereinbarung ist – bei den Vereinten Nationen hinterlegt – und kein historisches Dokument.

Es ist gut, dass jetzt politische Repräsentanten aus Europa nach Israel reisen oder per Video den Dialog pflegen, um insbesondere dem Regierungschef deutlich zu machen, dass völkerrechtswidrige Annexionen auch unerwartete Konsequenzen vielfältiger Art von nah und fern nach sich ziehen können. Halten Sie sich da bitte zurück!

In Transformationsstaaten wie der Ukraine, Georgien und Moldau muss man all denen zurufen, die ihre eigenen oligarchischen Interessen im Schatten der Krise festigen wollen: Die EU steht bei den wahren Reformern und setzt mit ihnen die vereinbarte Kooperations- und Reformagenda um.

Udo Bullmann (S&D). – Herr Präsident, Herr Vizepräsident Borrell! Auch ohne Corona wäre dieses Jahr ein Jahr der schlimmsten menschlichen Katastrophen auf diesem Globus seit Jahrzehnten. Waren es noch vor wenigen Jahren 80 - Millionen Menschen, die vom unmittelbaren Hungertod bedroht waren, so wären es auch ohne Corona dieses Jahr 120-130 Millionen Menschen. Den Unterschied machen Umweltkatastrophen und militärische Konflikte.

Durch Corona wird sich diese Zahl verdoppeln: Mehr als 260 Millionen Menschen sind direkt betroffen von Hunger, von Massensterben. Es ist gut, dass wir sehr schnell Mittel mobilisiert haben, aber haben Sie eine Zahl, eine Größenordnung von kollektiver Anstrengung verfügbar, die nötig sein wird, um das Massensterben zu verhindern, damit wir wissen, worüber wir dieses Jahr reden? Können Sie uns einen Satz sagen zur Sanktionspolitik gegenüber dem Iran, gegenüber Venezuela?

Ich will nicht die ganze Bandbreite der politischen Diskussion aufmachen, aber ganz sicher ist es so, dass die Europäische Union alles tun muss, damit auch dort die Pandemie und der Hunger bekämpft werden können, egal was andere internationale Akteure darüber denken.

Hannah Neumann (Verts/ALE). – Mr President, Mr Borrell, dear colleagues, we have focused our efforts on the COVID-19 pandemic as a health crisis in recent months. But in its shadow a human rights crisis is unfolding and this human rights crisis is making the health emergency even worse.

If regimes attack and kidnap journalists who report on the pandemic, it doesn't stop the virus, it just spreads disinformation and mistrust.

If regimes use corona funds to buy weapons for their police to enforce lockdowns, it doesn't stop the virus. It only spreads fear and death.

Of course, restrictions to individual freedoms are necessary to fight the pandemic, but each and every restriction needs to be proportionate. It needs to be clearly linked to the health emergency and above all, people have to be allowed to debate them and often they are not.

So, to fight the COVID-19 crisis globally, we need to tackle both the health emergency and the human rights crisis. We need to monitor the spread of the disease and the human rights violations. We need to investigate deaths and human rights violations. We need to protect our doctors and our human rights defenders.

Mr Borrell, it's not just about millions. Team Europe needs to become Team Human Rights. And while I applaud your efforts in this regard, and you have spoken up strongly, I really think that we need to step up our actions on this one as well, looking at the world of today.

Radosław Sikorski (PPE). – Panie Przewodniczący! Po pierwsze chciałem podziękować przedmówcy, panu ministrowi Waszczykowskiemu, za to, że z aprobatą odniósł się do Wspólnoty Demokracji, ruchu zainicjowanego przez ministra Bronisława Geremka i kontynuowanego przeze mnie. Mam nadzieję, że to oznacza, że polski rząd przestanie też łamać praworządność i powróci do roli Polski jako przykładu demokracji do naśladowania przez innych.

A jeśli chodzi o pandemię, to uważam, że prawdziwe przetasowanie w hierarchii państw nastąpi w wyniku tego, jak poradzimy sobie z kryzysem finansowym i gospodarczym. Propozycje Komisji stwarzają wielką nadzieję, że poradzimy sobie lepiej i że Unia będzie bardziej spójna. Ale jednocześnie będzie kontynuowana polityka sztucznie niskich stóp procentowych, w wyniku której będą wzrastały nierówności w naszych krajach. Mamy więc wielką szansę, ale i też wielkie zagrożenie. I mam nadzieję, że pańska służba też będzie te sprawy monitorować.

Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D). – Mr President, I would like to say to Mr Borrell that, as you mentioned yourself, the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the international stage isn't yet fully clear, but it will be huge. That's for sure.

Let me take the example of China because it's in front of us of course. Even before the pandemic, we had huge problems in our relationship with China. I am thinking about human rights, trade relations and the fact that it's a state-led economy, just to mention a few. During the COVID crisis these problems have only increased. They have bombarded Europe with fake news, they were not transparent on how to deal with the COVID crisis within their country, and there was of course the knowledge that we now have that we are too dependent on China, for instance for protective material when it comes to a health crisis.

So let's be very clear, Mr Borrell. Trade policy is the most important and the most powerful tool that we have within foreign policy and we need to bind them together, not just paying lip service to human rights and at the same time having normal trade relations with China. We need to fundamentally rethink how we look at China.

Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE). – Señor presidente, yo quiero destacar tres aspectos, brevemente, de la dimensión exterior de la COVID-19. Por un lado, la crisis ha puesto de relieve las deficiencias de la gobernanza global en materia sanitaria. Las instituciones internacionales no han sido capaces de asegurar eficazmente ni el intercambio de información ni la coordinación en la lucha contra el virus.

El segundo punto que quisiera subrayar es la exagerada dependencia europea del exterior. Debemos conseguir un elevado nivel de autonomía sanitaria. No podemos continuar dependiendo de terceros países en ámbitos estratégicos como la obtención de material sanitario o de ingredientes farmacéuticos activos para la fabricación de medicamentos. En la actualidad, baste con señalar que el 80 % de la producción mundial de estos ingredientes farmacéuticos se concentra en India y en China.

Por otra parte, está claro que debemos ayudar a los terceros países —en especial a nuestros vecinos africanos— en su lucha contra la crisis y, por ello, celebro que en la respuesta de la Unión se haya asignado una importante contribución financiera a la lucha contra la pandemia en terceros países.

Y termino. Desgraciadamente, en las dos últimas décadas se han sucedido los brotes de pandemias. Incomprensiblemente, esta última de la COVID-19 nos ha cogido por sorpresa, otra vez. Vivimos en un mundo globalizado e hiperconectado. Los virus no conocen fronteras. La próxima crisis sanitaria debemos afrontarla de forma más coordinada y eficaz.

Javi López (S&D). – Señor presidente, señor alto representante. Lo cierto es que la pandemia no solo ha significado el mayor reto sanitario y económico del último siglo para la humanidad, sino que ha subrayado las enormes debilidades y contradicciones de nuestro actual modelo de gobernanza internacional. Probablemente, tendencias que ya veíamos antes: una clamorosa falta de liderazgo global, organizaciones multilaterales muy debilitadas y una preocupante —y con enormes riesgos— tensión entre grandes poderes. Pero también Europa puede extraer unas cuantas lecciones sobre cómo actuar ahora en el exterior.

Necesitamos más que nunca que Europa se responsabilice de revitalizar y reformar las estructuras multilaterales porque para los retos globales como la pandemia, como el cambio climático, la desigualdad o poner normas a la globalización, es necesaria la cooperación; y la competencia no nos sirve para nada. Y Europa tiene que encontrar su camino autónomo, propio, como única forma para defender sus valores y sus intereses en el mundo.

Un momento también para buscar aliados y apoyarles en momentos como los actuales, como Latinoamérica, que ahora mismo está sufriendo gravemente las consecuencias de la pandemia.

Александър Александров Йорданов (PPE). – Г-н Председател, г-н Борел, нека да поздравим гражданите на Хонконг, които защитават своите права и свободи, потърпени от Парламента на Китай след приемането на репресивния закон за национална сигурност. Като представител на държава, която е преживяла ужаса на тоталитарното комунистическо управление, призовавам Комисията и Съвета, както и всички евродепутати, да се разделим с илюзията, че с комунистически Китай можем да изграждаме приятелски отношения.

Ние трябва да защитим категорично свободите на гражданите на Хонконг. Нашите ценности изискват да заявим ясно на режима в Пекин, че сме в състояние да прекратим инвестиционните сделки с него, да ограничим търговските си отношения и можем да реализираме политика на санкции спрямо негови функционери, така както го направихме след руската агресия срещу Украйна.

Санкциите са единственият мирен инструмент за вразумяване на оцелели в 21-ви век комунистически динозаври.

Miriam Lexmann, on behalf of the PPE Group. – Mr President, if one is not ready to speak for freedom everywhere, we cannot expect freedom to be granted anywhere. China continues to subvert Hong Kong's autonomy, rule of law and fundamental freedoms, as well as international agreements. The latest unilateral decision by the National People's Congress of China to enact a national security law for Hong Kong seriously threatens the city's autonomy, rule of law and fundamental freedoms. It is expected that the law will introduce a range of vague and draconian charges.

Two weeks ago, over 900 political leaders worldwide, including many of you, made a joint statement condemning this move. The joint motion for a resolution of this Parliament provides a clear and principled stance on the situation in Hong Kong and upholds the values on which this Union has been built, and which should and must direct our foreign policy, as stipulated in Article 21 of the Treaty. I therefore call on all Members to support this resolution and to stand with the people of Hong Kong.

Isabel Santos, em nome do Grupo S&D. – Senhor Presidente, desde a assinatura da Declaração Sino-Britânica para transferência de Hong Kong, muitos dos habitantes da região temiam o dia em que o Governo chinês ignorasse a lei básica e fizesse tábuas rasas dos direitos fundamentais, como tem feito no Tibete, em Xinjiang e um pouco por toda a China.

Com a decisão de impor a lei de segurança nacional a Hong Kong, o Governo chinês abriu caminho ao desrespeito pelo Estado de Direito e pôs em causa o princípio de «um país, dois sistemas».

Os abusos do Governo chinês e o acentuar da repressão não podem ser tolerados. A importância da relação estratégica entre a União Europeia e a China não pode significar uma menor exigência de coerência entre a nossa ação e os nossos valores. Pelo contrário, impõe-nos a defesa exigente da liberdade, dos direitos humanos, da autonomia de Hong Kong e do Direito Internacional.

É isso que se espera da União Europeia.

Hilde Vautmans, on behalf of the Renew Group. – Mr President, it is very clear for me. I defend the 'one country, two systems' principle so I stand with the people of Hong Kong and support their freedom of expression. The arrest of four democratic leaders, the violent crackdown on protestors and the new security law are an assault on the autonomy of Hong Kong.

Luckily, this Parliament is united in a very strong resolution, asking China to withdraw the security law, to respect the freedom of people in Hong Kong and to show that it is willing to respect the rule of law. If not, we, the international community, should consider a case before the International Court of Justice and Magnitsky-style sanctions.

Mr Borrell, let me stress that, with almost 500 million consumers of Chinese products, we have the necessary economic leverage to make a change. I want Europe to engage with China. I want Europe to look for a new China strategy. But we have to do this by defending our values and our interests. That's why I plead again to China: withdraw the security law and give the people of Hong Kong the autonomy that has been agreed upon in the 'one country, two systems' agreement. Our group, Renew, stands for democracy values everywhere in the world.

Mara Bizzotto, *a nome del gruppo ID*. – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, la Cina comunista è l'impero del male del terzo millennio. La dittatura comunista cinese rappresenta la più grande minaccia alla nostra libertà e alla nostra democrazia. L'emergenza coronavirus, la guerra contro Hong Kong in violazione del diritto internazionale e le spie cinesi dentro le istituzioni europee sono fatti che lo dimostrano in maniera evidente.

È scandaloso che l'Europa e il governo italiano di PD e 5 Stelle siano complici silenziosi delle malefatte del regime cinese. Basta silenzi, basta doppi giochi, basta bugie! L'Europa deve pretendere la verità sui crimini commessi dalla Cina. La nostra vita e i nostri valori non sono in vendita in cambio di qualche affare sporco di sangue.

Cari colleghi, è chiaro che siamo di fronte a una guerra economica e a una guerra di civiltà che la dittatura cinese ha dichiarato contro il mondo occidentale. Noi stiamo convintamente con l'Alleanza atlantica e dobbiamo essere pronti a difendere con ogni mezzo la nostra libertà e la nostra democrazia. Gli italiani, gli europei, gli uomini liberi di tutto il mondo non moriranno mai schiavi del regime comunista cinese.

Assita Kanko, *on behalf of the ECR Group*. – Mr President, this Commission has promised to be a geopolitical Commission. Yet, so far, I have not seen proof of this. Instead, I've seen the External Action Service bend over backwards to appease Beijing. At next week's EU-China summit, it's clear that the Chinese are unwilling to make progress on any major issues.

So, I ask the Commission, I'm asking you why are you giving Beijing a free photo op while they use all their energy to wage a global campaign against democracy? The people of Hong Kong were promised their own system of governance. China is reneging on its promises with the national security law.

If you are to truly defend democracy at home and abroad, we cannot just issue statements of support for Hong Kong democratic forces. We must back up our words with actions.

The EU is trying to chart its own strain of strategy. I do not subscribe to some of the Cold War rhetoric that we have seen from Washington. But, as Margaret Thatcher once said: 'The trouble with walking down the middle of the road is you get hit by traffic in both directions.' Where do you want to stand?

Idoia Villanueva Ruiz, *en nombre del Grupo GUE/NGL*. – Señor presidente, ayer hablamos en este Parlamento sobre la muerte de George Floyd. Necesario escuchar a la colega eurodiputada verde hablar sobre el acoso racista. Y hoy quiero recordar las veinte mil muertes en el Mediterráneo desde 2014, cincuenta y tres muertes y desapariciones hace apenas diez días.

Y es que la Unión Europea necesita hacer sus deberes respetando los derechos humanos en nuestro territorio y tener independencia para exigir responsabilidades por todos los George Floyd del mundo. Necesitamos reforzar las estructuras de gobernanza para poder tener una política exterior basada en el desarme, basada en las mediaciones, el fin de las sanciones, el multilateralismo, la lucha contra el cambio climático y la equidad de género.

En Hong Kong esto pasa por defender el derecho a manifestarse pacíficamente, como pedimos desde Chile a Palestina, desde Ecuador al Líbano. Fomentar el diálogo, respetar los términos del acuerdo sino-británico, pero también denunciar continuadas injerencias de Trump o el Gobierno británico.

Debemos apostar por una relación integral de la Unión Europea con China basada en la mutua cooperación, en la que se puedan debatir los acuerdos pero también las diferencias. Como en todos los lugares del mundo, necesitamos algo más que un acuerdo de libre comercio que deje los derechos humanos al margen.

Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó (NI). – Mr President, the EU's objective on Hong Kong is to make China respect Hong Kong. Respecting Hong Kong means respecting international law and particularly the right to self-determination. Making China respect Hong Kong will open the door for a greater respect of human rights in all the country and so will offer hope to people like the Uyghurs today victims of a tragic ethnic and religious persecution. If, on the contrary, the EU fails in this purpose, if the EU just makes grandstanding rhetoric and photoshop diplomacy, covering up the more unpleasant side of this great economic partner of ours, China, the discussion will be not on the concept of one country-two systems, but the EU will have shown yet again that it has one set of principles, two standards. Let me say that I don't trust much in this diplomacy that has shown its docility in confronting China's pressures but, Mr Josep Borrell, I'm ready to be surprised.

Andrius Kubilius (PPE). – Mr President, really, of course, we are condemning what Chinese authorities are doing against democracy and against Chinese international obligations in Hong Kong. We are standing together with the Hong Kong people in defence of their rights and their autonomy.

Of course, you should place strong pressure on Beijing next week, but we can see some paradoxes in the actions of the Chinese authorities. The attempts to destroy the democracy of Hong Kong brings clear evidence that they are afraid of that small island of democracy. Usually weak authorities are showing that they are afraid, and it reminds me of how the Soviet Union collapsed. The Soviet Union had weak authority and they were afraid of democracy. Chinese people are really clever people, and prudent people, and China deserves to be allowed into global leadership, but they need to learn now not to be afraid of democracy, and they need to learn democracy from Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Mick Wallace (GUE/NGL). – Mr President, the US Senate unanimously passed the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act last November, designed to protect US business interests. Sadly, the protest movement in Hong Kong has been hijacked by Washington-sponsored protesters who have turned justified anti-neoliberalism corruption protest into anti-China protests, fuelled by xenophobia and racism. The National Endowment for Democracy, an engine of US regime change machine, has recruited Hong Kong opposition leaders to orchestrate the protests and poured millions of dollars into them. Meanwhile in the US, they have a brutal far-right administration that lynches its black and brown people every day, brutalises protesters in the streets, imprisons, disenfranchises and pushes into forced labour more people than any country on earth. There are more black people in the American incarceration system today than there were slaves in 1850. This is the system that sings the praises of the violence of the Hong Kong protesters.

This is our third plenary debate on Hong Kong. When are we going to have one on Yemen? This Parliament needs to stop being a lapdog to a lawless US government.

Antonio López-Istúriz White, en nombre del Grupo PPE. – Señor presidente, me pregunto qué hacemos aquí o si este Parlamento tiene dotes de Nostradamus, porque estamos adelantando debates sobre una cuestión, en el caso de Israel, que todavía ni ha sucedido. No sé qué hacemos aquí hoy debatiendo sobre el tema de Israel. Sinceramente, me refiero, por supuesto, a que estamos aquí convocados por la ultrazquierda, los comunistas.

Quiero dar las gracias a gente muy razonable de la izquierda europea, en el Partido Socialista y en los Verdes, que ayer supieron diferenciar, en el tema de la aviación, las cuestiones políticas de las prácticas para esta Unión Europea. Gente razonable, como lo somos nosotros.

¿Por qué estamos debatiendo esto? Por la obsesión... Hay una compañera ahí de Izquierda Unida..., bueno, en fin, de los de Podemos, Idoia Villanueva, que hablaba de Chile. Chile hace años que no es una dictadura; sin embargo, Irán, Venezuela, Cuba son dictaduras.

Yo entiendo su obsesión por la democracia de Israel. Por favor, cambien de tono, cambien ya de discurso. Estamos defendiendo —como lo ha hecho el alto representante— que estamos hablando aquí de una cuestión que todavía no se tiene que debatir. Podemos debatir después, cuando suceda, sobre la supuesta anexión. No estamos aquí para debatir de las declaraciones electorales sino de hechos concretos, como haremos, alto representante, en el próximo futuro.

Maria Arena, au nom du groupe S&D. – Monsieur le Président, je suis un peu confuse parce que je viens de voir les résultats du vote d'hier concernant l'accord avec Israël sur les services aériens. Je suis confuse, dans la mesure où je me demande si notre institution est encore prête à défendre le multilatéralisme. En effet, j'entends beaucoup de mes collègues ici s'insurger contre certaines administrations, disant qu'elles bafouent le multilatéralisme, et par le vote que nous avons fait hier. 437 députés ne se sont même pas posé la question de savoir si nous respectons ou pas le multilatéralisme et les décisions du multilatéralisme.

Donc, ici, mon intervention n'est absolument pas en rapport avec la position vous prenez, Monsieur Borrell, parce que je pense que vous avez pris des décisions courageuses sur la question du conflit israélo-palestinien, mais je m'interroge vraiment sur notre institution et sur notre capacité à ne pas avoir un double langage et à ne pas avoir un double standard. On parle de la Chine, on parle de la Russie, mais quand il s'agit du conflit israélo-palestinien, il semble que nous soyons amputés d'une capacité de décider quelque chose qui est finalement décidé sur un plan international. Voilà ma confusion, Monsieur Borrell, désolée, mais je pense que la question nous revient à nous, en tant qu'assemblée parlementaire.

Nathalie Loiseau, *au nom du groupe Renew*. – Monsieur le Président, je voudrais aujourd'hui exprimer ici une vive inquiétude.

En effet, en vertu de l'accord de coalition qui l'a porté au pouvoir, le gouvernement israélien envisage de procéder à l'annexion d'une partie de la Cisjordanie occupée. Cette annexion serait illégale, elle serait dangereuse, elle serait le fruit empoisonné d'un rapport de force.

Or, pour nous ici en Europe, malgré tout ce qui nous divise, une certitude nous rassemble: cette certitude c'est que la force ne donne pas tous les droits. Ce qui nous rassemble, c'est la conviction que la force du droit doit toujours l'emporter sur le droit du plus fort. Je le dis avec beaucoup d'amitié pour Israël parce que l'amitié impose des devoirs. Je le dis parce que je place mes espoirs dans la sagesse de la démocratie israélienne. Je le dis, comme mon pays l'a fait quand il a vu les États-Unis se fourvoyer en 2003 en lançant une guerre en Irak pour de mauvaises raisons, une guerre qui a eu tant de conséquences négatives.

Le rôle d'un ami, ce n'est pas de se taire, c'est d'alerter celui qui risque de se fourvoyer. Nous tous ici en Europe, nous savons qu'on ne fait la paix qu'avec ses ennemis. Vous, en Israël, avez la force pour vous, alors servez-vous en pour la paix. Souvenez-vous de ce que disait Itzhak Rabin: seul un peuple fort peut faire la paix avec ses ennemis. Parce que vous êtes forts, soyez justes!

Ernest Urtasun, *en nombre del Grupo Verts/ALE*. – Señor presidente, evidentemente, la anexión anunciada por Israel de los territorios palestinos es una grave vulneración del Derecho internacional. Y, señor López-Istúriz, queremos discutirlo ahora, porque no queremos que ocurra. Queremos evitar que haya una vulneración del Derecho internacional. Ya sé que a usted quizá no le interesa demasiado proteger las normas internacionales, pero a una mayoría de esta Cámara, y a una mayoría de países de la Unión Europea, sí nos interesa proteger el Derecho internacional.

Por eso, es un error, creo, lo que se hizo ayer no posponiendo la votación del acuerdo de aviación con Israel, porque, al final, si dejamos que esto pase sin ningún tipo de consecuencia, ¿qué mensaje estamos mandando? ¿Qué tipo de defensa del multilateralismo estamos expresando como Unión Europea?

Y, también, creo que es un momento muy importante. Estábamos ahora hablando de la necesidad de que el peso y la voz de la Unión Europea se refuercen ante la retirada de los Estados Unidos. Si hay un escenario en el cual la voz de la Unión Europea debe mostrarse fuerte ahora es ante las graves consecuencias que va a acarrear la decisión de Israel en Oriente Próximo.

Y, por ello, yo quiero celebrar que la diplomacia europea haya realizado comunicados, contundentes, diciendo que tal paso adelante no pasará sin ser contestado. Que habrá una reacción. Porque creo, evidentemente, que ahora es el momento de multiplicar los esfuerzos diplomáticos a todos los niveles para evitar que ello ocurra, pero si pasa, también Israel debe saber que esto no va a pasar sin consecuencias y que la relación tan intensa que tenemos con Israel va a tener que ser obviamente revisada.

Y, finalmente, creo que debemos también redoblar esfuerzos y apoyar acciones en el marco del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas para que cuando ocurra esta decisión –y parece que a partir del 1 de julio esto va a empezar a ocurrir– esa cuestión tampoco pase sin ser contestada en las Naciones Unidas.

Paolo Borchia, *a nome del gruppo ID*. – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, signor Alto rappresentante, io auspico che la Commissione e i colleghi si attengano ai fatti. Non c'è nessuna corsa alle armi, nessuna operazione militare decisa all'improvviso. Stiamo parlando di una proposta legislativa da sottoporre ai canonici passaggi parlamentari di uno Stato democratico. Quindi non posso che stupirmi per questi allarmismi, ma evidentemente qui a Bruxelles c'è chi si è già dimenticato di come funziona la democrazia tanto da proporre intromissioni negli affari interni degli Stati sovrani preparandosi a metterne sotto processo l'autorità decisionale.

Proprio per questo ricordo alle istituzioni che i protagonisti del processo di pace nel Medio Oriente dovrebbero essere lo Stato d'Israele e l'Autorità palestinese, mentre all'Unione europea spetta solamente un ruolo di supporto da esercitarsi nella massima neutralità. E questo perché l'ambizione senza strumenti diventa velleitaria. Alcuni analisti internazionali hanno già sentenziato che l'Unione europea, Turchia e Iran abbaieranno senza mordere.

Bert-Jan Ruissen, *namens de ECR-Fractie*. – Voorzitter, geachte heer Barnier, opnieuw worden hier door een aantal partijen de pijlen eenzijdig op Israël gericht, terwijl nog lang niet duidelijk is hoe de plannen van de nieuwe Israëlische regering er uitzien. Bovendien is de situatie veel complexer dan nu door een aantal collega's wordt voorgesteld.

Laten we niet vergeten dat het gaat het om gebieden die indertijd deel uitmaakten van het mandaatgebied Palestina – bedoeld voor de stichting van een nationaal Joods tehuis –, die vervolgens jarenlang werden bezet door Jordanië en die in 1967 in een defensieve oorlog onder Israëlisch militair toezicht zijn gekomen. En tot op de dag van vandaag zijn ze dat nog steeds. Alleen al daarom zijn grote woorden over annexatie en over schending van het internationale recht uiterst discutabel.

Iedere keer opnieuw maakt de EU de fout eenzijdig partij te kiezen, ook nu weer. Als we werkelijk een rol willen spelen in de oplossing van het Palestijns-Israëlische conflict moeten we deze eenzijdigheid laten varen, en wel zo snel mogelijk. Dit conflict vraagt om bemiddelaars, niet om betweters aan de zijlijn!

Manu Pineda, *en nombre del Grupo GUE/NGL*. – Señor presidente, señor Borrell, a principios de febrero usted declaró que la anexión de territorios palestinos por parte de Israel no podía pasar sin la oposición de la Unión Europea. Como sabe usted, antes de que se declarara la pandemia, estuve en Palestina como presidente de la delegación de este Parlamento y he de decirle que, pese a su clara oposición, ese plan se va aplicando paso a paso sin que tomemos ninguna medida que lo obstaculice.

La última decisión anunciada por Israel es la más grave hasta ahora. Hablamos de la anexión de importantes partes de Cisjordania: un tercio de Cisjordania, incluido el valle del Jordán. Una anexión que supone firmar el certificado de defunción de un proyecto que lleva décadas agonizando: la solución de los dos Estados. Claro, es imposible no preguntarse qué está haciendo la Unión Europea.

Como hemos dicho muchas veces, sus comunicados y declaraciones son impecables, pero el tiempo nos da la razón. Sus palabras no sirven de gran cosa si no se pasa a los hechos. Señor Borrell, algunas preguntas que me gustaría que me contestara son: ¿A qué espera la Unión Europea para reconocer al Estado palestino? ¿Por qué no se cancela ya el Acuerdo de Asociación, aplicando el artículo segundo? ¿Por qué no se impide la participación de Israel en todos los programas financiados por la Unión Europea? ¿Por qué no se impone un embargo armamentístico al régimen israelí? ¿Por qué no se prohíbe el comercio de productos de los asentamientos ilegales?

Señor Borrell, debemos tomar medidas para sustituir la ley del más fuerte por la ley de protección al más débil. El único imperio que debe existir es el imperio del Derecho internacional, la paz con dignidad y la justicia social.

Evin Incir (S&D). – Herr talman! Herr Joseph Borrell! Kollegor i EPP undrar vad vi gör här i dag. Medan EPP verkar invänta en annektering och sedan vara reaktiva så föredrar vi i S&D att vara aktiva och förebygga en eventuell annektering. Tillåts Israel gå vidare med annekteringsplanerna så skulle det innebära ett stort slag mot fredsprocessen. Chanserna att återuppta förhandlingarna om tvåstatslösningen skulle vara helt omöjliga. Det skulle även underminera situationen och stärka grunden för polariseringen, extremismen och våldet i regionen.

En annektering innebär ett brott mot folkrätten, likväl som ett brott mot artikel 2 i EU:s och Israels associationsavtal. Men även om de stora annekteringsplanerna enligt Trumps plan inte blir av så sker det faktiskt en steg-för-steg-annektering i form av expanderingsplanerna i Palestina. Min fråga till er, herr vice ordförande och höga representant, är: Vilka steg avser du att ta mot Netanyahu's annekteringsplaner för att visa att vi är en union som står upp för de fundamentala rättigheterna i regionen, i vår union likväl som globalt?

Josep Borrell Fontelles, vicepresidente de la Comisión / alto representante de la Unión para Asuntos Exteriores y Política de Seguridad. —Cinco minutos es tiempo suficiente para contestar a 33 oradores. Ustedes comprenderán que mi respuesta no podrá ser todo lo suficientemente completa que yo hubiera deseado. Estoy encantado de participar en este debate, y quizá sería bueno que pudiese tener también la oportunidad de interactuar con ustedes en mis respuestas, voy a intentar hacerlo en la medida de lo posible.

Sobre Israel, la anexión, se han manifestado distintos puntos de vista. Alguien ha dicho que es discutible, que si es o no acorde con el Derecho internacional. Solo puedo decirles que hay veinticinco países de los veintisiete que creen que es contrario al Derecho internacional. Estarán equivocados todos ellos, pero es lo que creen. Veinticinco países de veintisiete han apoyado claramente una declaración en la que dicen que esto sería contrario al Derecho internacional.

¿Por qué estamos hablando de esto ahora? Porque estamos intentando evitar que ocurra.

¿Que no sabemos los planes del Gobierno de Israel? Ustedes perdonen. Sí, sí los sabemos. Claro que los sabemos. Son públicos y notorios, forman parte del acuerdo de coalición. Y a mí mismo me los han explicado en vivo y en directo ministros de ese gobierno. Y al ministro alemán, que ha ido a Israel, se lo han dicho directamente. O sea, que saberlo, lo sabemos. No hagamos la política del avestruz. No, no sabemos. Sí, sabemos.

¿Y qué estamos haciendo? Estamos haciendo lo posible para que diplomáticamente estas cosas no ocurran y no tengamos que hacer frente a una situación difícil.

¿Por qué la Unión Europea no reconoce al Estado palestino? Porque la Unión Europea no reconoce a nadie, no tiene capacidad para reconocer. Esto lo hacen los Estados miembros, y cada uno toma la decisión que le parece oportuna.

¿Qué medidas se van a tomar? Pues, veremos. No anticipemos. Aquí, sí; no anticipemos. Intentemos prever. Pero ciertamente, la posición mayoritaria, que no unánime —desgraciadamente, no puedo asegurar que sea unánime, porque no lo es—, es que esto sería contrario al Derecho internacional y que tendría que tener consecuencias, y estamos intentando evitar que ocurra.

En cuanto a Hong Kong y a China, no puedo estar más de acuerdo con ustedes sobre la necesidad de hacer todo lo que esté en nuestra mano para que se respeten los acuerdos internacionales que suscribió China y el sistema que pactó con el Reino Unido cuando este abandonó la colonia.

Lo hacemos por defender principios, pero también porque es en nuestro interés, y hay una intensa actividad al respecto.

Hay más cuestiones en nuestra relación con China, que vamos a tratar en la próxima cumbre. He intentado referirme a todas ellas, y ustedes también, pero concentrémonos en un aspecto muy importante que muchos de ustedes han señalado, que es que la crisis ha traído consigo —creo que han sido el señor Bütikofer y otros quienes lo han señalado muy acertadamente— una crisis del liderazgo americano —los Estados Unidos se han retirado claramente de cualquier intento de liderar la respuesta mundial a la pandemia—, una batalla hegemónica entre las dos grandes potencias y una debilidad de las instancias multinacionales. Este es el escenario en el que estamos.

Y creo sinceramente que Europa no puede dejar de ignorar este escenario y que tiene que tener una posición propia. En cuanto a la autonomía estratégica —tiene mucho que ver con lo que han señalado también muchos de ustedes sobre nuestra excesiva dependencia en el suministro de medicinas, y nos damos cuenta ahora de que nuestra dependencia es mucho mayor de lo que pensábamos y puede hacerse crítica en momentos críticos como este—, necesitamos reforzar esta autonomía estratégica y mantener nuestros valores y nuestros intereses de forma autónoma —y me he esforzado en explicar que eso no quiere decir equidistante, pero sí tener muy claro qué es lo que nosotros queremos, qué es lo que defendemos.

Porque, nos guste o no, desgraciadamente, no podemos estar de acuerdo siempre con los Estados Unidos, porque los Estados Unidos toman decisiones unilaterales que no compartimos. Y como no las compartimos, no podemos estar de su lado. Por ejemplo, no podemos estar de su lado en las decisiones que toman con respecto a la Corte Penal Internacional. Y aquí, espero que el Parlamento esté de acuerdo con esta afirmación. Y, en cambio, tenemos que preservar la unidad trasatlántica en lo que siempre sea posible, porque compartimos el mismo sistema político.

Por eso, a veces decimos que somos rivales sistémicos de China porque, ciertamente, no compartimos el mismo sistema político, pero esto no quiere decir que tengamos que estar rivalizando con China en todo y en todo momento. Porque hay cuestiones muy importantes en las que necesitamos una acción conjunta, en la medida en que se pueda acordar.

Creo, señorías, que estas son las respuestas.

Sí, carrera armamentística. No, nadie está pensando en que empujemos una carrera armamentística pero, desgraciadamente, hay conflictos a los que tenemos que hacer frente y, desgraciadamente, a esos conflictos hay que hacerles frente con armas.

La próxima vez que un grupo de terroristas asalte un poblado en Mali y mate a todos sus habitantes a punta de ametralladora, les mandaremos el texto de una Resolución para invitarles a que no lo sigan haciendo, pero yo creo que es mucho más eficiente que las fuerzas de esos países y las nuestras —que están desplegadas allí para combatir el terrorismo— tengan los medios necesarios para hacerlo.

Presidente. – Comunico que recebi seis propostas de resolução apresentadas em conformidade com o artigo 132.º, n.º 2, do Regimento.

O debate está encerrado.

A votação realizar-se-á na sexta-feira [19 de junho].

Declarações escritas (artigo 171.º)

Joachim Stanisław Brudziński (ECR), na piśmie. – Sytuacja wokół pandemii covid-19 dotyka całego świata i oczywiście jest fakt, iż Unia Europejska powinna być jak najbardziej zaangażowana zarówno w walkę ze skutkami działania wirusa obecnie, jak i przeciwdziałać jej negatywnym skutkom w przyszłości. Solidarność międzynarodowa wzywa nas do udzielenia wsparcia i pomocy tym krajom, które znajdują się w najtrudniejszej sytuacji, jak np. wiele krajów na kontynencie afrykańskim. Powinniśmy dołożyć wszelkich starań, by maksymalnie przeciwdziałać potęgowaniu napięcia na linii Chiny – Stany Zjednoczone. UE powinna w sposób zrównoważony współpracować z tymi strategicznymi partnerami. Obecna sytuacja tylko podkreśla, jak bardzo ta współpraca jest istotna. Mierzmy się przecież z wyzwaniami o charakterze globalnym! Polska daje przykład budowania jak najlepszej współpracy transatlantyckiej. Niebawem Prezydent Polski Andrzej Duda uda się do Waszyngtonu, jako pierwszy europejski przywódca, który został zaproszony do Białego Domu po lockdownie, by spotkać się z Prezydentem USA. Jest wiele wspólnych wyzwań i wiele tematów do omówienia. Budujmy i współpracujmy, zamiast potęgować antagonizmy i eskalować napięcia.

Anna Fotyga (ECR), na piśmie. – Sukces Hongkongu zbudowany jest na jego wolnościach. Obecne działania Komunistycznej Partii Chin stanowią największe zagrożenie dla mieszkańców autonomii od 1997 roku. Jesteśmy mocno zaniepokojeni próbami jednostronnego i arbitralnego narzucenia przez Pekin przepisów o bezpieczeństwie narodowym, co narusza art. 23 ustawy zasadniczej Hongkongu, a także łamie międzynarodowe zobowiązania Chin, między innymi w ramach notyfikowanej w ONZ umowy chińsko-brytyjskiej. Cieszę się, że udało się nam wynegocjować zdecydowany tekst, jasno opisujący nasze stanowisko wobec działań KPC. Jego przyjęcie da jasny sygnał, jak powinniśmy kształtować nasze stosunki z Pekinem, którego polityka już od wielu lat budzi moje zaniepokojenie. Ekspansja Pekinu wcale nie jest tak pokojowa, jak próbuje się przedstawić światu. W zeszłej kadencji szczegółowo omawialiśmy chińskie działania militarne na morzach południowo- i wschodniochińskim. Wciąż pamiętam spotkanie z córką İlhami Tohtiego, ujgurskiego naukowca i dziennikarza skazanego przez władze chińskie na dożywotnie więzienie. Pekinowi jakiś czas temu udało się zdusić Tybet i systematycznie sięga po nowe cele. Musimy wspierać demokratyczny Tajwan, dbać o przestrzeganie prawa międzynarodowego. O tym jest dzisiejsza rezolucja, którą zdecydowanie popieram.

Kinga Gál (PPE), írásban. – A világjárvány számos problémát eredményezett már, saját és nyugat-balkáni partnerországaink gazdaságait is súlyosan károsítva. Ezek természetesen szűkítik mozgásterünket és segítségnyújtási kapacitásainkat, viszont alapvető, hogy válságok idején se engedjük el a partnerországaink kezét. Tartani kell bennük a reményt az uniós perspektíva életben tartásával, de anyagi segítséget is nyújtanunk kell nekik. Ezért fontos, hogy minél nagyobb segítséget kapjanak éppen az időszakban a nyugat-balkáni államok. Üdvözlöm a bővítési biztos által bejelentett jelentős támogatást a Nyugat-Balkánnak a koronavírus-világjárvány elleni küzdelemhez. A bővítési biztos által mozgósított segítség teljes összege 3,3 milliárd EUR, ebből 38 millió EUR azonnali támogatás az egészségügyi ágazatnak, 389 millió EUR-t szán a szociális és gazdasági helyreállításra, 750 millió EUR-t makroszintű pénzügyi támogatásra, 455 millió EUR-t a gazdaságélénkítésre, 1,7 milliárd EUR-t pedig az Európai Beruházási Bank által nyújtott kedvezményes kölcsönök formájában nyújt.

Lépéseinkkel megmutattuk, hogy a válság alatt és után is számíthatnak ránk nyugat-balkáni partnerországaink.

György Hölvényi (PPE), írásban. – A koronavírus járvány világszerte több, pontosan még nem felmérhető problémát fog eredményezni, egészségügyi, társadalmi és gazdasági téren is. Miközben a gazdasági visszaesés szűkíti a rendelkezésre álló forrásainkat, partnerországaink humanitárius és fejlesztési szükségletei is növekednek. Azért, hogy az európai válaszok valóban sikeresek lehessenek új megközelítést kell alkalmaznunk a fejlesztéspolitikában. A koronavírus járvány közvetlen humanitárius következményeinek kezelése mellett, figyelmet kell fordítanunk a járvány hosszabb távú, gazdasági és társadalmi hatásaira is.

El kell kerülnünk, hogy elhúzódó humanitárius válsággócok alakuljanak ki az olyan régiókban, mint Észak-Kelet Nigéria, Burkina Faso vagy Dél-Szudán, amelyek az Európába tartó migráció kiindulópontjai lehetnek. Ez csak akkor lehetséges, ha a humanitárius és fejlesztési támogatásokat valóban az arra rászorulókhhoz juttatjuk el, hogy azokat az adott ország, régió és helyi közösségek valós szükségletei szerint hasznosítsák. A jelenlegi gazdasági helyzetben a rendelkezésre álló anyagi erőforrásokat az eddigieknél lényegesen hatékonyabb módon kell hasznosítanunk. Ezen az európai szerepvállalás hitelessége múlik. A hatékonyság fokozásához nagyban hozzájárul a fejlődő országok helyi közösségeivel folytatott közvetlen párbeszéd.

Ebben a munkában megbízható partnereink lehetnek azok a helyi egyházak, amelyeket sajnálatos módon az unió fejlesztéspolitikájában gyakran hátrányosan megkülönböztetés ér. Most, amikor az unió polgárai is támogatásra szorulnak, egyszerűen nem hagyhatjuk figyelmen kívül az egyházak által végzett fejlesztési és humanitárius tevékenységet és az ezek által jelentett tartalmakat.

Michaela Šojdrová (PPE), írásban. – Když byla britská kolonie Hongkong v roce 1997 předávána Číně, vše vypadlo, že se jedná pouze o formalitu. Pro obyvatele Hongkongu se nemělo nic změnit, a pokud ano, tak k lepšímu (byl zde dokonce závazek postupné demokratizace). Také Čína byla tehdy jiná. Na mezinárodním poli se chovala konstruktivně a doma pokračovala v tempu reform. Hongkongu byl přislíben trvalý status autonomie v duchu konceptu „jedna země, dva systémy“. Toto období je nyní pryč. Současné vedení Číny má jinou strategii – navenek projevuje větší asertivitu, dovnitř utahuje šrouby. Symbolický hřebíček do rakve autonomie Hongkongu přináší bezpečnostní zákon schválený letos v květnu ve stínu COVID-19 čínským parlamentem. Zákon má umožnit potlačování teroristických a separatistických aktivit, podvrtné činnosti i zahraničního vměšování. Kriminalizuje podkopávání autority Pekingu v Hongkongu, a zásadně tak narušuje hongkongskou autonomii. Je tak přímo namířen proti demonstracím a je reakcí na ně. Smutnou reakcí, která je zcela v duchu čínských metod a uvažování. Letos si obyvatelé Hongkongu ještě svobodně připomněli události na náměstí Tchien-an-men v Pekingu z roku 1989. Otázkou je, jestli to bude příští rok ještě možné. Musíme se postavit za Hongkong a nehodit jeho obyvatele přes palubu. Je to součást univerzální boje za svobodu a lidská práva.

Alexandr Vondra (ECR), írásban. – Stát Izrael se v tomto Parlamentu těší neúměrnému zájmu; ne jako nejdemokratičtější země Blízkého východu, s nímž sdílíme velkou část bezpečnostních zájmů a civilizačních hodnot; ne jako země, která v takřka každé oblasti lidského života dosahuje výjimečných výsledků a od níž se lze v lecčems přiučit; ne, s Izraelem se nejčastěji setkáváme jako s předmětem kritiky; kritiky, která je nesrovnatelná s jinými, třeba výrazně nedemokratickými režimy. Netýká se to jen tohoto Parlamentu, rezoluce z dílny OSN se častěji zabývají Izraelem než všemi ostatními státy na světě dohromady. Jsou snad všichni lepší? Nebo se jen vůči Izraeli uplatňuje výrazně tvrdší měřítko? Nemůže být pochyb o tom, že do přátelského vztahu patří i kritika; ne vždy je však vhodné kritizovat přítele, v jehož situaci se ani vzdáleně nenalézáme. EU by jistě měla komunikovat s Izraelem své názory a třeba i pochybnosti; existují však jemnější diplomatické kanály než výhrůžné rezoluce, jak už opakovaně upozorňovali zástupci Rakouska a Maďarska. Trumpův plán není samospatitelný, představuje však jednu z možných cest ze slepé uličky, pro niž se palestinská samospráva sama opakovaně rozhodla v letech 1947, 1967, 1978, 2000, 2001, 2005, 2007, 2012 a 2015. Tendencí EU je bohužel vidět všechny izraelské třísky a žádné palestinské břevno.

VORSITZ: NICOLA BEER*Vizepräsidentin***4. Erste Abstimmungsrunde**

Die Präsidentin. – Als nächster Punkt der Tagesordnung folgt die Abstimmung. Die Abstimmungsrunde ist von 10.30 Uhr bis 11.45 Uhrgeöffnet.

Es kommt dasselbe Abstimmungsverfahren zur Anwendung wie gestern. Alle Abstimmungen erfolgen namentlich. Die Mitglieder können ihre Stimmabgabe und die Ergebnisse der Abstimmung in dem Dokument einsehen, das auf der Webseite der Plenartagung veröffentlicht wird. Erklärungen zur Abstimmung können schriftlich eingereicht werden. Ausnahmsweise werden nur Erklärungen zur Abstimmung mit maximal 400 Wörtern akzeptiert.

Die Ergebnisse werden dann um 14.15 Uhr bekannt gegeben.

(Abstimmungsergebnisse und sonstige Einzelheiten der Abstimmung: siehe Protokoll.)

5. Bekämpfung von Desinformation zu COVID-19 und die Auswirkungen auf das Recht auf freie Meinungsäußerung (Aussprache)

Die Präsidentin. – Als nächster Punkt der Tagesordnung folgt die Aussprache über die Erklärungen des Rates und der Kommission zur Bekämpfung von Desinformation zu COVID-19 und zu den Auswirkungen auf das Recht auf freie Meinungsäußerung (2020/2635(RSP)).

Ich darf Sie kurz darauf hinweisen, dass in dieser Aussprache keine spontanen Wortmeldungen und keine blauen Karten akzeptiert werden.

Nikolina Brnjac, President-in-Office of the Council. – Madam President, the exceptional world health crisis we're still facing has been aggravated by an unprecedented 'infodemic'. Our citizens have been flooded by often false or inaccurate information, which not only creates confusion but is also putting health and lives at risk.

To address these risks the Council has strongly emphasised the need to intensify joint efforts in the fight against disinformation through close cooperation between EU institutions, Member States and social platforms. There is consensus in the Council about the need for more effective methods to address disinformation without hindering the protection of fundamental rights. Indeed, our strong and coordinated action against disinformation must be in line with our democratic values, including freedom of expression and free and plural media.

All institutions, Member States and civil society are called to act against the plague of the infodemic. Much has been done in the EU institutions, in cooperation with Member States. The External Action Service's StratCom Task Force and the rapid alert system, which was set up in the run-up to the European elections last year, track disinformation. We support and welcome these efforts.

A comprehensive approach at all levels is needed to address the challenges of disinformation. This must include monitoring and analysis of disinformation and manipulative interfaces, enforcement of European data protection rules, efforts to enhance pluralistic media, professional journalism and media literacy, as well as awareness among citizens.

EU institutions and Member States should continue working with social media platforms to achieve higher standards of responsibility, transparency and accountability on addressing disinformation. The whole society approach is also stressed by the recent Joint Communication 'Tackling COVID-19 disinformation – Getting the facts right', which takes stock of the measures taken in response to disinformation around the coronavirus pandemic and proposes further action.

The Presidency takes COVID-19 disinformation very seriously and we have taken steps to ensure close cooperation with Member State authorities, with EU institutions, bodies and agencies, and with international organisations such as the WHO. As early as 28 January, we activated the European Union's integrated political crisis response arrangements regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing together relevant experts from the Member States and the EU institutions in the fields of health, consular affairs and civil protection.

In this framework, disinformation has been one of the topics we addressed. We believe that disinformation campaigns could also be highly disruptive in the respect of easing restrictive measures and of searching for a vaccine and a cure. We have also addressed the issue in other parliaments, such as in our Horizontal Working Party on Enhancing Resilience and Countering Hybrid Threats, in the Political and Security Committee and in the EU-US Justice and Home Affairs ministerial videoconference.

We are conscious that disinformation is here to stay and we all need to work together to maintain our vigilance, strengthen our toolbox and resilience, and continue our efforts to address this issue internally and beyond our EU borders. COVID-related disinformation is aggravating existing divisions in the eastern and southern neighbourhood and in the Western Balkans. At the Zagreb EU-Western Balkans summit on 6 May, the leaders of the EU and Western Balkans partners agreed to reinforce their cooperation in addressing disinformation and other hybrid activities.

As I said at the beginning, when fighting disinformation we must not forget the balance between the right of citizens to be properly informed and safeguarding the freedom of speech and the media. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, unprecedented circumstances led many Member States to adopt far-reaching measures which were key to acting rapidly and effectively protecting the health of the citizens.

Many of these measures had a significant impact on fundamental rights, democracy and the rule of law. It is therefore essential to make sure that they remain proportionate to the objective, limited in time and subject to regular scrutiny. The emergency measures taken to tackle the pandemic must not be used as a pretext to censor news and informal information coverage or to violate fundamental rights. It is critical that governments support the work of the independent media, which are crucial allies in the fight against COVID-19. The democratic debate, media freedom and the role of civil society deserves special attention. Upholding these values is a priority for the Council.

Josep Borrell Fontelles, *Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy*. – Madam President, it's really evident that the virus pandemic has been accompanied by an 'infodemic', a pandemic of information. We have witnessed a wave of false and misleading information, and an exponential increase in targeted influence operations by foreign actors.

We have seen again that this information can do real damage. In the case of a pandemic, which affects the health of the people, it's even more dangerous. We have seen disinformation saying that drinking bleach can cure the coronavirus. I'm not making any specific reference to anyone, but this has been said – drink bleach and you will be safe – or that washing hands doesn't help. It can also spark crime. Take, for example, the vandalism against 5G infrastructure in some Member States, mainly in the Netherlands.

In March 2020, European leaders called on the Commission and the High Representative, through the External Action Service, to take action. Last week, we followed up with a joint communication on disinformation related to the pandemic. Together with my colleague and friend, the Vice-President in charge of Values, I will also comment on this communication. This communication summarises what the European Union has done to tackle disinformation in the crisis and how to step up action.

Disinformation knows no borders. Democracies and the West as such have been the target of disinformation, which underlines the importance of international cooperation.

Let me turn first to the external dimension. The infodemic has clearly been exploited by foreign state and non-state actors. Disinformation from Russian actors has spread conspiracy theories and orchestrated disinformation campaigns, targeting the EU and its Member States and neighbours by alleging a lack of solidarity and an internal crisis within the European Union, and sowing confusion.

China has also participated in that. Russian sources are old news, but China has been more active. China's sources have been promoting this image, presenting theirs as the better system, the best equipped to tackle the pandemic, and blaming democracy for its handling of the virus. One can imagine that doing self-praising propaganda is something that everybody does, but I think there are limits. It is one thing to explain that you believe yourself to be the best and another to deflect blame on the handling of the virus by others.

At the same time, there is a clear risk of governments using the infodemic as an excuse to limit fundamental rights and freedom of expression. Some Members referred to that in the previous debate. I think that the European Union needs to take a stand against this.

What has been done to address these worrying trends? We have been working to promote strategic communication and public diplomacy in our neighbourhood, especially in the Western Balkans. The External Action Service has stepped up its efforts to address foreign influence operations, publishing regular reports, analysing the trends in disinformation and sharing findings with Member States, our international partners, civil society and the media. The people working at the External Action Service are doing extraordinary and difficult work in this field.

We have made good use of the instruments we have at hand to tackle disinformation overall in the current crisis. We have mobilised the Rapid Alert System, which connects all relevant EU institutions and all EU Member States. This has been proving to be a valuable network. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, a dedicated space has been set up to exchange information on disinformation related to the virus. We have further increased our cooperation with our international partners – NATO and the G7 and its Rapid Response Mechanism – and we are also happy to be working with valuable partners such as the United Nations and the World Health Organisation.

Looking ahead, we will step up our actions by enhancing concrete preparation on strategic communication and public diplomacy, increasing the sharing of best practice in fighting disinformation, and activating more quickly the Rapid Alert System, intensifying the joint work with relevant partners from civil society and the private sector, stepping up the monitoring of violations of press freedom and supporting advocacy for a safer media environment. On this, we now have a specific programme, under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, to support regional governments in tackling the crisis and to debunk disinformation that can further fuel tensions in conflict areas.

I could go into more detail, but I think it's now time to leave it to the Vice-President for Values and Transparency, Ms Věra Jourová, to continue on the important work with social media platforms and other aspects of this joint communication.

Věra Jourová, Vice-President of the Commission. – Madam President, honourable Members, we have just heard from Josep Borrell about the basic parameters and the information on what we call the 'infodemic' that is going on in parallel with the pandemic we are going through.

This is why we decided to prepare the communication and adopt the communication, which has the title 'Getting the Facts Right'. It was necessary because we needed to inform about what have been the steps taken up to now against disinformation because, in the COVID-19 context we didn't start from scratch fighting against disinformation. We already had the Code of Practice and we had the Action Plan, and its second purpose was to come up with a to-do list for all involved, especially the platforms, to step up their work.

In the communication we comprehensively address three things: the sources of disinformation, its channels and amplifiers, and also the targets.

Josep talked about the foreign sources of disinformation and I am glad about this because I believe that a geopolitical EU can only materialise if we are assertive, but we also have to put our own house in order. We need to beef up our strategy on communication. We have to get our story out about Europe and EU support during the coronavirus crisis, and it is high time we step up on this and do not allow others to occupy that space.

Now to the channels of communication and disinformation – especially the online platforms. I welcome the measures taken by them in this crisis; their strong commitment is heavily needed. I believe that the fact that we worked with the platforms, and we designed with them the code of practice on disinformation, helped to roll out new policies more quickly. We agreed with the platforms that they would promote links to the World Health Organization and health authorities and remove ads that offered fake medicines or inflate prices for normal products or give very dangerous advice, which we already heard from Joseph.

These actions brought results. For example, Google blocked or removed globally over 80 million coronavirus-related ads. But there is room for improvement and our code was just a first step. We need to ensure transparency and accountability. Citizens need to know how information is reaching them and where it comes from.

Our joint communication calls on the platforms to step up their efforts and to report monthly on their policies and actions to address COVID-19-related disinformation – not to report to the Commission, to report to the public, so that people can read about what's happening online.

The targets – well, it's about us, it's about the citizens of Europe. Lying is neither new nor that scary in itself. What scares me is that we believe in those lies too easily. This is why we need to become more resilient and critical as a society. We need to support free and independent media – the fact-checkers and researchers. And we have to step up our education. We will have the Digital Education Action Plan soon, adopted by the Commission, and there will be a very strong chapter on how to become more resilient and increase our critical thinking through education.

We will support fact-checking and research activities through the recently established European Digital Media Observatory. In this context, later this month, we will launch a EUR 9 million call for research hubs in the different Member States.

Also, we have to speak in this context about the freedom of speech, which remains our basic principle. Laws which define criminal penalties for spreading disinformation in too broad terms, and with disproportionate sanctions, can damage accountability mechanisms, which are just as important as ever. It can make the work of journalists more difficult, cause self-censorship and damage freedom of expression. This is not the European way. It is bad for democracies and it is self-defeating. Our best defence against disinformation are free and plural media, informed and active citizens and resilient democratic institutions in which they can trust.

I really want to insist on this because I believe this is a distinctive part of our policies. I do not want to create any Ministry of Truth. I used to live in a system, before 1989, with only one official truth, no pluralism of media, opinion, or even thought.

A competitive market of ideas enabled by free speech is essential in democracies. Just as in traditional competition policy where consumers benefit from fair competition and a level playing field, citizens benefit from fair competition of free speech.

To conclude, the communication is the first building block of this new Commission in response to disinformation. We are working on the Digital Services Act and the European Democracy Action Plan where we will address illegal content and harmful content like disinformation.

In this context, I really appreciate that we can work on this together with the committee which you established in Parliament, because I believe that common work can bring good fruit.

Vladimír Bilčík, *on behalf of the PPE Group*. – Madam President, the COVID-19 situation has only underscored that disinformation can kill people, just like it can kill democracy. We must therefore confront the spread of lies in our public space much more systematically. While I welcome the plans to step up EU efforts to counter disinformation, we need a tougher European action to fight off disinformation campaigns from Russia and China. We must speak with one, firm European voice against the actions by Russia and China, keen to undermine our European way of life.

But the fight against disinformation is not a narrow matter of foreign policy. We need robust action towards social media platforms that help spread disinformation. I welcome the Commission proposal that platforms report monthly on COVID-19 disinformation, but we need to think beyond the current crisis and take clear and, yes, legislative action that ensures that all social media platforms behave responsibly and report transparently on their fight against disinformation.

For the sake of the safety of our citizens, of all of us in Europe, we must protect facts from lies, science from hoaxes and journalists from facts and crooks, and we can only do this effectively together in the European Union.

Kati Piri, *on behalf of the S&D Group*. – Madam President, the spread of disinformation and fake news is a direct threat to our societies. It undermines our democracies, it harms our values and it affects our interests. But during a pandemic, as the Minister said, disinformation puts lives at risk. But not even deadly consequences have stopped foreign actors from spreading fake news. The amount of influence, operations and misleading campaigns, mainly from China and Russia, has been massive. Interference and hybrid warfare should never be a strategy, but especially not during a global health crisis.

The Commission's communication is another important step towards a solid, comprehensive and effective strategy against foreign interference. We need tougher regulations. The EU has been targeted with unprecedented actions. They require a firm and unprecedented response. The S&D Group is at the forefront of this fight. At our initiative, today we will vote on the establishment of a special committee against foreign interference and disinformation. Urgent action is the only way to protect our democracies, and the European Parliament is ready to play that role.

Maite Pagazaurtundúa, *en nombre del Grupo Renew*. – Señora presidenta, los días en que hubo más desinformación maliciosa coinciden con el momento en que las instituciones europeas o el Parlamento todavía no habían reaccionado de forma eficaz y contundente, o no con la máxima eficacia y contundencia, a la pandemia. Esa vulnerabilidad fue la que aprovecharon. ¿Por qué? Porque hay una estrategia de debilitar el Estado de Derecho democrático, nuestros sistemas democráticos, y los elementos de vulnerabilidad son aquellos por los que se introducen estas estrategias.

Se busca tener personas adictas a las mentiras, fanatizadas contra el que piensa distinto, actuando como nuevos soldados en el nuevo campo de batalla «en Internet». Y esos grupos fanatizados polarizan el espacio público, debilitan el pluralismo ideológico y, por tanto, debilitan nuestras democracias. Ese es el punto.

Por tanto, gritan más y atemorizan y nosotros tenemos que defender la libertad de expresión y un espacio de juego limpio y luchar contra la pandemia de fanatismo que puede llegar a socavar las democracias. Los soldados que hacen la desinformación no lo saben, pero los geoestrategas que quieren terminar con nuestros sistemas democráticos, sí. Y nos vamos a defender y, por supuesto, esto lo vamos a ganar.

Filip De Man, *namens de ID-Fractie*. – Voorzitter, wij bevinden ons op een gevaarlijk pad. Meer en meer overheden bedreigen een fundament van onze westerse democratie, de vrije meningsuiting. Ook de Europese commissarissen ageren natuurlijk: er kwam een “*Action Plan against Disinformation*”, een “*Strategic Communication Task Force*”, een “*Rapid Alert System*” en zelfs de privésector werd aangemaand om op te treden tegen de desinformatie.

Factcheckers moeten onze informatie bijspijkeren en ook hier geldt natuurlijk het spreekwoord: “wiens brood men eet, diens woord men spreekt” en wie dat niet gelooft, mag altijd de benoemingen van de factcheckers aan mij uitbesteden.

Nu dit alles, omdat de bevolking natuurlijk minder en minder aan het handje loopt van de traditionele partijen en de klassieke media, en het regime dus zijn greep op de geesten verliest. Ik zeg dus luidop: houdt op met die verdoken censuur! Leve de diversiteit van meningen!

Sergey Lagodinsky, *on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group*. – Madam President, it should be clear to us there will never be a silver bullet to solve all problems of disinformation. But hey, we are in politics, and we all know there is rarely a one-size-fits-all approach. But we should be clear about our starting point, and the starting point is to defend our democracy, not to damage it.

That's why our strategy should be threefold and should be holistic. First, fight geopolitical propaganda attacks from outside. Second, educate and inform press and internet consumers. And third, protect personal opinion and free speech.

The past weeks have demonstrated the pitfalls, but also the chances that we saw. There was a strong sense of direction from the European institutions, and I'm grateful to Mr Burrell for framing it right. It's not about just fake news, it's about a debate and a battle of narratives.

On the other hand, we saw how we can end up in an anti-democratic trap. This is why criminalisation of alleged misinformation about COVID, like in Hungary, attempted prevention of true press information in Poland, prosecution of pharmaceutical representatives in Bulgaria – just because they wanted to warn about a lack of drugs. This is all unacceptable.

We should not lose sight of our strategic principle. By confronting disinformation, we must defend democracy, not destroy it.

And one more point, because many people represent it here. Anonymity is an important good in the internet. Anonymity protects women, minorities, opposition voices in the internet, and that's why we should never abolish this there.

One more point on education and then I'm done. We should invest more in education, in justice and value systems and not cut this by 20% as is planned now in the MFF, and we should invest more as part of the recovery in civil society and education and not disregard it as is planned now. This is the way to go. This is the way to protect democracy.

Jorge Buxadé Villalba, *en nombre del Grupo ECR*. – Señora presidenta, señorías, la Unión Europea está experimentando una crisis de credibilidad sin precedentes. Desde la victoria del *Brexit* en 2016 algunos Estados miembros y las instituciones de la Unión han imputado su propia falta de credibilidad a campañas de desinformación por agentes externos o internos, pero olvidan que la desinformación no viene solo de ahí ni que, además, es algo nuevo.

La mentira siempre ha existido y, normalmente, ha venido del poder. Les quiero recordar que en las primeras páginas de la Biblia ya se cuenta cómo la serpiente engaña a Adán y Eva para expulsar al hombre del paraíso, desafiando a Dios. Pero, ¿hablamos de desinformación o hablamos de censura y de acabar con la libertad de expresión?

A mí me preocupa mucho que la Comisión convierta a esas empresas de verificación de datos en los sujetos que dicen lo que es verdad y lo que es mentira. Y me preocupa que, encima, reciban ayudas públicas, porque no son sino empresas privadas al servicio de sus propios intereses políticos o económicos.

La crisis del coronavirus nos ha enseñado que nadie es infalible. Y aquí todo el mundo ha desinformado, empezando por China, la Organización Mundial de la Salud, los propios gobiernos y los medios de comunicación. Creer que en este Parlamento se va a fabricar la verdad es un acto de soberbia inaceptable, como el de Adán y Eva.

Eugen Tomac (PPE). – Doamnă președintă, domnule Înalt Reprezentant, doamnă vicepreședintă, este evident că în această perioadă, pe lângă criza generată de coronavirus, am avut parte de acest șoc numit pandemie informațională, șoc care trebuie spus exact așa cum s-a întâmplat pentru că adevărul nu trebuie ocolit în această situație.

Sediul acestor informații false este în Federația Rusă. Noi, cei din România, din țările baltice, din Polonia, știm că Rusia este specializată în a deforma realități, iar acest atac, domnule vicepreședinte Borrell, este un atac extrem de dur la adresa coeziunii europene.

Este bine ceea ce ați spus. Am constatat că există angajamente; este nevoie de acțiune. Federația Rusă trebuie să primească un răspuns pe măsura acestor dezinformări. Sunt mii de știri pe care Comisia le-a prezentat ca făcând parte din acest plan de dezinformare și noi trebuie să acționăm, inclusiv aici, în Parlament, printr-o rezoluție.

Marina Kaljurand (S&D). – Madam President, I would also like to thank the Council and the Commission for their statements, and I will continue in Estonian.

Desinformatsioon ei ole uus nähtus ja ometigi oleme me iga kord üllatunud, kui järjekordne desinformatsioonilaine meid tabab, puudutagu see sekkumist demokraatlikesse valimistesse või rünnakuid üksikute liikmesriikide vastu. Mõõnan, et koroonakriisi ajal, mis on ülemaailmne kriis, jõudis valeinfo levitamise uuele tasemele, alustades informatsioonist koroonaviiruse päritolu ja leviku kohta ning lõpetades valeravimite ja šarlatanlike ravivõtetega. Ning see laine ei ole veel lõppenud ega lõpegi, kui meie ei lõpeta inimestest ja ei hakka tegutsema. Väidan, et on olemas ideed ja kogemus, aga puudu jääb otsustavusest ja kiirusest. Täna selgi arutelul kõlasid väga õiged mõtted – desinformatsioonilike paljastamine ja faktidel põhineva informatsiooni jagamine, koostöö liikmesriikide, institutsioonide ja meediaplatvormidega, ajakirjanduse vastutus ja inimeste harimine. Ma tunnustan komisjoni ja välisteenistuse algatust, mis on seotud koroonaviirusega seotud desinformatsiooni vastase võitlusega. 'Tackling coronavirus disinformation, getting the facts right' – mul on hea meel, et see kasvas välja idasuunalise strateegilise kommunikatsiooni rakkerühmast, mille algatasid viis aastat tagasi Eesti, Leedu, Taani ja Suurbritannia. Ma kordan üle, et meil on teadmised ja kogemused, kuidas valein-

formatsiooniga võidelda. Aeg on otsustada ja tegutseda, see omakorda tähendab vahendeid – inimesi ja rahalisi vahendeid; ning oluline on ju informatsiooni kättesaadavus kõigis Euroopa Liidu ametlikes keeltes, mitte ainult mõnes väljavalitud keeles, nagu see kahjuks praegu on.

Bart Groothuis (Renew). – Madam President, I very much welcome the extra steps that the Commission has taken, but I also think they're somewhat cautious, preliminary, and I see them as first steps in a larger way that we can walk. I think there's much more to be done, and I think the Renew fraction is coming with new proposals in the next coming months. I think the proof of the pudding in countering disinformation is in the eating.

Now this week, a European NGO – EU DisinfoLab – actually meticulously disclosed a Russian state-sponsored disinformation operation inside Europe directed against Europe. So now, what do we do?

Just imagine, dear Commissioners, if we would put the centre of gravity of this information operation on the EU sanction list, it would deprive them of hosting providers providing them with websites, it would deprive them of financial services, it would freeze assets of the people behind the information operations, and it would also restrict travel.

So this is imposing costs on our adversaries. So if I look to the future of countering disinformation operations, I see it in this way. So please join us in the future, not just looking at the symptoms, but also at the root cause of it all.

Jean-Lin Lacapelle (ID). – Madame la Présidente, l'Union européenne n'a décidément pas de honte pour oser parler de la désinformation qui aurait existé de la part d'intérêts privés ou étrangers durant la pandémie. Elle a parmi les membres de son Conseil un expert en désinformation et contrevérités, en la personne d'Emmanuel Macron.

C'est lui qui méprisait notre groupe lorsque nous réclamions, sur la base du principe de précaution, la fermeture des frontières dès le 24 janvier. Son gouvernement nous répondait: «le virus n'a pas de passeport». C'est lui qui, afin de cacher la pénurie de masques en France, expliquait que le port des masques était inutile. Quel drame, quand on sait que nos aînés ont été abandonnés par manque de matériel de protection et que la première commande de masse enregistrée par le gouvernement français date seulement du 5 mars. Enfin, c'est par la voix de son ministre de la santé qu'il déclare que tester massivement n'est pas utile non plus, cachant la pénurie de tests.

Cela fait beaucoup de mensonges d'État de la part de ceux qui devraient être exemplaires. Des mensonges qui ont eu des conséquences dramatiques et pour lesquels il faudra rendre des comptes.

Donc, Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants du Conseil et de la Commission, épargnez-nous vos leçons de morale sur la désinformation quand vous-même, vous êtes un triste exemple.

Jadwiga Wiśniewska (ECR). – Pani Przewodnicząca! Szanowni Państwo! Dezinformacja oczywiście nie jest zjawiskiem nowym i nie rozpoczęła się przedwcześniej, przed pandemią. Ona istniała od dawna. Ale teraz, ze względu na zaawansowane technologie i dostępne metody, stała się rzeczywiście bardzo niebezpieczna. Dziś w Parlamencie dyskutujemy o dezinformacji, a to wczoraj Parlament Europejski odrzucił wniosek o uchylenie immunitetu Guy Verhofstadta. Czy to właśnie w ten sposób Parlament Europejski walczy z dezinformacją? Z wczorajszego wystąpienia naprawdę wynika, że można publicznie, nawet w Parlamencie Europejskim, siać kłamstwo i nienawiść. Wymieniony członek Parlamentu obraził tysiące Polaków w nasze święto narodowe, mówiąc że w Polsce tysiące faszystów i zwolenników supremacji białej rasy przemaszewowało trzysta kilometrów od obozu Auschwitz- Birkenau. Proszę Państwa, to jest dowód na to, że Parlament Europejski sam staje się źródłem dezinformacji i *fake newsów*. Z uwagi na to, że Polska ma bolesną historię, proszę wybaczyć moje emocje, jestem głęboko poruszona....

(Przewodnicząca odebrała mówczyni głos)

Isabella Adinolfi (NI). – Signora Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, le mascherine sono importanti solo per i malati e il personale sanitario, le mascherine servono a proteggere se stessi e gli altri, non esistono prove certe della trasmissione da persona a persona, rischio moderato, rischio elevato, malattia grave, sconsigliato limitare i viaggi e spostamenti, la trasmissione dai casi asintomatici è rara, sorvegliare gli asintomatici, e potrei continuare.

Quali di queste affermazioni possono essere etichettate come disinformazione? La fonte è sempre la stessa, è l'OMS. Durante questa pandemia gli organismi pubblicamente considerati come attendibili hanno detto tutto e il contrario di tutto. Oggi pensiamo alle *fake news* soltanto diffuse via web, ma possiamo riflettere anche sulla comunicazione cosiddetta ufficiale. È mancata una gestione centrale della crisi e si è cercato di demonizzare il mio paese che, con scelte coraggiose, ha lottato per primo in Europa contro il virus. Gravissimo!

Ho una proposta, signori Commissari: aiutiamo i cittadini ad avere strumenti per l'analisi critica delle fonti e salvaguardiamo l'accesso alle informazioni e alla libertà di espressione. Rendiamo progetti come *Media Literacy for all* dei programmi stabili, in modo da promuovere sempre l'alfabetizzazione mediatica e la cultura dell'informazione (la Presidente toglie la parola all'oratrice)

Brando Benifei (S&D). – Signora Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, abbiamo visto in questi mesi un'azione continua di disinformazione riguardo alla questione dell'epidemia Covid, abbiamo visto circolare *fake news* di ogni tipo e abbiamo visto uno sforzo per mettere gli europei gli uni contro gli altri, mettere in ridicolo l'impegno dell'Europa.

Noi abbiamo finalmente un'occasione ora, con questo impegno del Parlamento europeo di lanciare una commissione speciale di lotta alla disinformazione e alle *fake news*. Verrà approvata in questi giorni per combattere chi vuole dividere gli europei, per interessi che sappiamo vengono da lontano. Abbiamo visto in questi mesi, in questi anni, inchieste giornalistiche e inchieste giudiziarie che hanno indagato la circolazione di denaro e il sostegno a un falso diritto, il falso diritto all'amplificazione a pagamento della propria propaganda. Noi abbiamo bisogno di difendere la libertà di espressione, ma difendere anche la libertà di conoscere le fonti e di difendere la nostra democrazia, un bene fragile che deve essere difeso da tutte le istituzioni.

Magdalena Adamowicz (PPE). – Pani Przewodnicząca! Dziękuję za głos. Dziękuję także pani wiceprzewodniczącej Jurowej za informacje o działaniach Komisji Europejskiej w tym zakresie.

Pandemia dezinformacji jest obecnie jednym z największych zagrożeń dla demokracji i istnienia Unii Europejskiej. Pandemia koronawirusa przypomniała, że rzetelna informacja może ocalić życie, a fake newsy i hejt mogą zabić.

Dziś za pomocą dezinformacji zdobywa się i utrzymuje władzę w wielu miejscach na świecie, także w Unii Europejskiej. Jesteśmy bezradnymi świadkami unieważnienia demokracji.

Moc internetu pokazuje siłę rażenia dezinformacji, która rozprzestrzenia się szybciej niż wirus. Musimy wspierać prawdziwą wolność słowa, ale pamiętać, że wolność słowa używana do dezinformacji jest antytezą wolności. Wybory oparte na fałszu nigdy nie będą demokratyczne.

Wolność nie może służyć do zniewolenia. Musimy być odporni na dezinformację. Musimy edukować, jak krytycznie analizować przekaz od najmłodszych lat. Remedium na dezinformację musi być zwiększenie niezależności i pluralizmu mediów, wsparcie dziennikarzy oraz ogólnego dostępu do rzetelnej informacji.

Pascal Durand (Renew). – Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Haut Représentant, Madame la Vice-présidente, nous le savons tous, mieux vaut un mensonge simple qui rassure qu'une vérité compliquée qui dérange. Et c'est dans ce monde-là que nous vivons maintenant, avec effectivement des réseaux sociaux qui amplifient, qui permettent d'aller beaucoup plus vite sur cette désinformation, sur ces mensonges.

Il nous faut lutter effectivement contre ces pratiques, vous l'avez dit tous les deux et vous l'avez très bien dit. Vous l'avez dit, Madame Jurová, et nous le savons, vous venez d'un monde qui a été totalitaire, vous venez d'un monde où la censure a régenté la vie des gens. Nous ne devons pas tomber dans ce monde-là et c'est le premier écueil.

Mais j'attire votre attention et j'attire l'attention de la Commission sur un deuxième écueil: nous devons également faire attention. Ne soyons pas naïfs, nous savons que des puissances étrangères nous attaquent, nous savons aussi qu'elles ont des relais à l'intérieur de notre démocratie et que des démocraties illibérales sont en train de s'y développer et que des extrêmes portent également ces mensonges.

Donc, faisons attention à faire en sorte de ne pas tomber, d'un côté, dans la censure et de mettre les habits de nos adversaires, mais en même temps, ne faisons pas une confiance aveugle au marché. Nous avons vu, et je terminerai là-dessus, que pour les mêmes faits de désinformation, et vous l'avez visé, Google va interdire, Twitter va laisser mais expliquer et Facebook va totalement laisser la liberté au nom d'une liberté d'expression.

Donc, nous ne pouvons pas faire confiance non plus aux règles simples du marché. Nous régulerons et nous serons à vos côtés. Merci Monsieur le Haut Représentant, merci Madame la Vice-présidente.

Georg Mayer (ID). – Frau Präsidentin! „Ein Mensch sieht ein – und das ist wichtig: Nichts ist ganz falsch und nichts ganz richtig.“ Ein Zitat von Eugen Roth – das möchte ich Ihnen hier mal mitgeben.

Aber ein Zweites, was ich mitgeben möchte, ist ein ganz massiver Fall von Desinformation. Da darf ich bitten – wenn die Kommission und der Rat so engagiert sind –, dem auch nachzugehen. Bemerkenswert ist dieser Fall, weil es hier um eine Regierung eines Mitgliedstaats geht. Ganz konkret geht es um die österreichische Bundesregierung, wo zum Beispiel der Bundeskanzler zu Beginn dieser COVID-Krise in einer Ansprache gesagt hat: „Bald wird jeder von uns jemanden kennen, der an Corona gestorben ist.“ Das ist eine besondere Ansage eines Bundeskanzlers, der damit natürlich Angst verbreitet in der eigenen Bevölkerung.

Der zweite Fall ist der des Gesundheitsministers Anschöber – der sich als Gesundheitsminister dadurch qualifiziert, dass er Lehrer ist –, der den Menschen durch einen Erlass – das ist inzwischen der berühmte Oster-Erlass – mitgeteilt hat, sie dürften sich zur Osterzeit nicht in privaten Räumlichkeiten mit ihren Familien treffen.

Auch das ist nicht die Wahrheit. Das stand in diesem Erlass nicht drin, das hat dieser Erlass nicht hergegeben. Ich darf Sie also bitten, diesen beiden massiven Desinformationen in einem Mitgliedstaat nachzugehen und das zu verfolgen.

Beata Kempa (ECR). – Pani Przewodnicząca! Szanowni Państwo! Dezinformacja to jedna z najsilniejszych broni w nowoczesnym arsenale wojny asymetrycznej. To świetny sposób budowania napięcia wewnętrznego, chaosu, strachu w kraju przeciwnika. Fałszywe informacje żywią się niewiedzą, półprawdą, brakiem transparentności, odpowiedniego informowania. Istotny w tym wszystkim jest upadek prasy, prasy pisanej, ale też potęga mediów społecznościowych. Dlatego najlepszym sposobem walki z dezinformacją jest otwartość, sprawdzalność informacji i dobra współpraca – nasza dobra współpraca. Tyle na przykład prawd, półprawd, kłamstw, nieprawdziwych informacji, jakie padły na Polskę, na Węgry – które nigdy nie były sprawdzane, tylko powielane i powtarzane – to jest właśnie dezinformacja. A potem jej skutki są opłakane dla Unii Europejskiej, dla jej wizerunku. Konsultacje, jasne, sprawne informowanie wraz z mechanizmem sprawdzalności – to najważniejsze narzędzia walki z dezinformacją. I nie powinno to przede wszystkim ograniczać internetu.

Javier Zarzalejos (PPE). – Señora presidenta, una de las consecuencias de la revolución digital es que el papel mediador de los medios de comunicación como filtros independientes de la calidad de información se ha reducido extraordinariamente. La desinformación aparece en este vacío y es el vacío que tenemos que llenar, lo cual nos plantea la necesidad de reconsiderar la responsabilidad de las plataformas, la utilización de aquellas herramientas tecnológicas que, con todas las cautelas necesarias, pueden ayudar a la lucha contra las *fake news*; y, por supuesto, el *fact checking* en términos de transparencia y el papel que todos los usuarios debemos desempeñar.

Pero es importante también que miremos en nuestra casa porque es preciso un compromiso firme de los gobiernos con una información veraz, transparente y creíble. El alto representante ha mencionado algunas afirmaciones extravagantes y peligrosas sobre el poder desinfectante de la lejía. Inventarse informes de universidades americanas y maquillar las cifras de muertos, con desprecio de la realidad, es también un ejercicio de desinformación.

Alessandra Basso (ID). – Signora Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, la direzione intrapresa non convince. Si sostiene di non voler comprimere la libertà di espressione ma, allo stesso tempo, si vuole dare risalto ai professionisti dell'informazione e bloccare gli *account social* di chi diffonde *fake news*.

Sottolineo che i professionisti dell'informazione, spesso, sono poco più che organi di propaganda. Ricordiamo che in Italia hanno sostenuto la posizione del governo e di chi voleva sconfiggere il Covid a colpi di aperitivo, dando invece del razzista a chi chiedeva misure più rigide. Con la scusa della difesa della salute e della lotta alle *fake news* si vuole mettere il bavaglio a chi dice cose scomode. Chi vuole difendere la libertà di espressione le *fake news* le combatte con la verità e non con la censura.

Željana Zovko (PPE). – Madam President, for over four months we have been fighting an unprecedented pandemic that has changed our lives dramatically and forced us to adapt to a new normal. The virus has left a massive and devastating impact, but we have managed to stay united in solidarity.

However, the COVID pandemic is not the only battle we are fighting. We are witnessing an enormous wave of disinformation about the coronavirus, aims at portraying us as ineffective and divided in our response. The disinformation campaigns are particularly strong in the Western Balkans, where they aim at destabilising the region and turning public opinion against the European Union. Although the European Union provided an unparalleled support of EUR 3.3 billion to the Western Balkans during the crisis, the polls still show that a majority of citizens think that other regional powers provided more.

The best way to fight disinformation is with transparency, accountability and increased visibility. Therefore, I welcome the efforts of the East StratCom Task Force and the EU Rapid Alert System that fact check and share genuine information. But we, as representatives of European citizens, should also go the extra mile.

(The President cut off the speaker)

Věra Jourová, Vice-President of the Commission. – Madam President, honourable Members, thank you very much for this very interesting and important debate. I am sure this is not the last time we debate about the power of the internet, and for a very good reason, because we see the power of it every day. We see that the internet can serve as a fantastic tool to organise humanitarian aid, but also the internet can be the place where some humanitarian disaster and real fight and violence can be incited.

So I think that this is a very serious topic to discuss. We have only started, as I said before, because ahead of us is the work on the European Democracy Action Plan, where we will speak about a very serious issue: how to protect the elections against disinformation, how to stop something I call privatisation of public debate, because we see the phenomenon of the algorithms, which are used to sell products, but which are also used to sell politicians. We face the new factor of lying in the political debate, which has the potential to win elections. We will have to discuss all these very substantial but at the same time sensitive issues.

So I look very much forward to the discussion. I look very much forward to cooperation with the committee which you have established, and I'm sure that by the end of this year we will not only see how we are fulfilling the tasks from the communication we speak about today, because there is a to-do list, but also that we are able to come to a good common solution on the issues I mentioned before.

Josep Borrell Fontelles, vicepresidente de la Comisión / alto representante de la Unión para Asuntos Exteriores y Política de Seguridad. —Muchas gracias, por este debate, que, ciertamente, no ha agotado el tema.

Ha habido aportaciones muy importantes, interesantes. Alguna muy original, como la de remitir los orígenes de la desinformación a Adán y Eva. No se me había ocurrido pensar que Adán, en el fondo, fue víctima de la desinformación propagada por Eva, que no le advirtió de las consecuencias que tenía comerse la manzana. Bueno, sí, es posible que Eva fuera víctima de la desinformación.

Pero hoy, en nuestro mundo, hemos de reconocer algo que creo está en la base de nuestro debate. La democracia es un sistema que funciona en base a la información que tienen los ciudadanos. Los ciudadanos eligen. Y para elegir necesitan estar informados de las opciones que se les presentan y valorar la acción de los Gobiernos, y eso exige libertad de información, pluralidad de información y veracidad en la información.

Si los ciudadanos reciben información errónea, no pueden hacer buenas elecciones, porque es como un avión que tiene el sistema de navegación mal. Se acabará estrellando. Y, por eso, es tan importante que luchemos para conseguir que la información, entendida como un bien público, esté al alcance de los ciudadanos y estos tengan sistemas de comprobación que les permitan saber si alguien les está contando una milonga —en castizo, castellano castizo—, si alguien les está mintiendo.

Porque yo no creo —diga lo que diga el poeta austriaco en cuestión— que en todo hay una parte de verdad y una parte de mentira. Pues, no. Mire, hay cosas que claramente son ciertas y otras cosas que son claramente falsas. Que 2 y 2 son 4 en el sistema de base 10, eso no tiene nada de falso, es cierto cien por cien. Y hay cosas que son absolutamente falsas, lo diga quien lo diga.

Que haya elementos de opinión en algunas informaciones en los que uno puede estar a favor o en contra por razones de gusto, de opinión, de inclinación ideológica... cierto, claro. Si no, no habría debate político. Pero una cosa es la valoración propia de los hechos y otra cosa son los hechos. Y como ha dicho mi colega, no pretendemos crear el Ministerio de la Verdad. Ella ya tuvo uno en su país; yo también tuve uno, en España, cuando había un Ministerio de la Información.

No, no pretendemos crear el ministerio que controle lo que podemos conocer o no. Pretendemos ayudar a los ciudadanos a que sean capaces de distinguir la verdad de la mentira. Y eso es la base del sistema democrático. Si no somos capaces de hacer eso, nuestra democracia será profundamente imperfecta y acabará no siéndolo.

Y por eso, este trabajo, esta tarea, es algo que necesita el apoyo de las fuerzas democráticas de todo el arco parlamentario para conseguir que la democracia sobreviva.

Nikolina Brnjac, *President-in-Office of the Council*. – Madam President, honourable Members. This topic is a priority for our Presidency. It is our obligation to protect our citizens from disinformation, in full respect of fundamental rights such as the freedom of speech, the media and association.

Our common values and democratic institutions are keystones to the resilience of our societies to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. We will continue working horizontally across sectors and across borders, learning from each other through the exchange of information and best practices.

We very much look forward to working with you, with the Commission and with the EEAS to fight this pandemic and protect our citizens from harmful disinformation.

Upcoming initiatives like the European Democracy Action Plan and the Digital Services Act will enable us to step up our collective efforts.

Die Präsidentin. – Die Aussprache ist geschlossen.

Schriftliche Erklärungen (Artikel 171)

Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou (PPE), *in writing*. – Commission Vice-President Věra Jourová finally ‘named and shamed’ China, along with Russia, this week in the communication on ‘Tackling COVID-19 disinformation’ for engaging in ‘targeted influence operations and disinformation campaigns around COVID-19 in the EU, its neighbourhood and globally, seeking to undermine democratic debate and exacerbate social polarisation, and improve their own image in the COVID-19 context’. It is our duty to protect Europe and its citizens. It is our duty to tell the truth and to reveal the sources that intentionally cloud it or twist it to serve their own interests. It is our duty to ensure that the truth shines through on all occasions. I do hope the Commission continues in this direction and exhibits the same determination in other contexts such as Turkey’s shameless disinformation campaign about the situation at the Greek-Turkish border, where refugees and migrants are being used as pawns in Turkey’s geopolitical chess game at Europe’s external borders, as European leaders had the chance to see with their own eyes. After all, an affront to the truth is an affront to European values. It is an affront to democracy itself and it cannot be tolerated.

Sara Cerdas (S&D), *por escrito*. – Os últimos tempos foram marcados por um tema que não deixa ninguém indiferente: o COVID-19. O COVID-19 abalou o status quo. Além de profundas alterações, assistiu-se a um fenómeno que dificultou a atuação das autoridades de saúde. Uma infodemia, denunciada pelas OMS, definida por um excesso de informações, que tornaram difícil encontrar fontes idóneas e orientações fidedignas. O excesso de informação, muita dela não baseada em evidência científica, dificulta que fontes confiáveis sejam encontradas de forma rápida pela generalidade da população, pelos decisores políticos e por profissionais de saúde quando precisam. Este excesso de informação não científica e muitas vezes contraditória pode fazer com que as pessoas se sintam ansiosas, deprimidas, sobrecarregadas, emocionalmente exaustas e incapazes de entender e assimilar informações importantes. A desinformação, bem com a assimilação

de informação não validada pode levar a tomas de decisões errada ou enviesadas pela falta de evidência científica. Urge o desenvolvimento de um mecanismo que controle a qualidade e veracidade do que é publicado, de modo a garantir a maior evidência científica nos processos de tomada de decisão, mas também que a informação credível e validada pelo processo científico chegue a todos cidadãos.

Caterina Chinnici (S&D), *per iscritto*. – Durante la pandemia di COVID-19 si è registrata una massiccia ondata di informazioni false o fuorvianti, diffuse soprattutto sul web, inclusi alcuni tentativi da parte di soggetti stranieri di influenzare i cittadini e i dibattiti pubblici nell'UE. Le campagne di disinformazione possono rappresentare un serio pericolo per i diritti fondamentali dei cittadini, dal diritto alla salute al diritto ad essere correttamente informati, e per la stessa democrazia e lo Stato di diritto: è quindi necessaria un'azione concreta da parte dell'Unione che la renda più forte e resiliente nell'affrontare la sfida della disinformazione. Numerose sono le complessità che questa sfida comporta: distinguere tra contenuti illegali e contenuti dannosi ma non illegali e calibrare le rispettive risposte; garantire un corretto bilanciamento tra la libertà di manifestazione del pensiero e il diritto ad una corretta informazione. Per affrontarle occorre investire nella comunicazione, per rendere i cittadini consapevoli e dotarli di pensiero critico e competenze digitali; sostenere l'indipendenza e la libertà dei media, necessarie a fornire ai cittadini informazioni verificabili e attendibili e, nel contesto della pandemia, a preservare la loro salute; assicurare trasparenza e responsabilità delle piattaforme digitali, il cui contributo è essenziale nella lotta contro le campagne di disinformazione.

Laura Ferrara (NI), *per iscritto*. – Una "infodemia" che non ha precedenti, caratterizzata da un bombardamento di informazioni, spesso false, imprecise e fuorvianti, ha accompagnato l'evolversi della pandemia da COVID-19. L'eccessivo flusso informativo ha spesso creato un effetto di confusione, paura, e generato a volte comportamenti di massa inconsulti, come abbiamo visto con gli assalti a supermercati e a mezzi di trasporto. In questo contesto non sono mancati fenomeni di istigazione all'odio, frodi ai danni dei consumatori e criminalità informatica. La minaccia della disinformazione è emersa soprattutto attraverso il web, sui social network e sulle piattaforme di messaggistica personale, utilizzate in modo massiccio negli ultimi mesi per la condivisione veloce di notizie per la maggior parte non verificate. Esiste anche un chiaro rischio che l'«infodemia» e le misure adottate in periodi emergenziali possano essere funzionali a limitare i diritti fondamentali e la libertà di espressione. Pertanto bisogna affrontare le sfide della disinformazione su diversi livelli, dal monitoraggio e analisi dei flussi informativi alla stretta cooperazione tra le istituzioni e le piattaforme sociali, dalla protezione dei diritti fondamentali ad una maggiore consapevolezza dei cittadini, da un sistema di media liberi e plurali al rafforzamento di istituzioni democratiche in cui tutti possano riporre piena fiducia.

Elżbieta Kruk (ECR), *na piśmie*. – Reakcja Unii Europejskiej na kryzys związany z koronawirusem pozostawia wiele do życzenia. Również w przestrzeni informacyjnej wokół pandemii pojawiły się dezinformacje oraz utrudniania dostępu do wiarygodnych informacji. Pokazuje to, jakie znaczenie dla walki z dezinformacją ma budowa odporności społeczeństwa na fałszywe narracje.

W tym kontekście warto nawiązać do polityki historycznej i dezinformacji w tym zakresie. Otóż w maju tego roku rosyjska Partia Rodina przedstawiła w Dumie Państwowej Federacji Rosyjskiej projekt ustawy unieważniającej rezolucję potępiającą Pakt Ribbentrop-Mołotow – „W sprawie politycznej i prawnej oceny sowiecko-niemieckiego traktatu o nieagresji z 1939 roku” – przyjętą 24 grudnia 1989 r. To nie pierwszy przejaw dążności Rosji do zrzucenia z siebie współodpowiedzialności za II wojnę światową. Jednym z elementów tej narracji jest obarczenie winą za wybuch II wojny światowej walczącej z Niemcami na wszystkich frontach Polski, która poniosła procentowo największe straty ludnościowe (na każdy tysiąc mieszkańców straciła 220 osób).

PE powinien pozostać zaangażowany w przeciwstawianie się rosyjskim próbom fałszowania europejskiej historii. Dlatego należy poprzeć inicjatywę litewskiej Europejskiej Partii Rasy Juknevičienė mającą na celu utworzenie grupy roboczej ds. europejskiej pamięci historycznej. Celem prac grupy powinno być bronienie prawdy historycznej, kultywowanie pamięci historycznej nt. zbrodni reżimów totalitarnych w Europie, zarówno hitlerowskiego jak i komunistycznego.

Eva Maydell (PPE), *in writing*. – The COVID-19 pandemic was accompanied by a global infodemic consisting of misleading health care information, conspiracy theories, consumer fraud, and targeted disinformation campaigns by countries like Russia and China. While disinformation campaigns are not a new phenomenon, this crisis has shown us that they are not only detrimental to democracy, but can be detrimental to people's health. I commend the Commission for outlining concrete action steps on this matter – we need bolder and tougher action against disinformation.

I would like to focus on the central role that online platforms and digitalisation play in response to disinformation. Online platforms have to do their part: promoting authoritative content from professionals, including tools and initiatives to inform their users of false content and continuing their cooperation with EU institutions and Member States. Digital skills – one of my main priorities – are key to empowering citizens and raising their awareness, information literacy, and critical thinking. When it comes to online platforms, we need to think beyond the current crisis and take legislative action that ensures their responsible behaviour in the future.

It is imperative that we continue to tackle disinformation and propaganda while simultaneously maintaining the utmost respect for freedom of expression and democratic norms.

Dace Melbārde (ECR), rakstiski. – Cīņai ar dezinformāciju ES un dalībvalstu līmenī īstenojama kompleksa pieeja, uz ko norādījusi arī Komisija. Dezinformācijas apkarošanai jābūt arī Eiropas ārpolitikas prioritāram mērķim. Lai pilnveidotu sabiedrības drošumspēju, jāveicina medijpratība un kritiskā domāšana. Medijpratībai jābūt daļai no skolu izglītības standartiem. Vienlaicīgi sadarbībā ar medijiem un sabiedriskajām organizācijām būtiski strādāt ar visām sabiedrības grupām, īpašu uzmanību pievēršot senioriem. Uzskatu, ka medijpratībai piešķirama prioritāte topošajā Digitālās izglītības rīcības plānā. Mums jāstiprina redakcionāli neatkarīgi mediji un kvalitatīva žurnālistika. Pandēmija ir veicinājusi izpratni par medijiem kā daļu no kritiskās demokrātijas infrastruktūras, taču vienlaicīgi saasinājusi nozarē gadiem novērojamās tirgus nepilnības, ko īpaši asi izjūt mediji, kas darbojas mazos tirgos, tostarp vietējie un reģionālie. ES jāpalielina mediju nozarei pieejamais finansējums un jāatrisina sistēmiskie tiešsaistes platformu regulēšanas jautājumi. Digitālo pakalpojumu aktā lielajām interneta platformām – “vārtu turētājām”, kas spēlē arvien nozīmīgāku lomu informācijas ieguvē un aprītē – jāuzliek par pienākumu informācijas plūsmā piešķirt prioritāti kvalitatīvam mediju un žurnālistikas saturam. Aicinu dubultot programmas “Radošā Eiropa” budžetu un tajā būtiski palielināt ziņu medijiem paredzēto finansējumu. ES arī pēc iespējas ātrāk ir jāievieš digitālais nodoklis un ieņēmumi jānovirza mediju nozares atbalstam. Vienlaicīgi ceru, ka dalībvalstis efektīvi izmantos Atveseļošanas plānā paredzētos instrumentus, ziņu medijos kā vienā no visvairāk cietušajām ekosistēmām ieguldot pienācīgu finansējumu.

Андрей Слабаков (ECR), в писмена форма. – Уважаеми колеги, слушам вашите изказвания и се сещам за едно послание, което Матей приписва на Исус Христос: „И защо гледаш сламката в око на брат си, а не обръщаш внимание на гредата в своето око?“ Колеги, кампаниите за дезинформация идващи от Русия и Китай, не са ново нещо. От години Европейският съюз обсъжда дали и какви мерки да предприеме, срещу кого, колко сериозни. Коронавирусът не променя нищо, просто е поредната криза, която се използва за политически капитал. Големият проблем обаче е уклонът на някои от вас към тоталитарни мерки в собствените ви държави. Сериозната заплаха не идва отвън, а отвътре, защото някои правителства решиха да манипулират информацията, до която имат достъп техните граждани. Уж демократи, а отменят закони за прозрачност и анулират сесии за парламентарен контрол. И не, не говоря за вашите „любими“ Унгария и Полша, където правителствата действат с пълната подкрепа на гражданите, а за Испания, Италия, Швеция. Колеги, вие защитавате левите правителства в тези държави и прикривате техните кампании за дезинформация, но ще си изпатите. Когато превърнете дезинформацията в държавна политика, собствените ви граждани ще ви сложат на място. Благодаря за вниманието.

6. Östliche Partnerschaft im Vorfeld des Gipfeltreffens im Juni 2020 — Länder des westlichen Balkans im Anschluss an das Gipfeltreffen 2020 (kurze Darstellung)

Die Präsidentin. – Als nächster Punkt der Tagesordnung folgt die gemeinsame Aussprache über die kurzen Darstellungen

— des Berichts von Petras Auštrevičius über die Empfehlung des Europäischen Parlaments an den Rat, die Kommission und den Vizepräsidenten der Kommission und Hohen Vertreter der Union für Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik zur Östlichen Partnerschaft im Vorfeld des Gipfeltreffens im Juni 2020 (2019/2209(INI)) (A9-0112/2020) und

— des Berichts von Tonino Picula über die Empfehlung des Europäischen Parlaments an den Rat, die Kommission und den Vizepräsidenten der Kommission und Hohen Vertreter der Union für Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik zu den Ländern des westlichen Balkans im Anschluss an das Gipfeltreffen 2020 (2019/2210(INI)) (A9-0091/2020).

Ich weise erneut darauf hin, dass es in dieser Aussprache keine spontanen Wortmeldungen und keine blauen Karten gibt. Wir haben eine entsprechend verkürzte Debatte.

Petras Auštrevičius, rapporteur. – Madam President, I would like to thank the shadow rapporteurs and colleagues who constructively contributed to this report. The Eastern Partnership is about closer association between the European Union and six partner countries. The extent of these relations and positive results of the European Union's support and action in its immediate neighbourhood will determine the Union's odds of global leadership.

Leadership requires a strong commitment. Such commitment should be demonstrated by passing a historically justified and politically endorsed message to our partners that 'their European aspirations are recognised and that by working together we can achieve necessary reform progress'. It is only a matter of time.

Our motto for the next decade of the Eastern Partnership should be 'more for more' and lead towards gradual and differentiated integration. It should be conditioned on the application of European values and democratic principles.

I very much regret that Mr Borrell is leaving the Chamber, although Commissioner Várhelyi is here. I have a very personal message for him as well.

In the political area, our partners require continuous support and guidance in strengthening their democracies, ensuring the rule of law and fighting corruption. As in the economic field, we should gradually open access to the EU single market by creating a common economic area. Let us remind ourselves that European security is indivisible. We cannot look at it through the Eastern or Western dimensions. There is only one, European, dimension and it is time to act as such. The Eastern Partnership initiative is rightly called a success story and will remain such as long as we act together, united by a common vision and joint action, dialogue and partnership.

Commissioner Várhelyi, as you know from today's news from the prison in Belarus, the leader of the Christian Democratic Party has cut his veins in protest at violence and injustice. I request from you a strong message and reaction to this inhuman act.

Tonino Picula, rapporteur. – Madam President, I am pleased to speak here today about the future enlargement and its importance for the future of the European Union, but I want to thank shadow rapporteurs for their cooperation and dedication in our common endeavour.

The main message of this report is to once again provide strong support of the European Parliament in the continuation of the enlargement process as one of the European Union's more successful and strategic policies. Enlargement is our most effective foreign policy instrument contributing to extending the outreach of the Union's core values, fostering peace and prosperity, equality, rule of law and respect for human rights across Europe.

This report highlights what is often forgotten: the merit-based prospect of full EU membership for the Western Balkans countries is in the Union's own political security and economic interests, as well as it is in the interest of the countries seeking full membership.

For the first time after the accession of Croatia in 2013, enlargement policy is again on the political agenda of the institutions. We welcome a new enhanced methodology breakthrough with the council's approval to start negotiations with North Macedonia and Albania on the Zagreb Summit Declaration. Now we need the implementation of those decisions and proposals in concrete form and dates for starting accession negotiations.

We would like to see a faster pace of closing chapters for the countries already negotiating, following more efficient scrutiny and supervision of their progress. It goes without saying that ambitious enlargement policy requires an adequate budget. Therefore the Council should provide for sufficient budgetary means in support of the enlargement policy.

On the parliamentary role of cooperation, the European Parliament is committed to intensifying political and institutional support for reforms in the Western Balkan countries in the process of EU accession.

Lastly, enlargement is a necessary condition for the EU's credibility and influence in the region and beyond. We can only be successful globally if we are credible in our immediate neighbourhood.

Olivér Várhelyi, *Member of the Commission*. – Madam President, for our geopolitical Commission, full engagement with our neighbours is a top priority. These are not just words: we have translated them into action.

Let me start with the Western Balkans, a region at the heart of Europe and surrounded by our Member States. In the first six months of our mandate we have first, in February, proposed a revised enlargement methodology. The aim was to make the accession negotiations more credible, more predictable, more dynamic and guided by a stronger political steer. Second, and despite the COVID pandemic, in March the Council adopted a decision to open accession negotiations with North Macedonia and Albania, and I'm pleased that both these decisions have been confirmed by the European Council.

To support the region hit by the pandemic, in April, the Commission put forward an unparalleled financial package of EUR 3.3 billion, mobilised together with the European Investment Bank. In addition, we associated the Western Balkans to a number of initiatives normally reserved for our Member States only. In May, we had the Zagreb Summit, where EU leaders not only reiterated our strong solidarity with the region but also reaffirmed the region's European perspective and sent a message of enhanced engagement from the EU side.

The Commission was tasked to come forward with a substantial economic development and investment plan to accelerate the reforms and the catching-up of the region. Still this week, the Commission will propose the draft negotiating frameworks for Albania and North Macedonia to the Council, together with an update on the progress made. We look forward to the adoption and the first intergovernmental conferences soon.

Enlargement is merit-based. To progress on their EU path, the Western Balkan countries need to continue to deliver on the reforms. Further work is required on the rule of law, the fight against corruption and organised crime, as well as on fundamental freedoms and human rights. Fast and tangible results on reform mean moving faster in accession negotiations, as was underlined in the enhanced methodology. The Commission will look at the progress achieved in the annual package to be presented in the autumn.

Also in the autumn, we will come forward with an economic and investment plan for the Western Balkans to support the long-term economic recovery and to bring the region closer to the EU. The plan will reflect many areas identified in your report, such as connectivity (especially in transport and energy), green transition and digital transformation. This plan should bring growth and jobs to the region, also as part of our common recovery effort after the pandemic.

Let me now focus on the eastern neighbourhood. Let me thank this House for your overall support for the vision on the future of the Eastern Partnership that we have put forward with the joint communication adopted in March. Our commitment towards the Eastern Partnership and its future was emphasised at last week's Foreign Affairs Ministerial Conference, together with our partner countries. I am convinced that it will also be confirmed at the leaders meeting later this afternoon.

Our aim is to build, together with the partner countries, an ambitious, flexible and inclusive partnership that constitutes and continues to bring concrete results to the people. In this context, I am proud that the EU is delivering close to EUR 2.5 billion in support for our eastern partners in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to grants, this includes very substantial macrofinancial assistance in loans on highly favourable terms to help the countries cover their immediate urgent financing needs and strengthen their macroeconomic stability. This package also helps to save jobs as part of the economic recovery in the region by providing liquidity to the whole of the economy and by direct financial support to the SMEs. This crisis has further underlined how important resilience is as the overarching framework for our relations, and it will be at the heart of the Eastern Partnership going forward.

Our March communication puts forward an ambitious vision for our future cooperation through five broad policy objectives. First, to work towards resilient economies with strengthened connectivity. Second, to support the development of accountable institutions, the rule of law and security. Third, to support the green transformation and work on environmental and climate resilience. Fourth, support the digital transformation; and fifth, to work together towards the development of resilient, fair and inclusive societies. As a next step, we will work on transforming the policy objectives into practice.

Together with the Member States, partner countries and others, we will shape the post 2020 deliverables, to be endorsed at the next summit in early 2021. We count on your continuous support and cooperation to ensure a strong partnership for the years to come.

Finally, to the rapporteur, Mr Auštrevičius, I will look into this issue you mentioned. This is new to me. I was not aware of it and, of course, we will come out and make public messaging appropriately about it.

Die Präsidentin. – Damit ist dieser Tagesordnungspunkt geschlossen.

Die Abstimmung über den Bericht von Herrn Auštrevičius findet am Freitag, 19. Juni 2020, statt.

Was den Bericht von Herrn Picula betrifft, findet die Abstimmung über die Änderungsanträge heute, 18. Juni 2020, und die Schlussabstimmung am Freitag, 19. Juni 2020, statt.

(Die Sitzung wird um 11.43 Uhr unterbrochen.)

Schriftliche Erklärungen (Artikel 171)

Dominique Bilde (ID), par écrit. – Alors que l'Union européenne se penche au chevet de l'Albanie ou du Kosovo, ouvrant les négociations avec l'une et envisageant l'exemption de visa pour l'autre, quel spectacle consternant que celui d'un Président kosovar éconduisant le représentant de l'Union et désignant Washington comme seul interlocuteur légitime pour les pourparlers avec la Serbie. Une preuve supplémentaire que l'Union européenne peine à convertir son soutien financier considérable, estimé à plusieurs milliards d'euros, en dividendes politiques, dans des Balkans devenus le terrain de jeu de toutes les grandes puissances mondiales — de la Chine, en passant par la Turquie. Signe des temps, ces pays candidats font d'ailleurs bien peu de cas des critères d'adhésion européens. Que dire par exemple de l'Albanie et de ses lois liberticides, faisant craindre à son propre Président qu'elle ne devienne la «Corée du Nord de l'Europe»? À l'évidence, ce énième élargissement est un marché de dupes, dont profiteront seulement quelques investisseurs à l'affût du moins-disant salarial, au mépris des intérêts des peuples.

Andrea Bocskor (PPE), írásban. – A keleti partnerség kiemelt fontossággal bír az EU szempontjából, ezért olyan ambíciózus üzeneteket kell közvetíteni, amelyek reális európai perspektívát jelentenek, és kölcsönös kötelezettségekkel járnak. A KP országainak reformfolyamatait illetően fontos az ösztönzés fenntartása, hogy minden ország a maga ambíciója alapján fűzhesse szorosra az Európai Unióval való kapcsolatát. Fontos a társult tagok törekvéseinek elismerése, ugyanakkor a Keleti Partnerség egységére kell törekedni, és arra, hogy a társulási megállapodás és a mélyreható és átfogó szabadkereskedelmi megállapodásból fakadó lehetőségeket teljes körűen kiaknázzák. Fontosnak tartom, hogy az EU és a keleti partnerség országai között létrejövő infrastruktúra-kiépítési terv részét képezze a határátkelők bővítése, hogy több új és korszerű határátkelő nyíljon az EU és szomszédai között.

Nagyobb hangsúlyt kell fektetnünk a fiatalokra, az egyes EU-s programokat még inkább ki kell terjesztetni a keleti partnerországokra, mint a már megvalósult Erasmus+ és a Kreatív Európa programokat, továbbá ösztönözni kell a Horizont Európa programban való részvételt is. Fel kell hívni a keleti partnerországok figyelmét, hogy a választási jogszabályaik módosítása során teremtsenek egyenlő lehetőségeket valamennyi etnikai és nemzeti kisebbség képviselőjére, biztosítsák az anyanyelven való tájékoztatáshoz és véleménynyilvánításhoz való jogokat, lépjenek fel az etnikai és nyelvi alapú gyűlöletbeszéd és megkülönböztetés minden formája ellen, az etnikai és nemzeti kisebbségeket célzó álhírek és félretájékoztatás ellen.

Urmas Paet (Renew), kirjalikult. – Idapartnerlus on ELi naabruspoliitika oluline osa ning selle eesmärk on saavutada poliitiline assotsieerumine, tagada edasine majanduslik integratsioon, edendada heaolu ja luua platvorm ühiste probleemide lahendamiseks, sealhulgas kestliku arengu ülesande täitmiseks. Oluline on anda Gruusiale, Ukrainale ja Moldovale kinnitus, et vaatamata ELi riike endid tabanud raskustele ei ole koostöö idapartnerlusriikidega tagaplaanile jäänud.

PRESIDENZA DELL'ON. DAVID MARIA SASSOLI

Presidente

7. Wiederaufnahme der Sitzung

(La seduta è ripresa alle 14.17)

8. Bekanntgabe der Ergebnisse der Abstimmung: siehe Protokoll

9. Zweite Abstimmungsrunde

Presidente. – Possiamo ora al secondo turno di votazioni.

Il turno di votazioni sarà aperto dalle 14.30 alle 15.45

Le votazioni si svolgeranno utilizzando la stessa procedura – ormai siamo tutti allenati – che abbiamo usato questa mattina.

Dichiaro aperto il secondo turno di votazioni. Ripeto che si può votare fino alle 15.45.

I risultati delle votazioni saranno comunicati alle 18.15.

Vi ringrazio della collaborazione.

(La seduta è sospesa alle 14.23)

PRESIDENZA DELL'ON. FABIO MASSIMO CASTALDO

Vicepresidente

10. Wiederaufnahme der Sitzung

(La seduta è ripresa alle 14.34)

11. Lage im Schengen-Raum nach dem Ausbruch von COVID-19 (Aussprache)

Presidente. – L'ordine del giorno reca la discussione su:

— l'interrogazione con richiesta di risposta orale al Consiglio sulla situazione nello spazio Schengen in seguito alla pandemia di Covid-19, presentata da Juan Fernando López Aguilar, a nome della commissione per le libertà civili, la giustizia e gli affari interni (O-000037/2020 - B9-0010/20),

— l'interrogazione con richiesta di risposta orale alla Commissione sulla situazione nello spazio Schengen in seguito alla pandemia di Covid-19, presentata da Juan Fernando López Aguilar, a nome della commissione per le libertà civili, la giustizia e gli affari interni (O-000038/2020 - B9-0011/20).

Juan Fernando López Aguilar, autor. – Señor presidente, señora comisaria Johansson, como presidente de la Comisión de Libertades Civiles, Justicia y Asuntos de Interior, es un honor para mí sostener en este Pleno una pregunta oral a la Comisión sobre Schengen.

Debemos hablar de Schengen. Para empezar porque es su cumpleaños. El 14 de junio de 1985, en una pequeña ciudad de Luxemburgo, tuvo lugar un Acuerdo, luego proseguido por el Convenio de 1990 y sobre todo por la legislación europea sobre Schengen que ha adoptado este Parlamento Europeo y que está en vigor.

Pero debemos hablar de Schengen sobre todo porque no muestra buena salud. Porque Schengen está en juego, *Schengen is at stake*. Y esta es la cuestión. A los que trabajamos en las instituciones europeas a menudo nos cuesta explicar los «palabros europeos», pero Schengen no necesita explicación. Porque todo el mundo sabe que es el activo máspreciado de la experiencia europea. El activo que mejor distingue las ventajas de ser europeo. La construcción europea. Un espacio de libre circulación, sin fronteras interiores, sin restricciones y sin discriminación entre europeos, del que disfrutan ahora más de cuatrocientos millones de ciudadanos y ciudadanas de la Unión Europea.

Y resulta que el espacio Schengen está regulado por el Derecho europeo: un Código de Fronteras Schengen —*Schengen Borders Code*—, un Reglamento directamente vinculante para los Estados miembros e invocable por los tribunales en defensa de la ciudadanía europea.

Y prevé condiciones para el restablecimiento de fronteras interiores por razones de seguridad pública. Pero nos hemos encontrado con una situación sin precedentes: COVID-19. Y, por eso, la Resolución que sigue a esta pregunta oral se titula precisamente «*Schengen area following the Covid-19 outbreak*». ¿Qué pasa con Schengen después de la COVID-19? Porque los Estados miembros se han precipitado a adoptar medidas unilaterales no coordinadas ni comunicadas entre sí, de restablecimiento de fronteras interiores en la Unión, que han producido larguísimas colas en fronteras interiores de la Unión, han producido sobrecarga policial, han producido problemas en el suministro de bienes esenciales y también para los trabajadores temporeros —*seasonal workers*—, protegidos también por el Derecho europeo.

De todos estos problemas tenemos que hablar en esta pregunta oral y por eso le hemos planteado con claridad, en primer lugar, si considera que las medidas y las restricciones que se han interpuesto son respetuosas con el Código de Fronteras Schengen, que establece tres principios: confianza mutua, solidaridad, pero también la exigencia del respeto del Derecho. Y es cierto que la seguridad pública ha sido invocada más de una vez para el restablecimiento de fronteras interiores, sobre todo después de atentados terroristas. Lo hemos visto. Pero la salud pública no lo había sido nunca. Está contemplada en el Código de Fronteras Schengen para el restablecimiento de fronteras exteriores de la Unión, pero no para las interiores; por tanto, es una lección que tenemos que aprender.

La segunda, ¿cómo prevé *Schengen recovery*? Hablamos del *recovery plan*. ¿Cómo recuperar Schengen para que sea *fully operational* cuanto antes?

En tercer lugar, ¿cómo asegurar que los controles sean excepcionales, como quiere el Código de Fronteras Schengen, y en todo caso limitados en el tiempo, *time framed*, con estrictas restricciones temporales?

Y, en cuarto lugar, ¿qué medidas prácticas podemos adoptar para asegurar la coordinación y la responsabilidad, coordinadas, por supuesto, por la Comisión —guardiana de los Tratados y del Derecho europeo—, ante retos comunes.

Pido el voto favorable para la Resolución que resulte de esta pregunta oral agradeciendo, por supuesto, el trabajo del *Schengen Scrutiny Group*, representado aquí por su presidenta Tanja Fajon, pero recuerdo que, en primer lugar, el contenido de la Resolución es un mensaje a la Comisión para que en ningún caso tenga lugar la improvisación, ni la descoordinación, ni las decisiones, ni las medidas unilaterales; que no haya una dinámica o una espiral de acción-reacción de unos Estados contra otros, ni mucho menos *retaliations* —represalias—, basadas (*palabras inaudibles*) en la confianza mutua, en la solidaridad y en la coordinación y el respeto del Derecho. Estamos trabajando por la salud del espacio Schengen.

Y, por último, déjenme decir que soy consciente de que esta Cámara (*palabras inaudibles*) tiene enemigos dentro del Parlamento Europeo, como los tiene (*palabras inaudibles*), que aprovechan cualquier situación para (*palabras inaudibles*) el restablecimiento de las fronteras interiores de la Unión. Hay que señalar que la mayoría del Parlamento apostamos por el plan de recuperación de Schengen.

Decía que es imprescindible apostar por un plan de recuperación de Schengen para que recupere su salud basada en los principios de solidaridad, confianza mutua y no discriminación entre europeos en ningún caso.

Ayer debatimos aquí sobre el racismo. El lema era «*Black lives matter*». *Sure they do*, y esto me da pie para afirmar: «*Schengen matters, too*», «Schengen importa».

Black lives matter. Sure they do. (continues in Spanish) Schengen matters too. (Spanish) European law matters. European law matters even in times of crisis, even throughout the crisis. It must leave European law even throughout the crisis and learn out of experience. I would even add: European law matters especially in times of crisis, especially in times of COVID. (Spanish) full recovery (Spanish)

Eso es por lo que, después de esta pregunta oral, concluimos con una Resolución que apuesta por el pleno restablecimiento —*full recovery*— de Schengen, el pleno restablecimiento de su buena salud. El activo más preciado de la construcción europea *ever*.

Nikolina Brnjac, *President-in-Office of the Council*. – Mr President, over the last few months, the European Union has been faced with the most challenging crisis since its creation. In addition to a very heavy toll on human lives, the COVID-19 pandemic has jeopardised certain fundamental elements of the European project, such as the internal market and the freedom of movement. I believe you would all agree with me that throughout this most critical period the absolute priority has, understandably, been to slow down and eventually stop the very rapid spreading of the virus. To that effect, many Member States have been forced to take legislative and practical measures which had a significant impact on free movement. In this context, the reintroduction of internal border controls was considered indispensable, even by some Member States which before the COVID-19 pandemic had been highly sceptical towards the application of such measures.

According to the Schengen Border Code, the reintroduction and prolongation of temporary internal border controls as a last resort and in response to a serious threat to public health can take place at the discretion of the Member States. Their application is, of course, subject to the fulfilment of the conditions set out in the relevant provisions. Neither the Commission, as the guardian of the Treaties, nor any Member State, has signalled any issue related to compliance with these conditions. Furthermore, I would like to stress that since the outbreak of the pandemic all Member States have been working tirelessly, with the political steering of the Council and the coordinating support of the Commission, in order to mitigate the side-effects of the measures imposed on the free movement of their citizens.

A series of Commission communications have been implemented by the Member States by way of priority to ensure the free flow of essential goods such as food, medicine and personal protection items, as well as the transfer of key cross-border workers and the repatriation of EU citizens and residents. At the same time, Member States have applied, in a coordinated way, restrictions on any unnecessary travel towards the EU.

At the second stage, as the overall health situation has started to improve, Member States have started easing the measures and full restoration of free movement within the European Union. This phasing-out entails, in some cases, a gradual approach and the replacement of internal border controls with alternative measures such as police controls within the territory. At any rate, Member States, with the support of the Commission, are strongly committed to applying any measures still temporarily needed, in full compliance with the principles of proportionality and non-discrimination. Most Member States and Schengen associate countries lifted internal border controls and related travel restrictions by mid-June. The rest intend to follow suit by the end of the month.

We are aware that there are still many steps to be taken, especially regarding the coherent lifting of external border restrictions. The fact that the lifting of internal border control in a coordinated way has been set in motion without major problems provides ample evidence of the Member States' strong will for a fully-functioning Schengen area. I am hopeful that we can use this positive momentum, along with the possible proposals that we expect from the Commission regarding the legal framework for internal border controls, to launch a fruitful debate between the two co-legislators on this crucial subject, to safeguard the Schengen area. Any future amendments to the regime governing internal border control need to be stipulated in such a way as to provide credible answers to threats to public order, internal security and public health. They should ensure the strictly necessary and proportionate flexibility for Member States and leave no scope for any abuse in their application.

Ylva Johansson, *Member of the Commission*. – Mr President, Schengen is one of the major achievements and very much appreciated by our citizens, as was very rightly stressed by Mr Fernando López Aguilar, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE).

I would also say that Schengen has passed not only a celebration of 35 years, but has also just passed a major test. At no time was Schengen more important than in the last few months. All Member States took drastic measures to protect our citizens from the virus. Most Schengen countries introduced temporary internal border controls in addition to other measures restricting free movement across the European Union. Altogether, these measures helped to save tens of thousands of lives but had serious consequences for freedom of movement and a large social and economic cost.

On 5 April this year, the President of the European Commission and the President of the European Council presented a joint European roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures. In line with the principles established in this roadmap, the Commission presented, on 13 May, a communication setting out a coordinated, balanced and phased approach for lifting travel restrictions and controls at the internal borders. In the second stage, this also looked ahead to the ending of restrictions on non-essential travel to the EU through the external borders.

Due to the improvement of the epidemiological situation, by this Monday most Member States had lifted internal border controls and restrictions, including post-travel quarantine requirements. The Commission has strongly encouraged the remaining Member States also to lift internal border controls and restrictions to free movement by air, land and water within the European Union at the same time. I expect that all internal border checks will have been lifted by the end of June before we start relaxing the external border restrictions. The Schengen rules provide Member States with a certain discretion to reintroduce border controls for two or six months at specific border sections or at all their internal borders. Member States should set up specific authorised border crossing points.

Through bilateral contacts with Ministers and my regular video conferences with all the Schengen Ministers, based on the work at technical level of the COVID-19 information group (Home Affairs), we could address many issues and solve many problems, also regarding the scope of reintroduced border controls. In this emergency related to COVID-19, the Commission is of the opinion that EU Member States and Schengen states complied with the requirements of the Schengen Borders Code.

Since 2015, six Schengen states have also reintroduced border controls under the Schengen Borders Code, following the recommendation of the Council, motivated by extraordinary irregular migration, secondary movements, the external border situation and terrorist threats. These controls have been prolonged and prolonged and prolonged until the end of October / mid-November this year. The Commission consistently encouraged alternatives to border controls, which may assure similar results. This concerns police checks, which, as explained in the recommendation of 12 May 2017 on proportionate police checks, can also be carried out in the border area and as such can replace non-systematic border checks.

In 2017, the Commission also proposed an amendment to the Schengen governance rules with substantial reinforcement of procedural safeguards to ensure that the reintroduction of border controls is truly only a last-resort measure. As you know, the negotiations on these proposals are blocked, but recent experience with the use of border controls to address public health threats deserves further reflection.

The Commission is committed to lead a process of reflection about the legal and practical steps needed to improve our response and better prepare our societies for similar emergencies. In particular, we have to be able to provide, in the case of pandemics, a coherent EU response at the internal and external borders. Currently, the EU can only intervene in the case of serious persistent threats at external borders, putting the overall functioning of the Schengen area at risk. COVID shows the need for better anticipation and for simplified or standardised procedures to be followed under the pressure of events. Decisions on the temporary reintroduction of border controls should be subject to consultation, including, where appropriate, joint meetings between the Member State concerned and the Commission. As the experience of recent months has shown, this provision of the Schengen Borders Code is rarely used in an emergency situation.

The new pact on migration and asylum that I will present soon will be the occasion to launch a process to restore trust between Member States and return to a fully-functioning Schengen area. We will reflect on how to ensure coordination among the Member States during emergencies in the future and on the future of Schengen and how to make sure its legal framework and implementation are ready for new challenges.

Paulo Rangel, *em nome do Grupo PPE*. – Senhor Presidente, Schengen é, sem dúvida, um dos pilares da União Europeia. Considero talvez que até o adquirido mais importante da construção europeia e não há dúvida que ele foi posto em causa por esta pandemia, foi desafiado como nunca fora ao longo da nossa existência enquanto União.

Os Estados-Membros entraram em pânico e para protegerem os seus cidadãos reagiram compreensivelmente com o fecho unilateral e descoordenado de fronteiras.

Agora, temos de garantir que há um avanço para Schengen, uma recuperação de Schengen, feita com respeito pela ideia de coordenação e articulação e, por isso, quero dar os parabéns à Comissão e agradecer à Comissão o esforço que tem feito e que, infelizmente, devo dizer ao Conselho, os Estados-Membros nem sempre têm seguido para coordenar e articular a reposição do espaço Schengen em toda a União. Tem sido um esforço enorme que nem sempre tem sido acompanhado pelos Estados-Membros.

É isso que aqui o Parlamento apoia.

And now let me only stress one point – even to my President Lopez Aguilar – because it's not true that the Schengen Borders Code doesn't allow public health, because a serious threat to public policy includes public health in a pandemic and/or epidemic outbreak.

Public health for external borders is independent of any epidemic or pandemic, and so I think that it is totally legal to have this situation that we have.

Tanja Fajon, *v imenu skupine S&D*. – Predsedujoči, spoštovana komisarka. Najprej iskrena hvala za vse sodelovanje in sestanke v zadnjih tednih.

Vem, da se zavedate, kako pomembno je obnoviti schengen, saj brez obnove schengna, kolegi, ne bo obnove evropskega gospodarstva.

Smo v kritičnem trenutku. Schengen praznuje letos, ta teden, 35 let in še nikoli ni bil tako resno ogrožen, kot je danes.

V zdravstveni krizi se je izkazalo, ob izbruhu epidemije, da so se države odzvale zelo egoistično, da ni bilo harmonizacije, ni bilo usklajenega delovanja, da so po večini zaprle meje, da ni bilo pretoka ljudi, ljudje se niso mogli vrniti domov, ni bilo preskrbe z medicinsko opremo in zdravstvenim osebjem.

Nismo bili pripravljeni na takšno situacijo in v izogib temu potrebujemo jasna pravila. Sami ste omenili, schengen je že dolgo na resni preizkušnji. Že štiri leta šest držav uvaja notranje nadzore brez pravnih podlag in brez pravih argumentov. Te zapore mej, ta ravnanja vlad in ta ravnanja teh držav postavljajo pod vprašaj celotni schengen in celoten projekt evropskega povezovanja.

In sprašujem se, ali so bili ukrepi res utemeljeni. V Sloveniji, Nova Gorica, človek bi veliko lažje šel do Stare Gorice, italijanske Gorice, kot mogoče 100 km stran v Maribor. Vprašati se moramo tudi, ali so bili ukrepi sorazmerni in učinkoviti.

In zelo rada bi vas, kolegi, opozorila, ko govorimo o skupni migracijski in azilni politiki, če bomo povezovali to vprašanje z vprašanjem schengenskega delovanja in reforme, bomo izgubili projekt.

Oba svežnja zakonodaje, tako migracijska in azilna politika kot reforma schengna, oba svežnja zakonodaje sta bila v tej stavbi sprejeta in odgovornost je na strani držav Evropske unije.

Dragoș Tudorache, în numele grupului *Renew*. – Domnule președinte, doamnă comisară, doamnă ministă, în ședința trecută de plen l-am onorat pe Robert Schuman. Declarația sa vizionară anticipa o Europă care se va integra proiect cu proiect, zi de zi, pe bază de încredere reciprocă și de solidaritate.

Treizeci și cinci de ani mai târziu, cinci state membre făceau un astfel de pas mic, bazat pe încrederea că își pot lăsa frontierele în grija celorlalți. Mai adăugăm încă treizeci și cinci de ani și ajungem la ceea ce Schengen reprezintă astăzi: o libertate fundamentală a cetățenilor europeni, una pe care avem datoria să o apărăm și să o consolidăm.

Pandemia a pus la grea încercare spațiul Schengen. Am simțit cu toții gustul amar al unei Europe cu granițe și restricții. Lipsa de coordonare dintre statele membre, limbajul prea timid al Comisiei Europene și granițele închise i-au făcut pe cetățenii europeni să pună sub semnul întrebării întreaga noastră construcție. Nu ne putem permite să se întâmple acest lucru din nou.

Această criză ne-a expus multe vulnerabilități, dar ne-a și învățat multe despre noi înșine, ca cetățeni, ca societăți și ca Uniune. Am învățat că avem nevoie unii de ceilalți, că trebuie să ne susținem în momente dificile și că reziliența noastră, a Europei, depinde de reziliența tuturor. Am fost cu toții în afara spațiului Schengen pentru câteva luni și am înțeles cu toții ce înseamnă asta, ceea ce ne lasă cu o întrebare: cum rămâne cu cetățenii români și bulgari, pentru care a fi în afara Schengen este o realitate cotidiană care ține de treisprezece ani?

Suntem cu toții cetățeni europeni, iar România și Bulgaria merită un mesaj politic despre ce înseamnă Europa pentru toți. Fac apel la Președinția germană a Consiliului, care își va prelua mandatul în două săptămâni, să pună pe agenda Consiliului corectarea acestei anomalii politice.

Annalisa Tardino, a nome del gruppo *ID*. – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, per noi è essenziale ricordare che gli Stati membri mantengono la sovranità sulla gestione delle proprie frontiere, ma siamo stati tra i primi, sin dallo scoppio della pandemia, a chiedere restrizione di viaggi. Invece la Commissione, abbiamo qui oggi la Commissaria Johansson, ha criticato la reintroduzione dei controlli alle frontiere interne e ha cercato di ritardare le limitazioni alle frontiere esterne, chiudendole solo quando la diffusione della malattia era già fuori controllo in diversi paesi. Se ci avesse ascoltato, avremmo potuto ridurre drasticamente la diffusione della pandemia in Europa ed evitare l'invasione, soprattutto quella della Sicilia, derivante dall'aumento esponenziale degli sbarchi di clandestini, come se non fosse bastato accogliere i torturatori arrivati con la Rackete.

Ora speriamo, almeno, che riuscirete a dimostrare attenzioni per alcuni settori chiave dell'economia europea, come il turismo, i trasporti, i servizi di ospitalità, che hanno subito gravi danni e vanno incentivati. E su questo spiace notare nessuna parola da parte degli altri gruppi.

Tineke Strik, on behalf of the *Verts/ALE Group*. – Mr President, in March, Member States had to take, all of a sudden, a lot of measures in order to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Among a lot of other measures, they closed their borders.

This reflex to protect citizens is completely understandable, but it does not fit in an area where we have freedom of movement, where we have fundamental rights and where we have the principle of non-discrimination.

As a result of the closing of the borders, EU nationals couldn't return to their homes, couldn't visit their family and couldn't go to their jobs if they were frontier workers.

We call upon the Member States, in new waves of viruses, to take real effective measures focusing more on health measures, and proportionate measures, and to make sure that they coordinate, especially in border regions.

Although the internal borders are largely open now, the external border is still closed, and there we still see asylum seekers having practical problems in getting access to protection and family members in reuniting with their families in the EU.

We call upon the Council and the Commission to really combat these violations.

Nicola Procaccini, *a nome del gruppo ECR*. – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, questa crisi ha reso evidente il dirottamento dell'idea di Europa concepita anni fa, l'assenza di un coordinamento scientifico nel fronteggiare l'emergenza sanitaria, l'assenza di solidarietà economica che vedremo meglio nei prossimi giorni, il capovolgimento del principio di Schengen di cui stiamo parlando oggi.

In modo disordinato è venuta meno la libertà di circolazione delle persone e delle merci in Europa, mentre si è preteso di aprire le porte dell'Europa nei confronti dell'immigrazione extraeuropea. Tre giorni fa abbiamo persino omaggiato, in commissione LIBE, una delle navi ONG che ha fatto sbarcare centinaia di migranti in Italia, mentre gli italiani in quei giorni morivano a centinaia ogni giorno. Tutto questo non è Europa. Mi dispiace, non so come si chiami, ma è altro.

Clare Daly, *on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group*. – Mr President, I think at this stage, for me, the Schengen acquis can be summed up as 'free movement is a cherished European value, except when it isn't', which is quite a lot, especially if you're a person of colour or someone who is black.

I think we have to start by acknowledging that Schengen has been at breaking point since 2015. Internal border controls, which are only ever supposed to be allowed on a temporary basis as a measure of last resort, are being thrown up by Member States as and when they like: reintroduced and prolonged 50 times since 2015. At this stage, totally illegal, but the Commission has not acted to sanction these states. Of course you haven't, when we're talking about countries like Germany in April this year extending border controls with Austria under the threat of migration. I don't know how the migrants are going to make it through the Croatian borderguards beating them back there to make it to Austria in the first place.

So in the context of the Commission failing to act, I'm really proud of the resolution that Parliament has on pushing back the attacks on Schengen. It's the result of collaboration between the groups. We need to defend free movement and I hope the resolution is passed.

Mislav Kolakušić (NI). – Poštovani predsjedavajući, poštovani kolege, ravnopravnost, višejezičnost i zajedničke granice su jedan od temelja Europske unije.

Mi ne smijemo dopustiti da proglašena pandemija Covida-19 i dalje održava bizarnu situaciju u kojoj četiri države koje nisu članice Europske unije budu u schengenskom prostoru, dok četiri države: Rumunjska, Bugarska, Malta i Hrvatska, koje su zajedno već 50 godina u Europskoj uniji budu izvan tog prostora. Pozivam vas da učinimo svi sve što možemo da sve četiri države još ove godine uđu u schengenski prostor i da ne dopustimo zatvaranje granica kojima smo svjedočili u posljednje vrijeme, gdje su pojedine države stavljale i vršile graničnu kontrolu jer to je udarac na jedan od stupova Europske unije, a to su zajedničke granice, zajednički prostor i jedinstvo među svim građanima Europske unije.

Ioan-Rareș Bogdan (PPE). – Domnule președinte, Excelențele voastre, primirea României în spațiul Schengen nu este un moft. Constat cu tristețe că aproape singura legătură a României cu spațiul Schengen este că furnizează muncitori sezonieri. Ei nu beneficiază de standardul de sănătate și siguranță din statul membru unde muncesc, dar asta vom dezbate imediat.

Este inadmisibilă blocarea intrării României în spațiul Schengen, deși îndeplinește criteriile tehnice de aderare încă din 2011. Totuși, este ținută la ușă, deși este un furnizor de euro-optimism. Dezbatem azi despre un spațiu Schengen funcțional, dar refuzăm să îl consolidăm și asta deoarece state ca Olanda, în frunte cu premierul ei, se opun nejustificat de ani de zile intrării României în Schengen. Apropos, îl invit pe domnul Mark Rutte să verifice portul Rotterdam pe traficul de țigări și evaziunea fiscală.

România are un președinte și un guvern PPE, proeuropene, susținătoare în forță ale statului de drept. Mă întreb: de ce sunt pedepsiți în continuare românii, deși sunt cei mai proeuropeni din Uniunea Europeană?

Birgit Sippel (S&D). – Herr Präsident! 35 Jahre Schengen – eine unglaubliche Erfolgsgeschichte!

Und gerade das Handeln der Mitgliedstaaten unter Corona – mit vielen Grenzschießungen – hat wie unter einem Brennglas gezeigt: Schengen ist nicht selbstverständlich, aber es ist dringend notwendig. Die offenen Grenzen in Europa sind unverzichtbar beim Austausch von Waren, Dienstleistungen und medizinischen Hilfen, aber es geht um viel mehr. Der tägliche Gang über eine Grenze, Leben und Arbeiten oder Studieren in zwei Ländern, grenzüberschreitende Freizeitangebote, das tägliche Miteinander über Grenzen hinweg: Das ist der Baustein für Verständigung, trotz oder gerade wegen vieler Unterschiede.

Deshalb fordere ich Kommission und Rat – und natürlich auch die Mitgliedstaaten – dringend auf: Stärken und erweitern Sie den Schengen-Raum und lassen Sie uns Europa täglich gemeinsam leben!

Fabienne Keller (Renew). – Monsieur le Président, Madame la Commissaire, chère Ylva Johansson, au début de la crise de la COVID, à la mi-mars, l'Europe s'est fragmentée. La plupart des États membres ont réinstallé des contrôles aux frontières. Ainsi, des milliers de citoyens, des travailleurs frontaliers, des familles ont été bloqués, séparés. Je l'ai constaté en tant qu'habitant d'une ville à la frontière: Strasbourg.

Nous devons tirer tous les enseignements de ces événements inédits. Je propose d'organiser avant cet été un RETEX, comme disent les militaires, c'est-à-dire un retour d'expérience pour analyser ce qui s'est passé, voir ce qu'on aurait pu mieux faire. Nous devons, en effet, apporter des réponses opérationnelles. Je plaide, comme beaucoup de mes collègues, pour un mécanisme plus intégré de gestion de nos frontières.

Je vous propose ainsi de nous tenir prêts pour faire face à toute nouvelle menace sur la libre circulation, notamment en cas de rebond de l'épidémie. Comme l'a rappelé le président López Aguilar, la libre circulation, c'est un facteur clé pour la relance de l'économie et de l'emploi.

Erik Marquardt (Verts/ALE). – Herr Präsident! Es sind ja schwere Zeiten, in denen wir gerade leben, und vielleicht ist es besonders in diesen schweren Zeiten ganz wichtig, sich noch mal klarzumachen, welches Glück es eigentlich ist, dass wir in diesem Europa in diesen Zeiten leben können.

Stellen wir uns mal vor, wir wären vor 100 Jahren geboren worden: Der Erste Weltkrieg wäre gerade erst zwei Jahre vorbei, die Spanische Grippe hätte 50 Millionen Tote verursacht, unsere Kindheit wäre von der Weltwirtschaftskrise geprägt gewesen, und wenn wir 13 sind, kommen in Deutschland die Nazis an die Macht. Bis wir 25 sind, haben die Nazis Deutschland und die ganze Welt an den Abgrund geführt. Wenn man so alt wäre wie ich jetzt, 32, wären es noch neun Jahre gewesen, bis die Berliner Mauer gebaut wird und ein Eiserner Vorhang Europa durchtrennt.

Ich glaube, dass wir dieses Glück, eben nicht vor 100 Jahren geboren zu sein, auch in eine Verantwortung übertragen sollten, besonders in solchen Krisenzeiten, besonders bei einem solchen Virus, wo wir sagen: Wir machen uns bewusst, was wir erreicht haben, was für Errungenschaften wir haben, und wir wollen jetzt gezielt effektive Maßnahmen finden, um dem Virus zu schaden, nicht mehr so dem europäischen Projekt, wie es leider in dieser Krise passiert ist.

Ангел Джамбазки (ECR). – Г-н Председател, г-жо Комисар, веднага държа да поправа тези от вас, които твърдяха, че националните правителства са били сгрешили в реакцията си. Не, уважаеми, сгреши Европейската комисия. По точно Европейската комисия се провали по темата „охрана на границите“. С напълно неадекватното си, абсолютно необяснимо поведение принуди националните правителства да вземат необходимите мерки и да затварят вътрешните граници една след друга.

Една голяма част от вас така и не разбраха, че за да има отворени вътрешни граници, трябва да има строго охранявани външни граници. Няма как да защитавате двете тези едновременно, няма как да искате стотици хиляди нелегални имигранти да идват тук необезпокоявани и да имате сигурни вътрешни граници. Това не може да се случи, това е утопия и ви го доказва и ситуацията с паниката и истерията покрай тази криза.

Още повече не може да не се спомене и абсолютно безотговорното поведение на правителствата на Холандия или сега Нидерландия, на Германия, които с вътрешните си проблеми държат Румъния, държат България, държат Хърватска, държат Малта извън шенгенското пространство. Тава е лицемерие и двоен стандарт и трябва да бъде сложен край.

Malin Björk (GUE/NGL). – Herr talman! När vi diskuterar Schengen får vi inte glömma att det inte bara handlar om fri rörlighet inom EU och att ha semesterplaner utan passet på fickan. Schengen har varit och fortsätter att vara förknippat med att stänga EU:s yttre gränser. Det har nu tagit sig till nivåer som är fruktansvärda att se. Vi ser det i Ceuta och Melilla, vi ser det vid grekiska gränsen, vi ser det på Balkan.

Vi ser en politik som sätter skyddet för yttre gränser högre än skyddet för människor. Men våra öppna inre gränser kan inte bygga på brott, kränkningar och brutalitet vid de yttre gränserna. Ett av de värsta exemplen i dag är tyvärr ordförandelandet Kroatien, där den delvis EU-finansierade gränspoliserna begår systematiska illegala "push backs". Jag har själv varit där, jag har sett det.

Kommissionen har ett ansvar för att utreda det här, men också för att sätta stopp för Kroatiens Schengenmedlemskap. Ett land ska inte belönas – inget land, Kroatien eller något annat – om man bryter mot mänskliga rättigheter vid EU:s yttre gränser.

Lena Düpont (PPE). – Mr President, I was three when the Berlin Wall fell. I was 13 when Schengen became an integral part of the Amsterdam Treaty. I was about to finish school when 10 new Member States joined our European family. Europe was always part of my life. I have experienced it as open, as free and as a promising continent and to be honest, I never expected to see border controls again.

Yet, understandably due to the nature of the pandemic, and the force with which it hit us, closing borders without coordination caused chaos at the beginning, and even long-forgotten hard rhetoric came up again.

The good thing is, we experienced how closely connected we are already, not only across border regions, not only economically, and we saw that Schengen, that our freedom, is vulnerable, that it is invaluable, and that we need to protect it.

Luckily, Schengen is getting back on track. Europe is getting back on track, with a lot of work ahead of us. So let us draw the obvious lessons learned in the past weeks. Let's prepare Schengen better and make full use of it for Europe's recovery. Let's make Europe come out stronger.

(Applause)

Michal Šimečka (Renew). – Vážení pán predsedajúci. V marci sme prvý raz možno naozaj vážne pocítili, aká krehká je sloboda, ktorú nám zaručuje Schengen, a ktorú sme doteraz brali ako samozrejmosť. Mimoriadna situácia si pochopteľne vyžadovala mimoriadne riešenia, vrátane kontrol na vnútorných hraniciach. No spôsob, akým členské štáty uzavreli svoje hranice, živelne, nekoordinovane, často bez jasného právneho základu, len zbytočne naštrbil dôveru, ktorú sme budovali roky, desiatročia v Schengen, aj v nás samotných. Asi si treba uvedomiť, že Schengen naozaj nie je nejakým luxusom, nice to have, do dobrého počasia, ale základným stavebným kameňom Európskej únie, našich slobôd a samozrejme aj jednotného trhu. A nič z toho nebude udržateľné, keď prvým inštinktom vlád v akejkoľvek krízovej situácii vždy bude iba unilaterálne a okamžité uzavretie vnútorných hraníc. Musíme sa z tejto skúsenosti poučiť. A teraz je ten moment, keď musíme pracovať na posilnení odolnosti Schengenského priestoru.

Isabel Wiseler-Lima (PPE). – Monsieur le Président, Schengen, qui aurait cru au succès du nom de cette charmante petite ville luxembourgeoise, située dans le triangle des frontières française, allemande et luxembourgeoise?

Schengen est devenue le symbole d'une Europe sans frontières. Passer d'un pays à l'autre est devenu si naturel que nous n'imaginions même plus la signification de devoir s'arrêter et se justifier. L'acquis de Schengen est, quant à la liberté individuelle, un acquis inestimable, une petite, non excusez-moi, une vraie merveille de l'unité européenne. Alors préservons-là.

La pandémie de COVID-19 a sûrement justifié les interdictions de mouvement imposées aux personnes en Europe. Créer un cordon sanitaire autour d'un foyer épidémique, quoi de plus normal? Celui-ci coïncide avec une frontière entre pays, c'est une aide salutaire. Mais comment justifier la fermeture d'une frontière là où la situation épidémique est identique d'un côté et de l'autre?

Il ne me viendrait pas à l'esprit de condamner que certains pays, dans un mouvement de panique, aient réagi par le repli sur soi. Disons que c'est l'irrationnel humain et soyons indulgents. Mais ensuite, il faut au plus vite que les pays rouvrent les frontières intérieures à Schengen, il faut surtout que, par-delà la crise de la COVID-19, certains pays ne mésusent pas de la possibilité, sauf dans des cas vraiment exceptionnels, de fermer leurs frontières. C'est pourtant...

(Le Président retire la parole à l'oratrice)

VORSITZ: RAINER WIELAND

Vizepräsident

Karlo Ressler (PPE). – Poštovani predsjedavajući, sloboda kretanja za više od 400 milijuna ljudi jedan je od temelja moderne Europe.

Globalna pandemija je, razumljivo, ponovno privremeno podignula unutarnje granice, ali Europa kakvu poznajemo ne postoji bez slobodnog kretanja, koje je ključno i za gospodarski oporavak, turizam, ali i za naš europski način života. Drago mi je da je Europski parlament rezolucijom pružio snažnu podršku i daljnjem širenje Schengena na sve države članice. To je vrlo važno i za Hrvatsku koja je spremna postati dio najvećeg prostora slobodnog kretanja na svijetu, kako je utvrdila i Europska komisija prošle godine. I danas smo, međutim, imali priliku čuti napade na moju zemlju zbog učinkovite politike zaštite najduže kopnene granice Europske unije.

Međutim, vjerujem da će hrvatski, ali i svi ostali europski građani uskoro uživati u svim prednostima hrvatskog članstva u Schengenu, boljoj prometnoj povezanosti, snažnijoj gospodarskoj suradnji, ali i još boljoj zaštiti vanjskih granica.

Pascal Arimont (PPE). – Herr Präsident, Frau Kommissarin! Wenn Sie wie ich jetzt drei Monate an der Grenze gelebt hätten, dann hätten Sie sehr konsterniert feststellen müssen, wie Schengen rechtlich, inhaltlich und symbolisch mit Füßen getreten worden ist.

Wenn Mitgliedstaaten auch in Zeiten von Krisen mit rein nationalen Maßnahmen einer Grenzschließung reagieren, dann haben sie vorher entweder nicht miteinander gesprochen oder sie haben kein Vertrauen ineinander – oder beides, und das ist schlimm. Und es wurde nichts abgesprochen, weder bei der Grenzschließung noch bei der Öffnung von verschiedenen wirtschaftlichen Sektoren noch bei Zusammenführungen von Familien und auch nicht bei der zeitlichen Einführung von Exit-Strategien. Das hat zu einem Flickenteppich an Kontrollmaßnahmen, an Schutzmaßnahmen, an neuen Regelungen geführt, die kein Mensch verstand und auch nicht nachvollziehen konnte.

Machen Sie es wie die Bürger in meinem Wahlkreis in Ostbelgien: Sie haben eine Petition eingereicht und fordern „Schengen 2.0“, das in Zukunft verhindern wird, dass –selbst in Pandemiezeiten – Grenzen geschlossen werden, damit aus diesen Grenzräumen wieder Gemeinschaftsräume werden.

Ylva Johansson, Member of the Commission. – Mr President, Schengen means freedom and Schengen is based on mutual trust. Schengen is a major achievement, and this is shown by the great engagement in this Parliament for this issue and for Schengen coming back to a fully functioning Schengen area.

When this first Schengen agreement was signed 35 years ago, there were millions of Europeans that didn't even have the right to leave their own country. The last few months have reminded us what Europe looks like without free movement.

Now slowly and responsibly we are regaining our freedoms. We cannot take the freedom of movement for granted. Nor, for that matter, the significant benefits of European integration. We need to work hard every day to preserve and protect our common European project.

To begin with, I would like to see the necessary decision in Council to welcome the waiting Member States into Schengen, but in the long run, we have to do better than a return to the *status quo*. And it must go without saying that, of course, all Member States, all Schengen members and all those that would like to be members of Schengen have to fully respect their fundamental rights and the European *acquis* of course.

A well-functioning Schengen area depends on mutual trust among Member States and on a correct and efficient implementation of the Schengen *acquis*. Differences in one Member State can affect all Member States and subsequently put the Schengen area at risk.

We must continue to make sure the Schengen legal framework is fit for purpose, so that it can meet new challenges such as the current health emergency.

First, through better and more correct implementation. That includes alternatives for internal border checks, such as police controls inside the territory supported by technology and reinforced cross-border cooperation and information exchange between law enforcement authorities.

To promote trust and then encourage exchange we will propose a renewed dialogue with all Member States and regular high-level political debates on the state of Schengen with Parliament and the Council. I am ready to continue to work closely, together with all of you in this House, towards this important goal.

Nikolina Brnjac, *President-in-Office of the Council*. – Mr President, the questions surrounding the application of internal border controls are vital for the preservation of the Schengen *acquis*.

Therefore, the Presidency, on behalf of the Council, is very much looking forward to working closely with the European Parliament and the Commission on providing for a legally-sound and operationally-correct structure that would meet all the concerns of the two co-legislators.

The Ministers of Home Affairs agreed, at an informal video conference on 5 June, to proceed in a coordinated, transparent and phased manner in line with the principles of proportionality and non-discrimination and based on the criteria defined in the Commission communication.

A broad majority of the Member States and the Schengen associate countries lifted controls at the internal borders and ended the related travel restrictions by 15 June. The rest have expressed their intention to do that by the end of this month.

Der Präsident. – Gemäß Artikel 136 Absatz 5 der Geschäftsordnung wurde ein Entschließungsantrag eingereicht.

Die Aussprache ist geschlossen.

Die Abstimmung findet am Freitag, 19. Juni 2020, statt.

Schriftliche Erklärungen (Artikel 171)

Marc Angel (S&D), *in writing*. – The Schengen Agreement is not just one of the most important achievements of the EU, but also a key tool for a proper functioning Single Market. Internal border controls and closures have to be the exception to adequately remedy the serious threat to public policy or internal security. However, the European Parliament had to raise questions too often in the recent times about the legality and proportionality of the introduced and extended internal border controls. Member States' justification is based on the Covid-19 pandemic as well as on increased levels of migration and/or security threats. We definitely need a more appropriate Union-level coordination. More targeted restrictions applicable at regional level, including cross-border regions, would have been more appropriate and less intrusive. The lack of real communication on Member States' decisions led us to a situation where information on introduced border controls and restrictions were not correctly communicated to citizens and enterprises. The collateral consequences were huge. The Commission's responsibility is to exercise appropriate scrutiny over the application of the Schengen *acquis*, but the Commission also need to be able to provide up-to-date information on Member States' rules to citizens. In that sense, I also welcome the creation of the 'Re-open EU' website.

Tudor Ciuhodaru (S&D), *în scris*. – Vă solicit un pachet de măsuri de redresare și un Fond de solidaritate pentru Coronavirus; acces la finanțare, inclusiv pentru statele membre care nu fac parte din zona euro. (estimativ, PIB-ul UE va scădea cu 7,4 %); sumele din pachet să fie acordate prin împrumuturi și, în principal, prin granturi, plăți directe pentru investiții și capitaluri proprii; să se realizeze o evaluare înainte de încheierea strategiei de redresare și posibilitatea ca CFM să fie revizuit corespunzător, la jumătatea perioadei; să se calculeze noul fond de redresare și de transformare în afara sumelor din următorul CFM și acest fond de redresare să fie inclus într-un CFM consolidat și cu noi surse de finanțare; introducerea unei liste de potențiali candidați pentru noi resurse proprii: o bază fiscală consolidată comună a societăților, impozitarea serviciilor digitale, o taxă pe tranzacțiile financiare, venituri din schema de comercializare a certificatelor de emisii, o contribuție pentru materiale plastice și un mecanism de ajustare la frontieră a emisiilor de dioxid de carbon, dar și eliminarea tuturor corecțiilor și rabaturilor, a simplificării resurselor proprii bazate pe TVA și utilizării de amenzi și alte taxe ca surse de venit suplimentar pentru bugetul UE.

Robert Hajšel (S&D), *písomne*. – Pri opätovnom otváraní vnútorných hraníc medzi členskými štátmi treba viac koordinácie a spolupráce a nemôže dochádzať ku diskriminácii. Tak ako pri zatváraní, tak aj pri otváraní hraníc niektoré štáty prijali nekoordinované kroky a niektoré hranice otvorili, iné nechali zatvorené, a to napriek odporúčaniam zo strany Európskej komisie. Ešte nejaký čas potrvá, pokiaľ sa naplno obnoví celý schengenský priestor bez kontroly na hraničiach, a treba sa pripraviť aj na to, aby v prípade prepuknutia druhej vlny šírenia koronavírusu štáty svoje kroky čo najviac koordinovali a vopred o nich ostatných informovali.

Eugen Jurzyca (ECR), *písomne*. – Do značnej miery nesúhlasím s kritikou EÚ k obmedzeniam voľného pohybu osôb v Schengenskom priestore, ktoré v reakcii na pandémie prijali členské štáty. Členské štáty dokázali rýchlejšie reagovať na vzniknutú situáciu, okrem toho uzatvárali svoje hranice až v čase, keď sa nákaza šírila vo vnútri EÚ. Zároveň majú v oblasti verejného zdravia viac kompetencií, a teda aj zodpovednosti za zvládnutie krízovej situácie. Uzatvárali tiež oblasti vo vnútri členských štátov (napríklad Litovel v ČR, Žehra v SR), čo svedčí o tom, že úmysel členských štátov súvisel s ochranou verejného zdravia, nie so snahou o ovplyvnenie miery integrácie.

Емил Радев (PPE), *в писмена форма*. – В последните десетилетия Европа не се беше сблъсквала с толкова сериозно предизвикателство като кризата с КОВИД-19. Тя постави на колене редица сектори, като пълните последици от кризата все още не могат да се предвидят. Едно от най-големите предизвикателства бе това пред ефективното и правилно функциониране на едно от най-големите постижения на нашия Съюз – Шенген. Искрено се надявам поредният призив на ниво ЕП за ускорено приемане на България и Румъния в Шенгенското пространство да не остане само на хартия, като резолюцията от 11.12.2018 г., а този път наистина да бъде чул от Съвета. Мястото на България е в Шенген. Изпълнили сме стриктно всички заложи критери и имаме пълен достъп до Шенгенската информационна система, но все още не сме пълноправен член. Взаимното доверие между държавите членки, сега повече от всякога, е ключово условие за ефективното функциониране на Шенгенското пространство, а България нееднократно е доказвала, че сигурно и надеждно пази външните граници на ЕС. В заключение отново ще призова Съвета да представи нов проект за решение относно присъединяването на България и Румъния към Шенгенското пространство по сухопътни, морски и въздушни граници, за да бъде Шенген още по-ефективен и да се постигне едно истинско и завършено свободно пространство за още повече европейски граждани.

12. Delegierte Rechtsakte (Artikel 111 Absatz 6 GO) (Weiterbehandlung): siehe Protokoll

13. Berichtigung (Artikel 241 der Geschäftsordnung) (Weiterbehandlung): siehe Protokoll

14. Europäischer Schutz von Grenzgängern und Saisonarbeitskräften im Zusammenhang mit der COVID-19-Krise (Aussprache)

Der Präsident. – Als nächster Punkt der Tagesordnung folgt die Aussprache über die Erklärungen des Rates und der Kommission zum Europäischem Schutz von Grenzgängern und Saisonarbeitskräften im Zusammenhang mit der COVID-19-Krise (2020/2664(RSP)).

Ich weise die Mitglieder darauf hin, dass es bei dieser Aussprache keine spontanen Wortmeldungen gibt und dass keine blauen Karten akzeptiert werden.

Nikolina Brnjac, President-in-Office of the Council. – Mr President, cross-border and seasonal workers support the agriculture, tourism and hospitality industries when labour demand cannot be covered by the host Member State.

Working away from home is hard enough. Protecting this vulnerable group of workers is therefore even more pressing especially during these times of unprecedented challenges following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Confinement and social distancing measures have had a substantial negative effect on the European economy. Unemployment rates have risen within a short period and businesses are facing difficulties, some sectors more than others. Member States have implemented a large number of measures to prevent and mitigate severe economic implications on labour markets and national social security and welfare systems. Many of these measures aim to protect workers in particularly sensitive sectors of the economy.

While the health emergency is slowly receding and confinement measures are gradually being lifted, the economic and social difficulties remain intense. On 5 May, a video conference organised by the Presidency offered the opportunity to employment and social policy Ministers to share their views on existing strategies. While underlining the importance of a quick economic recovery, Ministers expressed their support for strategies built on a coordinated approach, safeguarding employability, supporting businesses and protecting groups in need.

The issue of cross-border and seasonal workers was brought up many times throughout the discussions. This vulnerable group is considered essential for many economic sectors. It has a vital role to play in the economic recovery and its members should not be discriminated against.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced Member States to close their borders temporarily. Nevertheless, Member States and the members of the European Council indicated clearly in a joint statement on 26 March that smooth border management for persons and goods should be assured in order to preserve the functioning of the single market. While some Member States have already lifted all travel restrictions for cross-border and seasonal workers, others have committed to do so as soon as possible.

Ensuring safe working conditions is as important as ensuring free movement. It is essential that this vulnerable group of workers enjoy equal treatment to that provided for workers who are nationals of the host Member State. They should receive adequate protection equipment and, where provided, they should be offered adequate accommodation in compliance with social distancing measures. Moreover, workers should be trained and informed about changes and new procedures.

Member States are also committed to ensuring access to affordable social security for all citizens in cross-border situations. The revision of regulations on the coordination of the social security system would further facilitate the free movement of workers and would act as a catalyst for modernising the national social security system.

I would like to thank Parliament for keeping these problems faced by cross-border and seasonal workers high on the agenda. I look forward to this debate.

Nicolas Schmit, Member of the Commission. – Mr President, the free movement of workers is a key principle of the EU internal market. Millions of Europeans live or work in a Member State other than that of their nationality. We estimate that more than half a million workers are covering seasonal work in the EU. The COVID-19 crisis has led to unprecedented measures across EU Member States, having a direct impact on the free movement of workers, as was shown in the previous debates.

The role of the Commission is clear – ensure free movement of workers. In this context, on 30 March the Commission published guidelines concerning the exercise of the free movement of workers. The goal was for frontier, posted and seasonal workers exercising critical occupations to have unhampered access to their workplace. We talk a lot about frontline workers and I have to repeat that among these frontline workers there are a lot also of seasonal workers who have played an indispensable role and have worked for critical goods and services like, for instance, foods.

To ensure further clarity regarding social security, the Commission also published a fact sheet of questions and answers, including information for the attention of frontier and posted workers affected by the restrictions on free movement related to COVID-19. Based on the dialogue with Member States and stakeholders, we note that the guidelines have had a positive effect. We continue to monitor that the measures adopted by the Member States are necessary and proportionate for the fight against the spread of the virus and non-discriminatory.

Important sectors of the European economy, in particular the agricultural and tourism sectors, require the support of seasonal workers for specific periods of the year. Seasonal workers are often vulnerable to abuses and precarious working and living conditions, including health and safety, access to public services and decent housing, infringement of labour law and inadequate social security coverage. They are also more exposed to undeclared work, in particular in the form of unregistered employment.

The COVID-19 pandemic rendered more visible and acute the problems that many seasonal workers have faced for longer periods. While the situation has been improving recently, significant problems for seasonal workers still persist and need to be addressed. The principle applied to seasonal workers is very, very clear – equal treatment and no discrimination of EU mobile workers compared with national workers. This ensures the best protection for EU mobile workers, including for cross-border and seasonal workers. It means, for seasonal workers, they have exactly the same rights as nationals or residents of the Member State in which they work.

Equal treatment requires proper application of national labour law, including those laws which result, from EU directives, to mobile workers. Given that certain sectors of the economy, and especially the agricultural sector, require the support of seasonal workers from other Member States, the Commission asked Member States to exchange information and establish specific procedures to ensure smooth circulation for such workers. In this respect, I welcome the joint declaration on the protection of seasonal workers signed on 15 May by the European social partners in agriculture. I also welcome the announcement by a Member State to adapt its national legislation and to better control its application.

Our data confirms that the seasonal activities are exposed to undeclared work, often associated with abuses or limited access to social rights and health and safety for workers. In this context, it is essential to raise workers' and employers' awareness towards the benefits of declared work and the transition to declared work. This is actually the focus of the EU for Fair Work campaign of the European platform on tackling undeclared work. Europe can also play a role in this context by developing actions with a focus on activities for cross-border workers, seasonal workers and, especially, young people. In the near future, both the platform and the US-European coordination office will be transferred to the European Labour Authority (ELA). Once fully operational, the ELA will assist Member States and the Commission in the effective application and enforcement of Union law related to labour mobility across the Union and the coordination of social security systems within the Union.

One of the aims of the EU rules on social security coordination is to ensure that persons who work in two or more Member States, such as seasonal workers, are subject to the legislation of the Member State with which they have the closest links, promoting stable and continuous social security coverage. Frequent changes in the applicable social security legislation may create an obstacle to the free movement of workers.

I am convinced that the mutual assistance and cooperation between Member States, such as the conclusion of bilateral agreements or making available information in the language of the seasonal workers on social security issues is essential to protect the rights of seasonal workers. The revision of the Social Security Regulation for which the Commission made a proposal back in 2016 is still being discussed between Parliament and Council. I am fully committed to help you finalising this important modernisation of the rules as soon as possible. I also want to repeat my full support for the introduction of a European social security number, requested in your draft resolution.

Let me also make an important point on the health and safety of workers. Given the unprecedented crisis we are going through, this is one of the issues where we cannot fail our citizens. We have solid EU legislation on health and safety at work that applies to all workers, independently of the country where they work, the duration of the assignment or the precise tasks carried out. Ensuring the health and safety of workers is our shared responsibility. It is the employer's obligation to comply with all requirements and assess all possible risks at work, including new ones, and to put in place adequate preventive and protective measures. The completeness of this evaluation is particularly important in sectors where workers may be particularly exposed. Employers are also obliged to provide workers with related information as well as necessary protective equipment and hygiene products.

Besides the guidelines on seasonal workers under preparation by the Commission, the EU has taken numerous steps to support Member States in this regard. But I have to add that it is Member States' responsibility to control the application of the rights and labour standards which are also applicable to seasonal workers.

The EU European Agency for Health and Safety at Work has published guidance addressing COVID-19 at the workplace, as well as the safe and healthy return to workplaces after COVID. These documents assist employers in dealing with health and safety aspects at work. They also refer to the relevant national guidance for specific sectors and occupations, including those that are particularly susceptible to employ seasonal workers.

I assure you that the protection of workers' health and safety is one of my main priorities for the years to come. I will be working closely with the members of the European Parliament, notably in view of updating the strategic framework of health and safety at work that will provide us with opportunities to look at post-COVID-19 health and safety implications at the workplace, including for the most vulnerable workers.

We are not forgetting that many seasonal workers are third country nationals and the COVID-19 crisis has had a significant impact on the possibility for these workers to enter the Union. The Commission considers that these workers, in particular in the agricultural sector, often have an essential function. Therefore, already in March, we recommended Member States to authorise the entry of non-EU seasonal workers in agriculture, despite the closure of the EU external border.

I welcome your resolution as an important contribution to future policy making. We want to achieve the same goal, ensuring that the rights of seasonal workers are protected, that the EU rules are enforced, and that the pillar of social rights applies to everybody.

Jeroen Lenaers, *namens de PPE-Fractie*. – Voorzitter, we horen het vaak van de populisten in dit huis: Schengen moet op de schroothoop en de grenzen moeten dicht. Dat is hun toekomstbeeld voor Europa. Helaas, dat toekomstbeeld hebben we de afgelopen maanden al even mogen proberen. En wat blijkt? Dat toekomstbeeld, die droom van Le Pen, Baudet en Wilders is een nachtmerrie voor miljoenen gewone Europeanen.

Familieleden die hun dierbaren niet konden begraven omdat een container op de grens de weg verspert. Aardbeien en asperges die staan te rotten op het veld, omdat de seizoensarbeiders die ze komen oogsten de grens niet over komen. Grensondernemers die het faillissement in gejaagd worden omdat ze nergens terechtkunnen. Je weet pas wat je mist als je het niet meer hebt. Een crue constatering, maar ook een belangrijke les.

Trap niet in het "grenzen dicht"-frame van de nextroepoetters in dit huis. Laten we onze verworvenheden koesteren en samen blijven werken aan een echt eerlijke arbeidsmarkt, een grensoverschrijdende markt, waar hard werken beloond wordt, waar een fatsoenlijke huisvesting de norm is, waar malafide bedrijven aangepakt worden en waar rechten beschermd worden. Dat is mijn toekomstbeeld voor Europa!

Gabriele Bischoff, *im Namen der S&D-Fraktion*. – Herr Präsident! Gestern wurden in Deutschland wieder Hunderte Corona-Neuinfektionen im größten Fleischbetrieb Deutschlands bekannt.

Es macht mich fassungslos und es zeigt, dass Unternehmen wie Tönnies aus der Krise nichts gelernt haben und völlig verantwortungslos vorgehen. Jetzt versuchen auch noch einige, die Schuld den betroffenen rumänischen und bulgarischen Beschäftigten zuzuschieben: Sie hätten das Virus über die Grenze eingeschleppt.

Populismus breitet sich aus, und wir müssen diese Zustände wirklich beenden. Deshalb ist diese Entschließung ein guter Schritt. Aber *guidelines* reichen nicht aus. Wir brauchen wirklich harte Maßnahmen. Wir müssen EU-Recht da verbessern, wo es Lücken hat, und wir müssen das Recht wieder besser durchsetzen.

Aber ich möchte hier noch mal einen Appell richten an all die mobilen Arbeitnehmerinnen und Arbeitnehmer, an die Grenzgänger: Bitte verlieren Sie wegen der Grenzschließung und der Situation nicht die Hoffnung auf einen fairen und freien europäischen Arbeitsmarkt, auf faire Mobilität! Wir als Parlament setzen uns dafür ein, dass es hier zu Änderungen kommt.

Dacian Cioloș, *în numele grupului Renew*. – Domnule președinte, domnule comisar, dragi colegi, în primul rând vreau să identificăm corect obiectul acestei rezoluții. Muncitorii sezonieri și transfrontalieri sunt inima care pompează energie în multe sectoare ale economiei europene. Sunt cetățeni care pleacă pentru un timp mai scurt sau mai lung de lângă familiile lor din România, Bulgaria, Polonia, Portugalia sau Spania și ajută să funcționeze industrii importante din alte state membre. Sunt, de asemenea, un sprijin financiar pentru cei pe care îi lasă acasă, pentru familiile și copiii lor.

Avem, în Uniunea Europeană, sectoare întregi care depind de muncitorii sezonieri. S-a văzut în criza pe care o traversăm că, atunci când acești cetățeni nu se pot deplasa între granițe, sunt puse în pericol producția de alimente, transporturile, multe servicii din turism sau alte servicii sociale, de îngrijire și medicale.

Spun toate aceste lucruri ca să înțelegem importanța acestor lucrători pentru Uniune, pentru statele membre, pentru fermele mai mari sau mai mici, pentru firme de construcții, pentru spitale, hoteluri sau firme de transport. Din aceste motive, cred că protejarea lor, acolo unde lucrează, face parte dintr-un respect minimal pe care-l datorăm noi acestor oameni fără de care multe sectoare economice-cheie ar fi blocate.

Am văzut însă în această criză și că mulți dintre lucrătorii sezonieri sunt cazați în condiții mizere, că nu li se asigură condiții minime de igienă și, după ce se îmbolnăvesc, nu au parte de un tratament medical adecvat. Am văzut chiar oameni care au murit din cauza neglijenței și a faptului că drepturile lor sociale nu le sunt respectate. De aceea, în numele Grupului Renew, am inițiat această rezoluție și mă bucur că avem o susținere largă a acestui demers.

Le suntem datori acestor oameni cu claritatea regulilor în care își desfășoară activitatea, cu monitorizarea permanentă a condițiilor de cazare și cu suspendarea activității firmelor care încearcă să îi păcălească. Este nevoie de coordonare europeană a legislației europene și aici, domnule comisar, contez pe dumneavoastră. Trebuie să lucrăm împreună, Comisia, Parlamentul și Consiliul ca să dăm o ghidare... (*Președintele a retras cuvântul vorbitorului*)

France Jamet, *au nom du groupe ID*. – Monsieur le Président, mes chers collègues, cette résolution, qui vise à réglementer la libre circulation et la protection des travailleurs, quel que soit leur statut, pose un problème.

Encore une fois, la commission s'acharne à consacrer le caractère quasiment divin de la libre circulation des travailleurs, et donc du travail détaché. Les considérants de la résolution instituent la nécessité de mise en œuvre du principe d'égalité de traitement et de non-discrimination, qui s'oppose au principe d'une priorité nationale qui nous est si chère.

Classer dans la même catégorie le travail détaché, les frontaliers et les saisonniers consiste à nous forcer la main sur un texte qui contredit deux principes fondamentaux aux intérêts de nos compatriotes: supprimer le travail détaché et mettre en place une priorité nationale.

Petra De Sutter, *on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group*. – Mr President, this pandemic highlights precarious working conditions for 17 million mobile workers in the EU, of whom hundreds of thousands are cross-border, frontier and seasonal workers.

Better social protection was already needed before this crisis, but the lack of safety measures on asparagus or strawberry farms, or in slaughterhouses in the Netherlands or Germany, opened many eyes. Health and safety measures against COVID-19 are not always respected at the workplace, and that is why written instructions like display notices must be used. Crossing borders must also be easy for them, and a better coordination of social security systems has become a matter of high urgency.

These workers are in the front line: in hospitals and nursing homes in Austria for example, where many female health workers from Romania and Bulgaria work overtime. They provide a vital workforce. We must provide them with vital social, and health and safety, protection. This is a matter of social justice.

Elżbieta Rafalska, *w imieniu grupy ECR*. – Panie Przewodniczący! Pani Komisarz! Pracownicy przygraniczni i sezonowi zostali w sposób szczególny dotknięci z powodu koronawirusa. Z powodu zamkniętych granic, obowiązku kwarantanny, czasem bez możliwości powrotu do kraju, bez opieki zdrowotnej i źródeł utrzymania byli narażeni na większe ryzyko zachorowania. Są też bardziej niż inni zależni od pracodawców i agencji pracy tymczasowej. Ich warunki zakwaterowania są złe. Wykonują pracę w trudnych warunkach i często dochodzi do naruszeń transgranicznych i sezonowych praw pracowników w zakresie ich czasu pracy, płacy minimalnej, standardów bezpieczeństwa i higieny pracy. To pokazuje, z jakimi problemami borykają się pracownicy sezonowi, najczęściej pochodzący z Europy Wschodniej. Pandemia pokazała też, jak niezbędni i niedoceniani są pracownicy, od których zależy wiele sektorów. Pora ich docenić, poprawić wizerunek tej pracy, zaproponować też rozwiązania, które ukróć skalę nadużyć występujących już przez pandemią. Co Komisja Europejska ma w tej kwestii...

(Przewodniczący odebrał mówczyni głos)

Marc Botenga, *au nom du groupe GUE/NGL*. – Monsieur le Président, chers collègues nous allons voter une résolution portant sur les droits des travailleurs transfrontaliers saisonniers et détachés et je suis particulièrement heureux de pouvoir la co-introduire non seulement avec la gauche, mais aussi avec la droite et même les libéraux.

Je trouve que c'est formidable, parce que pour certains d'entre vous, ce sera peut-être la première fois que vous allez admettre que la priorité absolue au marché nuit aux droits des travailleurs. Certes, vous n'êtes pas encore prêts à parler de dumping social – si vous changez d'avis, on a soumis un amendement, vous pouvez le voter – mais je veux quand même encourager et applaudir le pas que vous franchissez aujourd'hui.

Maintenant, vous dites que la crise du coronavirus vous a ouvert les yeux sur la souffrance et l'exploitation des travailleurs mobiles en Europe. Ça je n'y crois pas trop. Je pense que ce qui vous a fait bouger, c'est la pression que vous avez ressentie, la pression et la rage de ces travailleurs exploités, empilés les uns sur les autres dans des petits vans ou même des vols entiers, de la Roumanie à l'Allemagne par exemple.

Mais bon, peu importe ce qui vous a fait bouger. Ce qui compte pour moi, c'est de voir comment on peut continuer, parce qu'ici, on est encore une fois face à une résolution non contraignante. Alors vous votez ceci, très bien, maintenant faisons le pas suivant et adaptons les règles européennes pour que, effectivement, les droits des travailleurs reçoivent la priorité sur les libertés économiques et sur le marché.

Daniela Rondinelli (NI). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, la pandemia ci ha dimostrato in queste settimane che il mercato del lavoro europeo è molto più integrato di quello che immaginiamo. Abbiamo capito che, senza la libera circolazione dei lavoratori, soprattutto gli stagionali e i transfrontalieri, interi settori produttivi e strategici per l'Unione europea rischiano di bloccarsi.

Il lavoratore, da quando lascia il proprio paese di origine con i corridoi verdi, ha la necessità di essere tutelato con elevati standard di protezione, di condizioni di lavoro e di remunerazione, fino al pieno riconoscimento dei suoi diritti acquisiti in termini di sicurezza sociale, che per noi devono ricadere nel paese dove il lavoratore presta la propria attività lavorativa e dove appunto ne paga le tasse.

L'Unione secondo noi deve promuovere l'armonizzazione delle legislazioni nazionali del lavoro per risolvere il *dumping* salariale, ma anche per affrontare quel nuovo *dumping* che sta avanzando e che si basa proprio sulla salute e sicurezza dei lavoratori.

Credo che questa risoluzione la possiamo sostenere, soprattutto se può rappresentare la base per nuovi provvedimenti legislativi per tutelare al meglio i lavoratori europei e per eliminare quella concorrenza sleale che ancora oggi purtroppo caratterizza il mercato interno ... (il Presidente toglie la parola all'oratrice)

Dennis Radtke (PPE). – Herr Präsident, liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen! Das politische Modewort der Stunde ist ja „systemrelevant“.

Um es auch mal zu benutzen, haben wir in den letzten Wochen festgestellt, wie systemrelevant der europäische Binnenmarkt und auch die Arbeitnehmerfreizügigkeit für unsere nationalen Volkswirtschaften sind. Auf der anderen Seite haben wir aber auch gesehen, wie fragil dieses System ist. Tschechische Pflegekräfte und Ärzte, die in deutschen Krankenhäusern arbeiten, mussten sich auf einmal von heute auf morgen zwischen Beruf und Familie entscheiden, weil die Grenzen geschlossen wurden. Deutsche und französische Landwirte hatten Sorge um ihre Ernte, weil sie keine Erntehelfer mehr bekommen haben.

Und als sei das alles noch nicht genug, ist uns auch noch mal der Zustand in der Fleischindustrie in Deutschland und in den Niederlanden vor Augen geführt worden – Zustände, die bekannt waren, die aber jetzt das Fass zum Überlaufen gebracht haben. Deswegen ist es gut, dass wir als Parlament heute vorlegen mit dieser Entschließung. Jetzt ist es an der Kommission und vor allen Dingen an den Mitgliedstaaten, dem, was hier ins Rollen gebracht worden ist, auch Taten folgen zu lassen und auch zu liefern.

Agnes Jongerius (S&D). – Voorzitter, je vraagt je af wat voor een gedachte er speelt in het hoofd van iemand die arbeidsmigranten uit Polen en Roemenië 14 uur per dag, 42 dagen achter elkaar laat werken. Wat bezielt iemand die iemand op straat dreigt te zetten, omdat deze arbeidsmigrant zich ziek wil melden met koorts. Waar denk je aan als je een Roemeense arbeidsmigrant langs de kant van de weg dumpt en aan zijn lot overlaat in een vreemd land?

Dat zijn helaas voorbeelden uit de afgelopen weken uit mijn land, Nederland. Je denkt, wat mij betreft: “Wat beweegt mensen?” Maar je dankt mensen niet af. Je dumpt ze niet op straat. Mensen zijn geen wegwerpartikel. De uitzendbazen, de agrarische sector en de voedingsindustrie zijn wat mij betreft door de bodem gezakt. Van oost naar west zijn we het er nu over eens: hier moet iets aan gebeuren!

In onze resolutie staan voorstellen om deze misstanden en uitbuiting aan te pakken. Bind de uitzendbureaus aan regels met een herziening van de uitzendrichtlijn. Stel normen op rond fatsoenlijke huisvesting met privacy en een huurcontract. En ga handhaven met meer inspecteurs in de risicosectoren en met een Europees socialezekerheidsnummer.

Ik vertrouw erop dat eurocommissaris Schmit meteen werk maakt van de misstanden die we op dit moment zien en dat hij aan de slag gaat met deze resolutie. De Europese lidstaten moeten nu met maatregelen komen. Ze moeten in actie komen, want in een ander Europees land werken is wat mij betreft een groot goed. Het is een werknemersrecht. Maar dan moet iedereen in Europa wel zeker kunnen zijn van een gezonde en veilige werkplaats.

Dragoș Pîslaru (Renew). – Domnule președinte, această rezoluție inițiată de Grupul Renew Europe și pe care am avut onoarea să o coordonez este dedicată muncitorilor transfrontalieri și sezonieri, români, polonezi, bulgari sau de alte naționalități, care au trebuit să moară în containere, să fie infectați cu Covid-19 și să sufere în condiții improprietăți pentru ca astăzi să ne putem uni cu toții, est și vest, nord și sud, stânga și dreapta, pentru a putea reacționa cu fermitate și consens.

Criza ne-a arătat cât de vulnerabili suntem. Din păcate, aceste vulnerabilități persistă de ani de zile. Destul! Muncitorii transfrontalieri sunt unul dintre cele mai puternice simboluri ale Uniunii Europene, un simbol pentru libertatea de mișcare și pentru prosperitatea pieței interne, având o contribuție esențială pentru sectoarele economice ale Europei.

Vă auzim și vom lupta, astăzi și în viitor, pentru dreptul vostru la libertatea de mișcare, pentru dreptul de a vă putea urma visul european, de avea un trai, o locuință, o viață decentă, de a lucra pe piața muncii oriunde în Europa și de a fi respectați și tratați fără discriminare. Noi toți, Parlament, Comisie, state membre avem responsabilitatea morală și legală de a vă asigura tot ce aveți nevoie acum și în viitor.

Alessandro Panza (ID). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, devo dire che condivido, seppur con alcune riserve, il contenuto della risoluzione che è stata presentata sulla tutela dei lavoratori transfrontalieri, categoria lavorativa particolarmente colpita dalla crisi del Covid-19.

Per quanto riguarda l'Italia, sono oltre centomila i lavoratori che ogni giorno si recano oltre confine per prestare la loro attività lavorativa in altri paesi, come Francia, Austria e persino a San Marino. Di questi, però, oltre 70 000 lavorano in Svizzera. Per questo è necessario, da una parte, che l'invito di questa risoluzione sia esteso anche agli Stati confinanti, come appunto la Svizzera o il Regno Unito, per assicurare condizioni di lavoro dignitose e misure di protezione adeguate, al fine di tutelare tutti i lavoratori frontalieri, in particolare gli stagionali che, per la natura della loro base contrattuale, rientrano in una fascia di particolare fragilità.

Dall'altra parte, invece, auspichiamo che gli Stati applichino concretamente e non solo a chiacchiere delle misure di tutela per quei lavoratori frontalieri e stagionali, che a causa della crisi del Covid-19 hanno perso il lavoro. In tutto questo, ovviamente, non si ravvede alcuna necessità di procedere alla regolarizzazione di immigrati clandestini, come è avvenuto in Italia, il cui unico risultato è stato quello di incrementare gli ingressi illegali all'interno dell'Unione europea.

Mounir Satouri (Verts/ALE). – Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Commissaire, avec la crise de la COVID-19, les États membres et l'Union européenne se sont rendus responsables de nombreuses violations des droits des travailleurs mobiles.

En fermant brusquement les frontières, les plus précaires parmi les précaires, les travailleurs migrants des pays tiers, se sont retrouvés seuls face aux abus de certains employeurs: sans couverture sociale, sans ressources et dans des conditions de logement indécentes, sans possibilité parfois de rentrer chez eux. N'en déplaise aux nationalistes, ces personnes sont essentielles à notre économie, à notre agriculture, à la construction de nos pays, et ce traitement n'est pas digne des valeurs européennes. Sur le sol européen, l'égalité des droits de toutes et de tous doit être définitivement proclamé.

Cette résolution est une avancée, mais il faut encore aller plus loin. Il est temps que l'Europe passe de l'exploitation de ces travailleurs migrants à la reconnaissance de leur contribution à notre économie et à notre souveraineté alimentaire. Il est temps que l'égalité des droits devienne une réalité concrète, véritable et vérifiable.

Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová (ECR). – Vážený pán predsedajúci. V celej Európskej únii máme 1,3 milióna cezhraničných pracovníkov a 2 milióny vyslaných pracovníkov. A počas korony, keď sa zatvorili hranice medzi jednotlivými štátmi Európskej únie, sme mohli vidieť, akým zraniteľným terčom sa títo ľudia stali. Častokrát si museli vybrať či zostanú s rodinou a prídu o prácu, alebo naopak či pôjdu do práce, zostanú izolovaní od rodiny na celé mesiace. Tým, že sa mnohí nedostali do práce, tak niektoré segmenty ako poľnohospodárstvo, sociálne služby alebo preprava tovarov samozrejme trpeli akútnym nedostatkom pracovníkov. Títo ľudia sa nachádzajú v permanentnej sociálnej neistote, pretože stoja v dvoch a viacerých sociálnych systémoch. Sú často diskriminovaní. Pozrime sa na rakúsku indexáciu rodinných prídavkov. Pre budúcu krízu sa musíme poučiť, spriechodniť pre nich hranice a konečne skoordinať systémy sociálneho zabezpečenia vrátane digitálneho prepojenia systémov.

Leila Chaïbi (GUE/NGL). – Monsieur le Président, chers collègues, je voudrais vous parler de Yasmine.

Yasmine ramasse les melons, les abricots et les pêches qu'on aime bien manger en ce moment. Yasmine travaille 260 heures par mois, elle est payée des miettes. Elle a des journées sans pause, alors quand elle veut manger, elle est obligée de se cacher dans les toilettes. Yasmine est malade, elle a une sclérose en plaques, à cause de toutes ces années passées à travailler dans ces conditions. En plus, elle n'est même pas couverte par la sécurité sociale.

Ce dont je vous parle, c'est le quotidien de centaines de travailleurs et de travailleuses détachés, saisonniers, des travailleurs qui viennent d'Espagne et qui sont parfois originaires de Guinée, de Colombie, qui sont détachés en France, en Allemagne ou ailleurs pour ramasser les fruits et les légumes.

La crise de la COVID-19 a exacerbé les difficultés qui sont vécues par ces travailleurs exploités qui, souvent, ont été hébergés pendant cette crise dans des conditions de misère extrêmes, propices à la propagation du coronavirus.

L'exploitation de ces hommes et de ces femmes doit cesser. Elle est inacceptable et il est grand temps que l'Union européenne garantisse le respect des droits de ces travailleurs et abroge la directive sur le travail détaché.

Daniel Buda (PPE). – Domnule președinte, dragi colegi, lucrătorii sezonieri și transfrontalieri reprezintă o categorie indispensabilă pentru foarte multe sectoare de activitate. În perioada pandemiei Covid-19, lipsa acestora a pus în pericol însăși existența multor ferme din țările Uniunii Europene. În același timp însă, în foarte multe state, aceștia au ajuns în situații dificile care le-au pus în pericol viața și securitatea socială.

Domnule comisar, Uniunea Europeană trebuie să găsească mecanisme prin care să le fie impuse statelor membre de destinație obligativitatea asigurării unor condiții de muncă sigure, precum și garantarea unor salarii adecvate pentru munca prestată. Condițiile de cazare trebuie să respecte standardele legale și rezonabile de viață, iar asigurările sociale să le garanteze protejarea lor reală în caz de îmbolnăvire, inclusiv în situația apariției unei pandemii.

De asemenea, se impune înființarea unor linii telefonice care să fie disponibile în mai multe limbi ale țărilor Uniunii Europene, astfel încât acei lucrătorii să aibă posibilitatea, o dată în plus, de a-și verifica drepturile și obligațiile, dar și de a reclama abuzurile sau încălcări ale contractelor lor de muncă.

Estrella Durá Ferrandis (S&D). – Señor presidente, la pandemia actual ha dejado al descubierto que la movilidad de los trabajadores migrantes en Europa no siempre respeta la igualdad de trato con los nacionales. Me refiero tanto a trabajadores intraeuropeos como a aquellos provenientes de terceros países, como es el caso de los trabajadores temporales en el sector agrícola, que tanto han contribuido al abastecimiento de productos básicos durante esta crisis.

Hemos conocido casos de condiciones laborales extremas, precarias y de riesgo para su salud y vida. Por tanto, es necesario detectar posibles abusos y fraudes porque, aun siendo minoritarios, son muy sangrantes y dañan la imagen del sector y crean competencia desleal.

También ocurre en otros sectores en los que operan intermediarios laborales fraudulentos, que captan trabajadores en un país para llevarlos a otro en condiciones de explotación laboral y desprotegidos, como fue el caso de trabajadores españoles, rumanos y búlgaros en Holanda.

Europa no puede permitirse esto. Todos los trabajadores sin excepción deben disfrutar de igualdad de trato, protección social, condiciones laborales dignas y acceso a ayudas estatales, independientemente de su país de origen o destino.

Sylvie Brunet (Renew). – Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Commissaire, chers collègues, je me félicite de l'initiative de cette résolution sur la protection des travailleurs saisonniers frontaliers dans le cas de la crise de la COVID-19.

Nous ne découvrons pas la situation avec cette crise, mais elle l'a amplifiée. Si le principe de la libre circulation des travailleurs européens au sein de l'Union européenne est un droit essentiel, il ne doit pas contrevenir au principe d'un traitement égal entre eux. La crise du coronavirus a malheureusement révélé l'existence d'abus et d'entorses à la législation européenne, que chaque État membre a pourtant la responsabilité de faire respecter.

Je voudrais donc insister sur la nécessité d'assurer aux travailleurs saisonniers et frontaliers une protection sociale efficace, ainsi que des conditions de santé et de sécurité adéquates. Enfin, je veux rappeler le rôle majeur de l'autorité européenne du travail, des inspections du travail et d'une transposition rapide et adéquate de la directive révisée sur les travailleurs détachés.

Miroslav Radačovský (NI). – Vážený pán predsedajúci. Podporujem v celom rozsahu návrh uznesenia týkajúci sa zahraničných a sezónnych zamestnancov. Je všeobecne známe, že predovšetkým sezónni zamestnanci pochádzajú zo sociálne slabších skupín, že pochádzajú z krajín východnej Európy a pochádzajú z krajín tretích. Je tiež všeobecne známe, že pracujú na základe krátkodobých zmlúv, majú zlé pracovné podmienky, často minimálnu mzdu. Je preto potrebné zaoberať sa týmito skutočnosťami, aby pracovné podmienky týchto zamestnancov, ktorí tvoria značný príjem pre krajiny, v ktorých pracujú, boli dostatočne akceptovateľné a v súlade s európskou legislatívou. Musíme rozmyšľať aj do budúcnosti a myslieť na to, že možno raz takéto podmienky a sezónne zamestnanie sa bude týkať aj mužov, žien z Paríža, Švédska a z iných krajín, že budú prichádzať do krajín východnej Európy pracovať. Teda aj aby oni mali podmienky rovnaké, aké sú teraz.

Guido Reil (ID). – Herr Präsident, liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen! In Deutschland gibt es einen neuen Corona-Hotspot, und betroffen ist wieder einmal die Fleischindustrie.

600 Neuinfizierte – 7 000 Mitarbeiter sind in Quarantäne bei Tönnies, Deutschlands größtem Fleischkonzern, und diese Mitarbeiter kommen zum ganz großen Teil aus Rumänien und Bulgarien. Und was sagt jetzt der Ministerpräsident von Nordrhein-Westfalen – der christdemokratische Ministerpräsident – dazu: Verantwortlich für die Neuinfektionen seien nicht die sklavenähnlichen Arbeitsbedingungen und die sklavenähnlichen Wohnbedingungen dieser Menschen. Verantwortlich dafür sei ihre Heimfahrt am Wochenende.

Also ich bin entsetzt, ich bin absolut entsetzt über solch eine Aussage. Die Freizügigkeit mit Rumänien und Bulgarien hat in Nordrhein-Westfalen tatsächlich zu echten Problemen geführt: Lohndumping, Schwarzarbeit, Sozialbetrug, Prostitution, Kriminalität. Aber diesen Menschen vorzuwerfen, nach Hause zu fahren und sich dort anzustecken, das halte ich persönlich für ausländerfeindlich. Ich bin entsetzt über so einen Ministerpräsidenten und so einen Landesvater.

Terry Reintke (Verts/ALE). – Herr Präsident! Hunderte neue Corona-Fälle in einem Schlachthof in Gütersloh. Und in der Tat: Das Erste, was dem nordrhein-westfälischen Ministerpräsidenten Armin Laschet dazu einfällt, ist: Das hätten ja die rumänischen und bulgarischen Arbeitnehmerinnen und Arbeitnehmer selber mitgebracht.

Entschuldigung, aber das geht einfach gar nicht! Erstens, weil es ein altes fremdenfeindliches Narrativ bedient, nämlich dass die Ausländer irgendwelche Krankheiten mitbringen. Zweitens, weil Armin Laschet damit die Verantwortung von sich schiebt.

In einem geeinten Europa ist es natürlich die Verantwortung des nordrhein-westfälischen Ministerpräsidenten, auch die bulgarischen und rumänischen Arbeitnehmerinnen und Arbeitnehmer im Blick zu haben. Denn sie arbeiten häufig unter menschenunwürdigen Bedingungen zu einem Hungerlohn und sind eingepfercht in Massenunterkünften.

Deshalb brauchen wir Ministerpräsidenten, die sich um die Rechte von Arbeitnehmerinnen und Arbeitnehmern kümmern, egal welche Nationalität diese Arbeitnehmerinnen und Arbeitnehmer haben, und eine Europäische Arbeitsagentur, die geltendes Recht kontrollieren und durchsetzen kann. Und wenn das alles nicht reicht, dann schrecken wir hier auch nicht davor zurück, die Standards hochzusetzen, denn dieser Ausbeutung müssen wir endlich ein Ende setzen!

Mazaly Aguilar (ECR). – Señor presidente, quisiera empezar esta intervención reconociendo la gran labor de los trabajadores temporeros del campo. Esta crisis nos ha recordado lo fundamentales que son. En España, según las organizaciones agrarias, no se han podido recoger cosechas de fruta por culpa del coronavirus. 100 000 puestos de estos trabajos no se han podido cubrir. Puestos de trabajo con arreglo a la ley.

Por eso me indigna que parte del Gobierno socialcomunista de mi nación, con una desinformación absoluta, acuse de esclavitud a los agricultores españoles. Esta acusación solo busca criminalizar y dañar la imagen de la agricultura ante la sociedad española, que la considera un ejemplo y un sector estratégico, sobre todo después de ver cómo ha evitado el desabastecimiento de nuestras tiendas y supermercados.

Y no podemos aceptar esta acusación y mucho menos viniendo de un Gobierno que, mientras morían 40 000 españoles —20 000 de ellos ancianos en su residencia sin apoyo hospitalario— y mientras se contagiaban 59 000 sanitarios y miles de policías y guardias civiles, les negaba las medidas más básicas de seguridad.

En lugar de acusar a nuestros agricultores, lo que el Gobierno debería hacer es pedir perdón. Si hay alguien que tiene derecho a acusar es, sin duda, el pueblo español a su inefable Gobierno.

Chiara Gemma (NI). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, sappiamo bene che le misure adottate dagli Stati membri per contenere e combattere la diffusione del virus hanno provocato per i lavoratori transfrontalieri e stagionali pesantissime conseguenze negli Stati presso cui erano impiegati. Penso all'essersi trovati immediatamente e improvvisamente senza reddito, alloggio, trasporti, assistenza sanitaria.

Un pensiero particolare mi piace rivolgerlo ai lavoratori stagionali nel settore agricolo, spesso vittime di caporalato. Una piaga, purtroppo, assai diffusa nelle regioni del mio Sud Italia. Questa risoluzione rappresenta una risposta chiara e condivisibile, considerate le gravi problematiche subite da queste categorie di lavoratori.

Auspico, allora, che la Commissione e gli Stati garantiscano piena tutela dei diritti, sanzionando qualsiasi discriminazione rivolta ai lavoratori, e che in sede di Consiglio vengano garantite risorse necessarie per rilanciare l'occupazione e protezione di sostegno nei confronti di lavoratori ed imprese penalizzate.

Λουκάς Φουρλάς (PPE). – Κύριε Πρόεδρε, κύριε Επίτροπε, όπως είπατε και εσείς προηγουμένως, η ελεύθερη κυκλοφορία των εργαζομένων αποτελεί θεμελιώδη αρχή της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης. Όταν μιλάμε για εποχιακούς εργάτες ή για εργαζομένους που διασχίζουν σύνορα για να πάνε στην εργασία τους, μιλάμε για ανθρώπους, για ανθρώπους με οικογένειες, με ανάγκες, που εξαρτώνται από το μισθό τους, για ανθρώπους που αυτή τη στιγμή μας παρακολουθούν με την προσδοκία ότι, ως Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο, ως Ευρώπη, θα κάνουμε ό,τι είναι δυνατό για να τους προστατέψουμε. Ο ρόλος ο δικός μας εδώ σήμερα είναι να τους δώσουμε το μήνυμα ότι κατανοούμε τις ανάγκες τους, ότι φροντίζουμε να εξασφαλίσουμε τις εργασίες τους, να τους προστατεύσουμε, ότι στεκόμαστε δίπλα τους και όχι απέναντί τους. Αυτό το μήνυμα πρέπει να σταλεί σήμερα από αυτή την αίθουσα.

Marc Angel (S&D). – Monsieur le Président, la crise de la COVID-19 a mis en lumière un ensemble d'abus et de problèmes structurels liés à la mobilité des travailleurs en Europe.

Je salue la résolution qui met les employeurs, les États membres et l'Europe face à leurs responsabilités. Du côté des employeurs, on constate trop d'abus et d'exploitation des travailleurs saisonniers avant tout. Du côté des États membres, les services publics sont affaiblis en raison de l'austérité et cela a rendu les services d'inspection sociale et du travail inefficaces. Enfin, du côté de l'Europe, plusieurs bonnes recommandations ont été publiées tout au long de la crise, mais quid de leur suivi par les États membres, quid du respect de la législation européenne et nationale en matière de mobilité des travailleurs?

Nous, socialistes, exigeons plus de transparence. Nous encourageons la Commission à continuer à analyser l'impact des mesures prises à la suite de la fermeture des frontières et le respect des droits sociaux et fiscaux des travailleurs, et nous espérons que les conclusions aboutiront à un plan d'action incluant les dispositions législatives.

Enfin, j'aimerais, au nom du groupe socialiste et démocrate, remercier les nombreuses associations et les ONG ainsi que les partenaires sociaux pour leur précieuse aide d'urgence accordée aux travailleurs tout au long de cette crise.

Dominique Bilde (ID). – Monsieur le Président, l'épidémie de COVID-19, vous le savez, a porté un coup de massue à l'économie de notre continent. Au sein de ce marasme généralisé, je prends aujourd'hui la parole pour défendre notre jeunesse. Dans un pays comme la France, qui prévoit un million de chômeurs, nos étudiants, nos jeunes diplômés connaissent de très graves difficultés.

Combien de jeunes ne parviendront pas à trouver de job d'été pour leur permettre de vivre le reste de l'année? Combien d'étudiants de trouveront pas de stage pour valider leur diplôme? Combien de jeunes diplômés termineront leurs études et chercheront, non plus des mois, mais des années avant de trouver un emploi dans leur domaine? Combien de jeunes, en général, rêvent de partir de ce continent pour un avenir meilleur?

Pendant ce temps, l'Union européenne nous impose de laisser, de respecter les plus viles règles de libre-échangeisme mondialiste, de laisser entrer dans notre pays des dizaines de milliers de travailleurs détachés, de laisser entrer encore plus de migrants économiques, à qui on donne la priorité sur l'emploi.

Avant que l'Union européenne, et sa Commission, nous réimpose son insupportable doctrine, pensez à notre jeunesse, pensez à nos étudiants, pensez à nos diplômés. L'histoire qu'on retiendra de cette assemblée, ce sont...

(Le Président retire la parole à l'oratrice)

Rasmus Andresen (Verts/ALE). – Herr Präsident! Der Mann war Mitte fünfzig, er kam aus Rumänien. Er ist am Fließband zusammengebrochen, die Vorarbeiter haben ihn beschimpft, warum er da am Boden rumliege. Acht Kilometer musste er zu Fuß zu seiner Unterkunft laufen und allein einen Arzt suchen. Hier in Deutschland gibt es niemanden, der ihn unterstützt.

Über 17 Millionen Europäerinnen und Europäer sind *cross-border workers*: in der Landwirtschaft, in der Pflege, in Schlachthöfen, in Werften und als Reinigungskräfte. Viele von ihnen werden sehr schlecht bezahlt, haben keine soziale Absicherung und schlechten Gesundheitsschutz. Ihr Schicksal darf uns nicht nur dann interessieren, wenn das Coronavirus in deutschen Schlachthöfen ausbricht. Es ist skandalös, dass Menschen durch Unternehmen wie Tönnies oder Vion ausgebeutet werden.

Die deutsche Bundesregierung muss ihre Ratspräsidentschaft dazu nutzen, für die Rechte aller Menschen, aller EU-Arbeitnehmerinnen und —Arbeitnehmer einzustehen, und die EU-Kommission muss hinschauen und stärker für Arbeitnehmerinnen und Arbeitnehmer aktiv werden. Es ist gut, dass wir hier als Parlament mit dieser Entschliebung dafür den Anfang machen. Lassen Sie uns jetzt gemeinsam dafür sorgen, dass deren Lage verbessert wird!

Anna Zalewska (ECR). – Panie Przewodniczący! Koleżanki i Koledzy! Pandemia wystrzyła czasami w sposób tragiczny to, o czym Parlament Europejski mówi od bardzo dawna. Zmienia się to oczywiście systematycznie, ale tam, gdzie było złe, było jeszcze gorzej. Jest to doskonała okazja, żeby dokonać analizy, wyciągnąć wnioski i dać rekomendacje. Jednocześnie my, parlamentarzyści europejscy, powinniśmy przyjąć sami na siebie zobowiązanie, żeby razem z koleżankami i kolegami w krajach członkowskich – bo przecież to kraje członkowskie odpowiadają, między innymi, za kontrolę firm, które niewłaściwie zabezpieczają pracowników – razem rozwiązywać problemy. Mam nadzieję, że prezydencja niemiecka będzie miała w swojej agendzie tego rodzaju spotkania ministrów rodziny, by móc sprawdzić, przeanalizować i przedstawić nam raport, który będzie wynikiem refleksji nad tym wszystkim, co wydarzyło się w ostatnich czasach.

Gheorghe Falcă (PPE). – Domnule președinte, dragi colegi, la șaisprezece ani reușeam la un examen școlar, iar familia mea, pentru a reuși să îmi cumpere o bicicletă, m-a trimis douăzeci și una de zile într-o muncă sezonieră. Am muncit atunci cu drag și cu gândul la bicicletă, fără să mă gândesc la ceea ce înseamnă securitatea mea. Astăzi văd lucrurile altfel.

Prin această rezoluție, invităm Comisia și statele membre să ia măsuri ca lucrătorii să beneficieze de protecție adecvată, prin îmbunătățirea condițiilor de muncă, prin respectarea standardelor de cazare, prin îmbunătățirea standardelor de sănătate și siguranță. În același timp, trebuie să crească responsabilitatea angajatorilor și a firmelor de recrutare în respectarea drepturilor lucrătorilor. Mulțumesc raportorului pentru că a luat în considerare șase puncte importante pe care le-am propus în numele delegației României a PPE.

Pierfrancesco Majorino (S&D). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, la pandemia ha avuto un impatto terribile sulle nostre vite, ma non ha colpito tutti allo stesso modo. Ha infatti reso più estreme e brutali le condizioni di vita e di lavoro di chi già era ai margini del sistema di produzione, pur essendone parte indispensabile.

La condizione in cui oggi vivono migliaia di lavoratori stagionali e lavoratori migranti, in particolare nel settore agricolo, è assolutamente inaccettabile: sfruttati per una paga da fame, senza orari, senza diritti e, in tempo di Covid-19, senza quella tutela per la salute che deve essere garantita. Spesso schiavi invisibili sotto il quotidiano ricatto dei caporali, come è stato già ricordato. Rispetto a ciò servono risposte più forti, più rapide e più tempestive.

Il principio della parità di trattamento a parità di lavoro, che anche alcune normative europee sanciscono, deve essere applicato nelle normative nazionali, e servono controlli seri ed efficaci sia sulle condizioni materiali in cui queste persone vivono e lavorano, sia sulle catene di subappalto in cui il loro lavoro è inserito. Garantire i loro diritti vuol dire anche fermare il *dumping* sociale e quell'odiosa concorrenza ... *(il Presidente toglie la parola all'oratore)*

Rosanna Conte (ID). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, c'è bisogno di ascoltare, ascoltare tutte quelle istanze che arrivano dai nostri lavoratori transfrontalieri e stagionali, allontanando i tentativi di regolarizzare gli immigrati regolari come è accaduto in Italia.

Se volessimo rispondere seriamente alle esigenze di manodopera delle nostre attività produttive, dovremmo dare priorità ai tanti cittadini disoccupati colpiti dalla crisi, magari valutando la possibilità di introdurre un sistema di voucher per regolamentare i lavori saltuari e abbattere così l'aggravio fiscale.

E qui mi riferisco anche a quei residenti che basano il proprio reddito sulle attività svolte solo in determinate stagioni. Penso, ad esempio, ai balneari, ai maestri di sci e a tutti gli operatori del settore turistico nelle zone costiere, come bagnini, camerieri, addetti alle pulizie. A tutti loro devono essere garantite condizioni di lavoro dignitose e regolate dai singoli Stati Membri. Solo così si darà una prospettiva concreta per uscire da questa crisi.

Christian Sagartz (PPE). – Herr Präsident, geschätzte Kolleginnen und Kollegen! Die COVID-19-Krise hat Berufspendler vor besondere Herausforderungen gestellt, und ich habe das besonders daran gemerkt, dass ich in einer Region lebe, wo für diese Berufspendler ganz besondere Bestimmungen gelten.

Ich komme aus dem Burgenland, einem Teil Österreichs, der sehr lange an der toten Grenze gelegen ist, wo man das Miteinander von allen Staaten zu schätzen weiß, dass die Nachbarschaft gelebt wird und dass Mitarbeiter mobil sind. Das hat eine ganz zentrale Bedeutung, insbesondere dort, wo man es in meiner Region besonders gespürt hat: im Gesundheits- und Pflegebereich.

Hier ist es heute wichtig, dass das Europäische Parlament ein klares Signal an diese mobilen Arbeitnehmer, an die Saisonarbeitskräfte schickt und hier gemeinsam ein Signal sendet, nämlich auch der Wertschätzung. Ich glaube – und das ist besonders wichtig –, dass viele Menschen Angst hatten in dem Moment, als Grenzen geschlossen wurden: Wo soll ich die nächsten Wochen und vielleicht Monate bleiben? Am Arbeitsplatz oder bei meiner Familie? Wir sind dankbar, dass hier sehr schnell in vielen Bereichen Abhilfe geschaffen wurde und dass heute ein klares Signal des Europäischen Parlaments erfolgt.

Victor Negrescu (S&D). – Domnule președinte, domnule comisar, dragi colegi, realizarea unei rezoluții comune a Parlamentului European este un pas important pentru asigurarea unor condiții mai bune pentru lucrătorii sezonieri și reprezintă, de fapt, un mesaj clar că nu vom tolera nicio formă de sclavie modernă. Se confirmă mesajele transmise de noi, social-democrații, privind existența unor grave probleme și încălcări ale legislației europene în materie de muncă și drepturi sociale.

În cazul României, chiar guvernul a pus în pericol sănătatea a sute de lucrători sezonieri, prin prisma unor decizii care nu au permis aplicarea legislației europene. Rezoluția preia soluțiile incluse în mesajele noastre repetate către instituțiile europene și naționale și aceste soluții sunt susținute de peste 50 000 de persoane care au semnat petiția noastră adresată instituțiilor europene.

Dar problema nu este rezolvată. Lucrătorii români care au ieșit în stradă, cei care au apelat la instanță, cei care au fost îngrămădiți în avioane și autocare au așteptări mari de la noi. Uniunea Europeană trebuie să protejeze toți lucrătorii și să intervină atunci când drepturile sociale au fost încălcate, așa cum s-a întâmplat în cazul lucrătorilor români.

Silvia Sardone (ID). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, siamo qui a parlare dei lavoratori stagionali in emergenza Covid e quindi anche di gestione delle frontiere. Allora possiamo dirci la verità e raccontare, per esempio, quello che è successo in Italia. In questo periodo Covid ci sono stati migliaia di immigrati irregolari che sono sbarcati sulle nostre coste. Quindi diciamo che la gestione dei confini non è esattamente funzionata benissimo.

Ci sono stati costi spropositati per la quarantena: addirittura traghetti ad hoc e con tutti i comfort per gestire l'emergenza e, quindi, anche l'accoglienza. Ci sono stati traghetti ad hoc per la gestione dell'accoglienza. Nessuna solidarietà europea, nessun ricollocamento, nessuna gestione condivisa dell'accoglienza.

E poi sugli stagionali il governo che cosa ha fatto? Ha deciso di fare una bella sanatoria, con la scusa dell'emergenza degli stagionali nel comparto agricolo, con buona pace di tanti italiani in difficoltà e senza lavoro. Quindi diciamo un totale fallimento, sia per l'Italia, sia per l'Europa.

Benoît Lutgen (PPE). – Monsieur le Président, la crise de la COVID a montré ô combien les travailleurs saisonniers étaient importants pour subvenir aux besoins de l'alimentation de l'ensemble des citoyens européens.

Ces travailleurs méritent bien sûr notre respect, notre reconnaissance et, en ce sens, merci au rapporteur, merci à la contribution. Ça va dans le bon sens de leur protection et quelque part de leur sauvegarde, qui fait partie de l'ensemble du système agricole, entre guillemets.

Par rapport aux travailleurs frontaliers: près d'un travailleur frontalier sur deux dans ma région est frontalier. Je pense qu'il est important de pouvoir leur faciliter la vie en cas de crise. Il y a eu beaucoup de difficultés, notamment aux frontières.

On serait bien inspiré de produire peut-être au niveau européen une espèce de passeport travail-travailleurs frontaliers pour leur faciliter les contrôles, faciliter aussi la vie des entreprises qui ont dû multiplier les démarches administratives, et donc organiser cela, avec peut-être différents niveaux. On pourrait notamment donner un passeport 5 étoiles, si je puis dire, pour les travailleurs dans le domaine de la santé, qui traversent la frontière pour subvenir aux besoins de santé de part et d'autre de la frontière.

Travaillons sur cette proposition. Je pense qu'elle pourrait améliorer le sort de chacune et de chacun.

Łukasz Kohut (S&D). – Mr President, I have already spoken in this chamber about the need to protect the rights of frontier workers. During the session, we will vote on a very important resolution regarding their rights, the rights of cross-border and seasonal workers as well. By the way, I was one of them, for almost five years.

It is a good step, a step in the right direction. What must follow is concrete action by both the European Union and the Member States, both legislative and non-legislative, and particularly the provision of crucial information.

During the current crisis, they have failed to do so. To help frontier workers from my region in Silesia I had to open a cross-border information point in my office, simply because the public authorities were not there. This is not right. Societies are resilient, but far more so when properly informed.

Public authorities must provide accurate up to date and comprehensive information as a human right.

Nicolas Schmit, membre de la Commission. – Monsieur le Président, honorables députés, nous avons débattu cet après-midi d'un sujet important, d'un sujet qui va au cœur même de la construction européenne: c'est la libre circulation des travailleurs. C'est un grand atout, c'est une grande réalisation, mais c'est aussi une grande responsabilité.

Nous avons malheureusement, à la lumière de la crise actuelle, constaté ce que nous devinions peut-être auparavant, qu'il y avait aussi dans cette libre circulation des situations inacceptables, des conditions de travail non dignes, des conditions de vie et de logement inacceptables. Je crois que ce débat va nous aider à aborder, à résoudre plus efficacement, plus rapidement ces problèmes.

Ce n'est pas une solution, comme certains l'ont dit, de vouloir abroger la directive sur le détachement, parce que, si on appliquait cette directive-là, eh bien il n'y aurait pas ces situations scandaleuses. Et d'ailleurs, ce n'est pas la situation juridique qui pose problème, c'est sa non-application. C'est le fait que des contrôles sont absents ou insuffisants.

Donc, je crois que c'est un appel à tous, bien sûr aux employeurs, bien sûr aux États membres, d'appliquer le droit, d'appliquer les principes européens. Je crois que, si on fait cela, on aura progressé et on aura rétabli la dignité de tous ces travailleurs qui le méritent.

Nikolina Brnjac, *President-in-Office of the Council*. – Mr President, to conclude, I would like to reiterate the Council's support with regard to the free movement of seasonal and cross-border workers, but let me reiterate the conditions for this support, which are providing these workers with a safe working environment, social protection and equal treatment with national workers.

Member States are ready to debate these issues further, together with Parliament and the Commission, seeking the best solution to face the daunting challenges posed by COVID-19.

Der Präsident. – Vielen Dank, Frau Präsidentin Brnjac. Das war, wenn ich es richtig verstanden habe, Ihre letzte Intervention in Ihrer Funktion im Rahmen der kroatischen Ratspräsidentschaft. Ich bedanke mich für Ihre stete Präsenz. Ich wünsche Ihnen persönlich alles Gute und hoffe, dass wir uns gelegentlich auch mal wiedersehen. Vielen Dank.

Gemäß Artikel 132 Absatz 2 der Geschäftsordnung wurde ein Entschließungsantrag eingereicht.

Die Aussprache ist geschlossen.

Die Abstimmung findet am Freitag, 19. Juni 2020, statt.

Die Sitzung wird bis 18.15 Uhr unterbrochen.

(Die Sitzung wird um 16.34 Uhr unterbrochen.)

Schriftliche Erklärungen (Artikel 171)

Асим Адемов (PPE), *в писмена форма*. – COVID-19 постави пред изпитание нормалното функциониране на веригата за доставка на храни. Селското стопанство като първо и най-уязвимо звено от тази верига почувства силен недостиг на сезонна работна ръка и то в период, когато вътрешните граници на Съюза бяха напълно затворени. Кризата изведе на преден план значението и незаменимата роля на „невидимите“ герои – сезонните работници, които най-често са от уязвими социални групи от Източна Европа. Новата ОСП и стратегията „От фермата до трапезата“ трябва да вземат предвид значението на селскостопанските и сезонни работници, които осигуряват храната на нашата трапеза. Те заслужават здравословни и безопасни условия на труд, справедливо заплащане и социална закрила, както и достъп до здравни услуги в държавите, в които временно пребивават. Много често тези работници стават жертва на злоупотреби от страна на недобросъвестни работодатели или посредници за намиране на временна заетост. В тази връзка е необходимо на сезонните работници да се гарантира прозрачен достъп до информация, на разбираем за тях език, относно трудовите договори, социалните и здравни права, подкрепата в случай на трудова злополука, помощ за репатриране, както и наличните възможности за сигнализиране на злоупотреби и за получаване на подкрепа, без страх от репресии.

Атидже Алиева-Вели (Renew), в писмена форма. – Пандемията оказа сериозно негативно влияние върху икономиката на Съюза и света като цяло. Не може да отречем обаче че някои сектори и работници бяха засегнати много по-тежко от други и това налага мерките за възстановяване и подкрепа да бъдат съобразени с трудностите и спецификите, които отделните сектори и работници изпитват. Сезонните и трансграничните работници срещат съществени затруднения, изискващи незабавни действия от страна ЕК и ДЧ, за да се окаже адекватна защита на хората, които гарантират продоволствената сигурност на Съюза, както и на тези ангажирани с предоставянето на стоки и услуги от основополагащо значение в основни икономически сектори. Приветствам обявените насоки от Комисията, считам обаче, че следва да се направи повече. Все още четем тревожни истории и чуваме за редица случаи, при които не се прилага принципът на равно третиране. Няма хармонизиран процес за сигнализиране на злоупотреби и проблеми, което ограничава възможността да се даде гласност на недопустими практики. Настоявам за подходяща защита от COVID-19 и от последиците, свързани с болестта, включително и лесен достъп до тестване. Призовавам всички държави да предприемат мерки, с които да се гарантира защитата на здравето и безопасността на работниците при пътуването им до съответното работно място, както и да им се осигуряват прилични жилищни условия, а Комисията следва да наблюдава и следи тяхното прилагане.

Carmen Avram (S&D), în scris. – Problemele sezonierilor din Europa nu sunt noi. Vorbim despre ele periodic și, apoi, subiectul trece în plan secund, până la următoarea criză. Nou e, însă, ceea ce s-a întâmplat în ultimele luni cu valul de muncitori români, plecați, în plină pandemie, în necunoscut, pentru a munci în condiții neclare, pe baza unor contracte abuzive, riscându-și sănătatea și viața. Săptămâni la rând am văzut în mass-media din România sute de mărturii despre ce au avut de îndurat.

A fost rezultatul unei furtuni perfecte, provocată de un guvern foarte slab, de înțelegeri bilaterale netransparente cu alte state – ceea ce subminează principiile UE – și indivizi și firme care au încercat să profite de haosul european, sperând că vor face bani ușor pe спателите на някои граждани.

Salut această резолюция и приноса адоса де S&D пе тема сезонниерилор. Social-democrații trebuie să continue să privească dincolo de институții și să vadă mereu omul. Pentru că acest om are nevoie deseori de ajutor și de confortul de а ști că, деși сарас, nu va fi дескалификас ла градул де сетаџеан де мана а doua și nici ласат ин urmă.

Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D), raštu. – Laisvas darbuotojų judėjimas yra darbuotojų teisė ir pagrindinis Europos Sąjungos principas, būtinas tinkamam vidaus rinkos veikimui. Darbo jėgos judumas turėtų būti ne tik laisvas, bet ir teisingas. SESV 45 straipsnio 2 dalyje įtvirtintas vienodo požiūrio principas, kuriuo uždraustas bet koks su įdarbinimu, darbo užmokesčiu ir kitomis darbo ir užimtumo sąlygomis susijęs darbuotojų iš valstybių narių diskriminavimas dėl pilietybės. Šis principas vienodai taikomas tarpvalstybiniams ir sezoniniams darbuotojams, kuriems turi būti užtikrintos vienodos sąlygos su darbuotojais, kurie yra priimančiosios valstybės narės piliečiai, pagal ES teisės aktus, tiek lygių teisių, tiek vienodų darbo sąlygų ar vienodos apsaugos atžvilgiais. Raginame Komisiją ir valstybes nares įgyvendinti priemones, siekiant užtikrinti, kad tarpvalstybiniams ir sezoniniams darbuotojams, tarpvalstybiniams verslininkams ir savarankiškai dirbantiems asmenims būtų suteikta tinkama apsauga nuo COVID-19 ir jos padarinių, įskaitant lengvą prieigą prie testų, ir kad jiems suprantama kalba būtų suteikta informacijos apie riziką bei saugumo priemones, kurių reikia imtis. Raginame įgyvendinti priemones, kad keliaujant būtų užtikrinta jų sveikata bei saugumas ir tinkamos būsto sąlygos, užtikrinant saugaus atstumo laikymąsi ne tik jų gyvenamojoje vietoje, bet ir darbo vietoje, taip pat su repatriacija susiję sprendimai, kurie nebūtų priimami darbuotojų nenaudai, jeigu tokių sprendimų prireiktų.

Milan Brglez (S&D), pisno. – Razprava o evropskem varstvu čezmejnih in sezonskih delavcev v času krize zaradi covid-19 v eni točki povzema ključna vprašanja, s katerimi se Evropski parlament ukvarja na junijskem zasedanju, ter izzive za prihodnost EU.

Posebej zapleten in velikokrat pravno negotov položaj čezmejnih in sezonskih delavcev je z epidemijo covid-19 postal tema, ki zahteva urgentno reševanje za zaščito pravic ljudi in delovanje evropskega gospodarstva. Hkrati pa predstavlja neposreden dokaz o pomenu delujočega schengenskega sistema, v katerem ni notranjih meja in nadzorov.

Prost pretok ljudi je ena izmed štirih temeljnih svoboščin EU, pri čemer je aktualna kriza podkrepila dejstvo, da ta svoboščina nima pravega pomena, če se ne izvaja na pravičen način, v katerem so v ospredju pravice ljudi.

Dostojne zaposlitve v varnem in zdravem delovnem okolju, usklajevanje sistemov socialne varnosti, da nihče ne bi padel med reže razlik v zakonodajah držav članic, skrb za boljšo informiranost delavcev in ustrezen nadzor nad izvajanjem čezmejnega in sezonskega dela, pa tudi odprava pedsodkov ter zmanjševanje ekonomskih in socialnih razlik med in znotraj članic morajo postati teme na vrhu seznama prednostnih nalog EU.

Konferenca o prihodnosti EU ne more miniti brez tega, da bi dala odgovor na vprašanje, kako okrepi dolgo zapostavljeno socialno dimenzijo EU.

Johan Danielsson (S&D), *skriflig*. – Säsongarbetare och gränsöverskridande arbetare i Europa fråntas ofta sina rättigheter till likabehandling och arbetar många gånger med usla arbetsvillkor och undermålig arbetsmiljö. Detta måste få ett slut. Den här resolutionen är ett steg i rätt riktning. Och jag hoppas att kommissionen vidtar de föreslagna åtgärderna. Särskilt akut är det att vi nu under den pågående pandemin får på plats ett systematiskt arbetsmiljöarbete som skyddar även de mest utsatta på arbetsmarknaden. Dock skulle jag, som socialdemokrat, hade önskat ännu tydligare krav på att EU-medel inte ska gå till oseriösa arbetsgivare. I min värld bör inte en enda euro gå till företag som använder EU:s friheter för att utnyttja medmänniskor. Arbetare ska känna sig trygga på sin arbetsplats och ha goda arbetsvillkor – oavsett anställningsform. Konsumenter ska veta att när de handlar något från EU så är det fritt från arbetsexploatering. Och seriösa företag ska veta att de inte riskerar att konkurreras ut av skurföretag bara för att de följer lagar, regler och kollektivavtal. Jag kommer att fortsätta jobba för initiativ på både nationell nivå och EU-nivå som stärker villkoren för dessa utsatta arbetstagare.

Ádám Kósa (PPE), *írásban*. – A határt átlépő munkavállaló és idénymunkás nélkülözhetetlen szerepet töltenek be a kulcsfontosságú gazdasági ágazatokban és a vírus terjedésének megfékezésére és megelőzésére irányuló tagállami intézkedések – különösen a határlezárások, az ideiglenes korlátozások és a belső határellenőrzések – egyaránt súlyosan érintették őket. Fontos olyan intézkedéseket hozni, amelyek egészségük és biztonságuk védelmét szolgálják utazásuk során. Küzdeni kell az idénymunkásokról és a határt átlépő munkavállalókról alkotott negatív kép ellen is. Másrészt a munkáltatóknak is szükségük van egyértelmű szabályokra, a tagállamoknak pedig fel kell készülniük a Covid19 esetleges jövőbeli hullámaira. Ehhez szükség van arra is, hogy az Európai Bizottság iránymutatásokkal és megbízható adatokkal segítse a tagállamokat. Az erre irányuló javaslatokat messzemenően támogatjuk.

Ugyanakkor az állásfoglalás sajnálatos módon a határt átlépő és idénymunkások közé belekeverte a fogalmilag ide nem illő migráns munkavállalókat. A lehető leghatározottabban elutasítom, hogy a biztonságos, rendezett és szabályos migrációra vonatkozó 2018. évi globális megállapodásra legyen bármilyen hivatkozás, különösen annak 5. és 22. célkitűzésére. Mivel azonban az állásfoglalás célcsoportjának helyzetének javítása nagyon fontos, ezért tartózkodni fogok a végszavazás során.

Dan-Ştefan Motreanu (PPE), *în scris*. – Solicit Comisiei Europene să îşi exercite rolul de gardian al tratatelor şi să asigure implementarea principiului egalităţii de tratament prevăzut la articolul 45 alineatul (2) din Tratatul privind funcţionarea Uniunii Europene, care interzice orice discriminare pe motiv de cetăţenie între lucrătorii statelor membre în ceea ce priveşte încadrarea, remunerarea şi condiţiile de muncă.

Pandemia COVID-19 a scos la suprafaţă condiţiile absolut deplorabile în care majoritatea lucrătorilor sezonieri îşi desfăşoară activitatea în Europa anului 2020, evidenţiind abuzuri precum nerespectarea standardelor de sănătate şi de siguranţă la locul de muncă, timpul exagerat de lucru, neasigurarea salariilor minime, condiţiile de cazare improprii şi practicile netransparente şi înşelătoare ale agenţiilor de recrutare şi ale angajatorilor locali.

Invit Comisia Europeană să vină cu propuneri prin care să asigurăm că lucrătorii dispun de contracte de muncă clare înainte de plecare, să înfiinţeze un instrument care să le permită lucrătorilor să raporteze în mod anonim abuzurile şi să asigure organizarea continuă de inspecţii comune transfrontaliere la locurile de muncă.

Evelyn Regner (S&D), schriftlich. – Die COVID-19-Krise hat die bereits vorher bestehenden katastrophalen Arbeits- und Lebensbedingungen von vielen Beschäftigten nochmal deutlich gemacht. Vor allem Saison- und LeiharbeiterInnen wie ErntehelferInnen und andere grenzüberschreitend tätige Menschen wie Pflegekräfte. Es darf nicht sein, dass günstige Preise mehr wert sind als die Gesundheit und Würde der Menschen, die Gemüse ernten oder im Schlachthof arbeiten. Mit verstärkten Kontrollen, gemeinsamen europäischen Mindeststandards und einer Europäischen Sozialversicherungsnummer müssen wir endlich bessere Arbeitsbedingungen schaffen. Auch in den langfristigen Plänen der EU-Kommission muss qualitative Arbeit und faire Entlohnung eine wichtige Rolle spielen. Ein soziales Europa muss auf alle Beschäftigten schauen, unabhängig von ihrer Herkunft. Es ist höchste Zeit, dass wir der Ausbeutung von Saisonkräften ein Ende setzen und den SystemerhalterInnen nicht nur Respekt und Applaus geben, sondern vor allem eine gute Entlohnung und menschenwürdige Arbeitsbedingungen!

PRESIDÊNCIA: PEDRO SILVA PEREIRA

Vice-Presidente

15. Wiederaufnahme der Sitzung

(A sessão tem início às 18h19)

16. Änderung der Tagesordnung: siehe Protokoll

17. Bekanntgabe der Ergebnisse der Abstimmung

Presidente. – Passo agora ao anúncio dos resultados do segundo período de votação que realizámos.

(O Presidente anuncia o resultado das votações do segundo período de votações.)

Passamos agora ao terceiro período de votação, mas, antes de começarmos, quero dar a palavra à nossa colega Hohlmeier que pediu para se pronunciar sobre a proposta de resolução sobre a reabertura do processo judicial contra o primeiro-ministro da República Checa por utilização indevida de fundos da União Europeia e potenciais conflitos de interesses (2019/2987(RSP)) (B9-0192/2020).

Monika Hohlmeier (PPE). – Herr Präsident, liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen! Gleich werden wir über den Entschließungsantrag zur Wiederaufnahme der Ermittlungen gegen den Ministerpräsidenten der Tschechischen Republik aufgrund der missbräuchlichen Verwendung von EU-Mitteln und potenzieller Interessenkonflikte abstimmen.

Dieser Antrag wurde fraktionsübergreifend erarbeitet und stützt sich unter anderem auf Erkenntnisse der CONT-Dienstreise nach Tschechien. Dort haben sich unsere Sorgen erhärtet, dass in Tschechien kein funktionierendes System zur Vermeidung und Aufdeckung von Interessenkonflikten besteht. Systematische oder systemische Intransparenz und eine weitverzweigte Aufteilung an Zuständigkeiten erschweren eine effektive Kontrolle und Vermeidung von Interessenkonflikten enorm.

Zudem scheint die höchste Prüfbehörde in ihrer Arbeit stark eingeschränkt zu sein. Die Freiheit der Medien wird zunehmend problematischer, und auf Beamte wird Druck ausgeübt. Die Kernbotschaft des Entschließungsantrags lautet: Sollte ein schwerwiegender Interessenkonflikt bestätigt werden, muss er umgehend gelöst werden.

Hierzu bestehen im Grunde drei Möglichkeiten: Beseitigung des wirtschaftlichen Interesses, Ende des Bezugs von Subventionen oder Enthaltung bei Entscheidungen, die in irgendeiner Weise den Interessenkonflikt befördern können. Sollte dies nicht möglich sein, bleibt in der Konsequenz nur noch ein Rücktritt vom Amt.

Ich empfehle daher, bei allen getrennten und gesonderten Abstimmungen mit „Plus“ abzustimmen, um die klare Botschaft des Antrags nicht zu schwächen. EU-Subventionen sollen der breiten Mehrheit der Bevölkerung zugutekommen, nicht einzelne Oligarchen bereichern.

18. Dritte Abstimmungsrunde

Presidente. – Estamos agora em condições de iniciar o terceiro período de votação de hoje.

Este período de votação está, portanto, aberto e prolonga-se até às 19h45.

A votação é feita segundo o mesmo procedimento utilizado nas votações anteriores.

Os resultados deste terceiro período de votação serão anunciados às 22h15.

(A sessão é suspensa às 18h38).

PRESIDENZA DELL'ON. FABIO MASSIMO CASTALDO

Vicepresidente

19. Wiederaufnahme der Sitzung

(La seduta è ripresa alle 22.16)

20. Bekanntgabe der Ergebnisse der Abstimmung: siehe Protokoll

21. Erklärungen zur Abstimmung: siehe Protokoll

22. Berichtigungen des Stimmverhaltens und beabsichtigtes Stimmverhalten: siehe Protokoll

23. Vorlage von Dokumenten: siehe Protokoll

24. Mittelübertragungen und Haushaltsbeschlüsse: siehe Protokoll

25. Petitionen: siehe Protokoll

26. Tagesordnung der nächsten Sitzung: siehe Protokoll

27. Schluss der Sitzung

(La seduta è tolta alle 22.20)

Legende der verwendeten Zeichen

*	Konsultationsverfahren
***	Zustimmungsverfahren
***I	Ordentliches Gesetzgebungsverfahren, erste Lesung
***II	Ordentliches Gesetzgebungsverfahren, zweite Lesung
***III	Ordentliches Gesetzgebungsverfahren, dritte Lesung

(Das angegebene Verfahren entspricht der von der Kommission vorgeschlagenen Rechtsgrundlage.)

Abkürzungen der Ausschüsse

AFET	Ausschuss für auswärtige Angelegenheiten
DEVE	Entwicklungsausschuss
INTA	Ausschuss für internationalen Handel
BUDG	Haushaltsausschuss
CONT	Haushaltskontrollausschuss
ECON	Ausschuss für Wirtschaft und Währung
EMPL	Ausschuss für Beschäftigung und soziale Angelegenheiten
ENVI	Ausschuss für Umweltfragen, öffentliche Gesundheit und Lebensmittelsicherheit
ITRE	Ausschuss für Industrie, Forschung und Energie
IMCO	Ausschuss für Binnenmarkt und Verbraucherschutz
TRAN	Ausschuss für Verkehr und Fremdenverkehr
REGI	Ausschuss für regionale Entwicklung
AGRI	Ausschuss für Landwirtschaft und ländliche Entwicklung
PECH	Fischereiausschuss
CULT	Ausschuss für Kultur und Bildung
JURI	Rechtsausschuss
LIBE	Ausschuss für bürgerliche Freiheiten, Justiz und Inneres
AFCO	Ausschuss für konstitutionelle Fragen
FEMM	Ausschuss für die Rechte der Frau und die Gleichstellung der Geschlechter
PETI	Petitionsausschuss
DROI	Unterausschuss Menschenrechte
SEDE	Unterausschuss Sicherheit und Verteidigung

Abkürzungen der Fraktionen

PPE	Fraktion der Europäischen Volkspartei (Christdemokraten)
S&D	Fraktion der Progressiven Allianz der Sozialdemokraten im Europäischen Parlament
Renew	Fraktion Renew Europe
ID	Fraktion Identität und Demokratie
Vers/ALE	Fraktion der Grünen/Freie Europäische Allianz
ECR	Fraktion der Europäischen Konservativen und Reformer
GUE/NGL	Fraktion der Vereinigten Europäischen Linken/Nordische Grüne Linke
NI	Fraktionslos



AUSFÜHRLICHE SITZUNGSBERICHTE VOM 19. JUNI 2020

(C/2024/4770)

EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT

SITZUNGSPERIODE 2020-2021

Sitzungen vom 17. bis 19. Juni 2020

BRÜSSEL

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AUSFÜHRLICHE SITZUNGSBERICHTE VOM 19. JUNI 2020

ELNÖKÖL: KLÁRA DOBREV

alelnök

1. Eröffnung der Sitzung

(Az ülést 9.00-kor nyitják meg)

2. Erste Abstimmungsrunde

Elnök asszony. – Mielőtt elkezdénénk a szavazást, szeretném megadni a szót Vincze Lóránt úrnak, aki az eljárási szabályzat 59. cikkének (4) bekezdése értelmében kíván felszólalni az – Európai polgári kezdeményezés: a gyűjtési, ellenőrzési és vizsgálati szakaszokra vonatkozó határidőkkel kapcsolatos ideiglenes intézkedések a Covid19-járványra tekintettel (2020/0099(COD)) – című jelentés tárgyában, intézményközi tárgyalások céljából, és azért, hogy az ügyet a Bizottsághoz visszautalják.

Loránt Vincze, Rapporteur. – I would like to ask the House to agree that after the vote on the regulation laying down temporary measures concerning the time limits for the collection, verification and examination stages provided for in Regulation 788 on the European citizens' initiative in view of the COVID-19 outbreak, we refer the matter back to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) for interinstitutional negotiations under Rule 59(4).

Elnök asszony. – A kérelemről a Bizottság javaslatáról tartott zárószavazás után szavazunk.

Az első szavazási kört ezennel megnyitom.

A szavazás 9.00-tól 10.15-ig tart.

A szavazási mód ugyanaz, mint tegnap.

Az összes szavazás név szerinti szavazás lesz és a képviselők a plenáris ülés weboldalán közzétett dokumentumban ellenőrizhetik szavazataikat és a szavazások eredményeit.

A szavazatindokolásokat írásban lehet benyújtani. Kivételesen csak a legfeljebb 400 szavas szavazatindokolások fogadhatók el.

Ezennel megnyitom a szavazások első körét. 10.15-ig szavazhatnak.

A szavazások eredményeinek bejelentésére 13.30-kor kerül sor.

(Az ülést 9.04-kor felfüggesztik)

3. Wiederaufnahme der Sitzung

(Az ülés 9.15-kor folytatódik.)

4. Landraub und Abholzung im Amazonasgebiet (Aussprache)

Elnök asszony. – A következő pont a Bizottság nyilatkozata a Nagyarányú földszerzésről és erdőirtásról Amazóniában (2020/2689(RSP)).

Tájékoztatom a képviselőket, hogy e vita végén nem kerül sor „catch the eye” eljárásra és kékkártyás kérdésekre.

Virginijus Sinkevičius, Member of the Commission. – Madam President, honourable Members, the Amazon is a rainforest without equal. It plays a unique role for the health of our planet, our diversity and our climate. It is also essential for the indigenous people that call it home and depend on it for their livelihoods and their traditional culture.

The challenges that affect the Amazon Basin are complex, multi-faceted and require close regional cooperation among the countries that share it. The environmental dimension of these challenges is closely interconnected with fundamental socio-economic factors, as well as issues such as widespread poverty, corruption, human rights abuses, stability and security.

Territories of indigenous people and local communities in the Amazon overlap to a very large degree with the world's best-preserved biodiversity and ecosystems.

The indigenous people and local communities have therefore to be part of the solution. Tackling deforestation in the Amazon is essential not only to fight global biodiversity loss and climate change, but also to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication.

In line with the ambitions set out in the European Green Deal and the new EU biodiversity strategy for 2030, the EU is fully committed to tackling deforestation. We are determined to take a leading role internationally and to use diplomacy, trade policy and development cooperation tools.

At the global level, the EU will push for an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework to ensure that by 2050 all of the world's ecosystems, including forests, are restored, resilient and adequately protected.

The global framework should include specific targets for halting the loss of primary forests and for preserving ecosystems' health, in line with the proposals in the EU biodiversity strategy.

We will continue to support action against deforestation and forest degradation as a part of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including through continued commitment to raise the ambition of forest competence, of nationally determined contributions and continued support to the international initiative on reducing emissions for deforestation and forest degradation.

With regard to EU policies, the Commission is working on a series of actions to fight deforestation as a part of the follow-up to our communication on stepping-up EU action to protect and restore the world's forests adopted in July 2019.

As part of the follow up to last year's communication, the Commission will present in 2021 a legislative proposal and other measures to avoid or minimise the placing of products associated with deforestation on the EU market and to promote forest-friendly imports and value chains. We are currently conducting the related impact assessment.

Instruments could include voluntary commitment of the industry, mandatory labelling, due diligence, certification schemes, approaches similar to the EU system against illegal fishing, bilateral agreements or other measures.

We very much welcome the European Parliament's engagement on deforestation and look forward to Ms Burkhardt's draft legislative initiative report, which once adopted, we will evaluate carefully.

To tackle the issue of deforestation, we also need to engage more with the private sector, especially with the EU, to get stronger commitments from their side on sustainable sourcing.

As announced in the biodiversity strategy, the Commission will also put forward a new initiative in 2021 on sustainable corporate governance. This initiative will address human rights, environmental duty of care and due diligence across sectors. Other action taken by the Commission includes the creation of a multi-stakeholder platform on deforestation, which will meet for the first time in October and of an EU observatory that will use the earth observation and trade data to facilitate information on global deforestation.

The EU is determined to work in partnership with, and support efforts by partner countries in the Amazon to tackle deforestation. Human rights, including those of indigenous people, and local communities in the Amazon, as well as environmental protection are at the core of the values underpinning the EU relations with third countries, including the countries of the Amazon basin.

Therefore, these issues are systematically raised within our established mechanisms for political dialogue and cooperation. Our dialogue is not limited to central government. We are also actively engaging with a broad range of stakeholders including sub-national local governance, judiciary authorities, civil society and progressive business associations. Our dialogue is key to success.

Free trade agreements with countries in the region are another way to engage and promote cooperation on international commitments on climate and the environment in particular, in the context of their trade and sustainable development chapters.

The EU is addressing the root causes of deforestation through our significant development assistance to forests, land use, sustainable livelihoods and indigenous people in the Amazon basin, with a total of ongoing projects amounting to EUR 166 million.

Protecting biodiversity and fighting deforestation requires protected areas and good governance. It also goes hand in hand with improving the livelihoods of local populations and respecting the rights of indigenous people. This integrated sustainable development approach is at the centre of our development cooperation policy. The Commission supports the implementation of the ILO Convention 169 on the indigenous and tribal people as well as the implementation of the UN voluntary guidelines on governance of tenure of land and forests.

Finally, our human rights instruments have been mobilised on rights of indigenous people and of environmental defenders, unfortunately too often at stake in the Amazon region. I look forward to working closely with you on this important issue.

Mairead McGuinness, *on behalf of the PPE Group*. – Madam President, and thank you Commissioner for your commitment to the future, but of course we have had this debate here in the Chamber before.

Last summer we all watched as the Amazon burned, and despite our lofty words and our concerns, nothing has changed. And that's why we're back here today talking about land-grabbing and deforestation. We cannot take our eyes off this subject.

We're very alarmed about the continued loss of forests in the Amazon to commercial agriculture, logging and mining. We are alarmed at the proposed law to legalise land-grabbing by the Brazilian government, which would further incentivise taking of public lands into private ownership and the destruction of more forest area. And I think we need to get into our heads the scale of this. You're talking about an area of over 60 million hectares.

We are working on a new climate law in this house with commitments on climate neutrality by 2050. We're leading as we should. We're ambitious and we want to lead the way. But we can't do it on our own.

COVID-19 will see the world's emissions of carbon dioxide fall by 7% this year. Yet in Brazil, we will see them rise by 10% because, and mainly due to, deforestation.

Ratification of the EU Mercosur trade deal is still on the agenda. We continue to be concerned about the opening up of European markets to more beef and soya and its consequences for deforestation. Despite being told by the Commission that the deal will encourage Brazil and the Mercosur bloc to meet climate obligations, we remain sceptical.

But people in glass houses should not throw too many stones. We are part of the problem. Our own meat production demands protein for animal feed and it comes from Brazil and other places. Yet we have restricted the ability of our own grain growers to supply the market because of the rules we have imposed but have no control over what comes into Europe.

My last remark is as follows: I hope that the EU Farm to Fork strategy, the biodiversity strategy, and more importantly the review of EU trade policy just launched, will look closely at the complexity of our supply chains and the absolute contradiction between our agriculture, environment, trade and climate policy.

We've got to do that now Commissioner.

Kathleen Van Brempt, *on behalf of the S&D Group*. – Madam President, I welcome the Commissioner's introduction and I have to say that I do not doubt the intentions of this Commission to tackle climate and deforestation together. But, if we want to achieve our goals, and we know what our goals are, then the Amazon is key in that fight. It's the largest carbon sink on the planet, and the dramatic thing is, it is changing. If we do not act decisively, the Amazon could be a net carbon emitter by 2030. Can you imagine what the effect of that could be? So, the situation is really serious, and we have to act decisively on it and ensure that it is not hopeless.

Last year, as mentioned, we already discussed the wildfires in the Amazon. Well, let me tell you that, since then, the situation is getting worse every month and the fire season hasn't even started. As mentioned earlier, 80% of deforestation is linked to agriculture and to consumption in Europe, so we do have a task ahead.

We have an extremely vigilant task: the Bolsonaro Government is using the COVID-19 crisis to push through further deregulation on environmental policy. We already know that the government blocked 30% of the National Environment Agency's budget for fire prevention. We also know that the Bolsonaro administration has fired most of the directors of the Environmental Institute controlling illegal logging. We know that they fired the head of Brazil's space agency, which collects data on forests. And today, using the COVID crisis to recognise land grabbing is simply unacceptable.

Exactly one year ago, the European Commission signed an agreement with the Mercosur countries on free trade with the inclusion of a so-called binding sustainable chapter. And, as you mentioned, the Commission always argues that that chapter is our safeguard for the preservation of the Amazon. Can we still believe that? That a year after the signing off, the situation is getting worse and worse. So this Parliament needs to ask for real safeguards on the preservation of the Amazon and that will be key in the discussion on the free trade agreement. Let me be clear: no free trade without good climate action. If the world wants to be a partner in trade with us, it needs to be a partner in climate action. And that is for us, the S&D, key for the discussions in the future and the policy of the future, let me be extremely clear on that.

Jordi Cañas, *en nombre del Grupo Renew*. – Señora presidenta, comisario, la Amazonía está amenazada. El acaparamiento de tierras, la tala y quema de selva para desarrollar actividades ganaderas o agrícolas, la obtención ilegal de títulos de propiedad, junto a la minería, son responsables de su creciente deforestación y degradación. Pero, ante ello, ¿cuál es la mejor estrategia para revertir esta situación que amenaza al clima, a la biodiversidad, pero también al desarrollo sostenible de los países amazónicos y al derecho de sus ciudadanos a disfrutar de una vida digna?

¿Con permanentes reproches y reprimendas teñidas de paternalismo neocolonial, o, por el contrario, implementando una estrategia pensada con respeto, recursos, compromiso, cooperación y acuerdos?

Porque, señorías, para que nuestra estrategia sobre el clima tenga un impacto global real, necesitamos socios que se sumen a ella, y eso solo lo podemos conseguir sobre la base de acuerdos vinculantes. Es necesaria una actitud vigilante desde este Parlamento sobre las acciones políticas de aquellos Gobiernos de la región que vayan en la dirección equivocada, pero también debemos reconocer los esfuerzos de los países amazónicos, que han firmado el Acuerdo de París, el Pacto de Leticia o el Acuerdo de Escazú y que han desarrollado iniciativas nacionales para combatir esta situación entre tremendas dificultades económicas y sociales.

También debemos apoyar a la sociedad civil, a las poblaciones indígenas, a los defensores del medio ambiente, es decir, a los países. Porque los países no son solo sus Gobiernos. Ellos, como nosotros, pasan, pero los problemas continúan, y solo con instrumentos de incidencia real podemos contribuir a nuestro objetivo compartido. Y el instrumento más poderoso que tenemos son los acuerdos comerciales y de asociación. Estos son clave para colaborar con nuestros socios en la estrategia por el clima, como el Acuerdo de la Unión Europea y el Mercosur, un acuerdo que incorpora un capítulo específico dedicado al desarrollo sostenible y a la protección del medio ambiente, y que recoge el cumplimiento del Acuerdo de París como un elemento vinculante.

Apreciadas señorías, no será con demagogia ideológica como apagaremos los incendios o frenaremos la minería ilegal, o la deforestación, o el acaparamiento de tierras, sino con respeto, recursos, cooperación y acuerdos.

Aurelia Beigneux, *au nom du groupe ID.* – Madame la Présidente, effectivement, la déforestation en Amazonie continue de battre des records, provoquant une légitime émotion jusque sur nos bancs.

Les forêts tropicales sont les premières touchées par la déforestation, tant anthropique que naturelle. Pendant que votre Commission débat sur ce sujet, nous voyons en Europe un recul des terres agricoles. En France, elles ne représentent plus que 54 % du territoire, tandis que les sols artificiels augmentent, représentant aujourd'hui 10 % de la métropole.

À qui la faute? À vous et à votre modèle agricole. S'il y a lieu de critiquer l'appréciation de la situation par le gouvernement brésilien, cela ne peut pas vous détourner de vos propres responsabilités. Comment pouvez-vous vous indigner des pratiques des pays tiers lorsque les importations européennes favorisent la déforestation importée? L'Europe est le premier continent en termes de déforestation importée. L'Union européenne a une influence directe sur l'importation de produits à base de soja, d'huile de palme, de cacao et de caoutchouc.

Quant à l'accaparement des terres, ses causes sont claires: la mondialisation agricole. Le soja est, depuis 20 ans, l'un des principaux moteurs de la déforestation, notamment en Amazonie. Entre 70 % et 90 % de la production de soja dans le monde est utilisé pour nourrir des animaux d'élevage. Il est ensuite acheté par l'industrie agro-alimentaire et la grande distribution. Ce modèle intensif est l'un des piliers de vos traités, le dernier en date, le fameux et honteux traité du Mercosur. Comment pouvez-vous vous inquiéter de la déforestation au Brésil lorsqu'on sait que le traité du Mercosur encourage cette pratique? C'est honteux! C'est d'ailleurs pour cette raison que le Parlement néerlandais a voté contre ce traité, et je m'en félicite.

Pour rappel, l'Union européenne souhaite importer d'Amérique du Sud, plus de 300 000 tonnes de viande aux droits de douane largement réduits. Et là encore, votre vision européenne nuit tant aux producteurs qu'à l'environnement. Vous êtes donc fatalement un maillon de la chaîne de la déforestation, il faut le reconnaître. Comment pouvez-vous vous émouvoir de cette situation quand un grand nombre d'entre vous signent servilement les traités de libre-échange qui provoquent cette déforestation?

Sortons des nombreux traités de libre-échange que l'Union européenne a ratifiés, défendons un autre modèle tourné vers le localisme, arrêtons d'importer les produits de la vie quotidienne moins chers que le produit de la ferme d'à côté, stoppons cette libéralisation à outrance et revenons-en à un modèle réellement éthique.

Anna Cavazzini, *on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group.* – Madam President, first of all, I want to express my solidarity with the people in the Amazon region and especially in Brazil suffering from the outbreak of COVID-19 and losing family members and friends. In this situation, what can be more shocking than hearing a minister calling to get rid of environmental protection while people are distracted by COVID-19? This is what Brazilian Environment Minister, Ricardo Salles, was caught saying on video.

Deforestation in the Amazon keeps increasing and this is a direct consequence of government decisions. Control agencies dismantled, penalty payments for illegal logging stopped and, if this were not enough, the Bolsonaro administration is supporting a law which would legalise land grabbing in the Amazon. This law could be passed by Congress at any moment. I support everyone on the ground fighting these destructive policies and call on my colleagues in the Brazilian Congress to stop this course of action, especially the law on land grabbing.

But, of course, we in Europe also have a role to play. Supermarkets in the UK threatened to boycott agricultural products from Brazil if the land grabbing law is passed. In the space of a week, 350 000 people in Germany have signed a petition to ask German supermarkets to do the same and we urgently need deforestation-free supply chains and to end our dependency on the soil.

Let's face it, I think the Mercosur agreement is dead. Resistance was big before, but now in this line that leads Brazilian environmental policy, I don't see any chance for that deal.

Ангел Джамбазки, *от илето на групата ECR*. – Уважаеми колеги, трудно мога да си представя по-неподходящо време за този дебат. Европейският континент се тресе от протести, милиони европейци загубиха своите работни места, вандали грабят магазини, унищожават и пренаписват европейската история и в този момент Европейският парламент дебатира за горите в Амазонка.

Уважаеми колеги, кратко географско напомняне – река Амазонка не минава през нито една държава членка, в която живеят вашите избиратели и хората, които с данъците си издържат тази институция. Трудно може да се намери точна единица-мярка за непригодност и безполезност. По-странен би бил само дебат за липсата на вода на Марс, но не смея да ви го предложа, за да не взема да го видя в следващия дневен ред.

Още повече, тази зала говори за екология и чистота на въздуха, когато гласува и ще гласува за това хиляди камиони да се разкарват празни из Европа и да замърсяват въздуха на европейците. Що за дебелоочие, що за нахалство. Тази зала може да реши да пази чист европейския въздух, но под натиска на ЕНП, на S&D, на RENEW, заради партийните майки-централи гласуват – свиват ушите и гласуват – за това да е мръсен въздухът, а сега са седнали да учат други държави на други континенти как да си пазят въздуха. Много странно, уважаеми. Ако тази зала гласува за замърсяване на въздуха, би трябвало да мълчи за Амазонка и за други подобни.

И още нещо, уважаеми колеги. Отново чухме дори тук в дебрите, в джунглите на Амазонка, отново чухме за колониализма, за патернализма, за привилегиите на белия европеец, за това, че трябва да се извиняваме, за това, че има историческа вина. Уважаеми колеги, ако си мислите, че с извиняване, с коленичене, унижаване, самобичуване, авторасисъм ще спечелите повече гласове, дълбоко грешите. Ако си мислите, че оправдавайки бунтовете и варварщината, ще получите подкрепа, не, грешите. Когато свършат с магазините, когато свършат с парфюмите, ще дойдат за вас, напомня ви историята. Така започва всяка революция, която вее червеното знаме, сърпа и чука. Първо бие, а после граби магазините и после идва за частната собственост. Вижте болшевишката Русия, вижте историята на окупацията на Източна Европа, включително на моята държава.

Така че не се лъжете. Няма да получите повече гласове, ще получите само единствено варварство и заличаване на историята. Но аз не възразявам. Който иска да се извинява, да се извинява. Който има съмнения или срам за своето колониално минало, нека се извинява. Но, уважаеми, моля не си губете времето. Не очаквайте от нас да се извиняваме за нещо, за което не сме виновни.

Българинът не коленичи, българинът не се унижава, българинът не проси милост, когато на вратата дойде грабител, поробител или варварин. Когато това се случи, ние българите стоим здраво на краката си и с крепка десница браним своя дом, своето отечество, своята култура, своя род и своята родина.

Това правим ние, така че желая ви успех със защитата на горите в Амазонка. Безспорно епичен, планетарно важен дебат. Когато дойде следващ такъв за нуждата от повече карлсоновци с перки в Европейския съюз или за нуждата от още нови борби с вятърни мелници по Дон Кихот, обадете ми се, ще дойда, ще дебатираме и ще си говорим за всички тези неща.

Anja Hazekamp, *namens de GUE/NGL-Fractie*. – Voorzitter, de wereld was nog niet zo lang geleden massaal verontwaardigd na het zien van beelden van de brandende Amazone. Door de coronacrisis lijkt ze een beetje naar de achtergrond verdwenen, maar de crisis in het regenwoud gaat gewoon door. Sterker nog, ze is veel erger geworden.

De Amazone is van enorm belang voor de biodiversiteit en cruciaal voor het klimaat en voor de mensen en dieren die er wonen. Toch wordt de Amazone met medewerking van de Europese Unie in een rap tempo vernietigd en gekapt. En met onaanvaardbare mensenrechtenschendingen op de koop toe, om onze brandstoftanks te vullen, maar vooral om onze honger naar goedkoop veevoer en goedkoop vlees te stillen.

Ieder jaar importeert Europa zo'n anderhalf miljoen ton soja en 140 000 ton rundvlees uit Brazilië. Die import wordt nog groter als Europa de Mercosurhandelsovereenkomst doorzet!

Als we de Amazone willen redden en het wereldwijde biodiversiteitsverlies écht willen stoppen, dan moeten we daar ook naar handelen. Commissaris, u kunt geen succes behalen met uw biodiversiteitsstrategie als uw collega's tegelijkertijd het Europese handelsbeleid en de landbouwpolitiek op de oude voet doorzetten. Als u ja zegt tegen een overtuigd klimaat- en biodiversiteitsbeleid en een duurzame voedselproductie, bent u dan ook bereid om nee te zeggen tegen vernietigende handelsverdragen als Mercosur, de import van soja voor veevoer, het uitgeven van miljarden aan milieu- en klimaatschadelijke subsidies voor de vee-industrie, inclusief de promotie van vlees?

Want minder vlees eten is niet alleen goed voor de Amazone, maar ook voor het welzijn van dieren. En nu we het toch over dierenwelzijn hebben, precies op dit moment heeft dit Parlement de kans om daar iets voor te doen. Ik roep mijn collega's op om vóór de oprichting van de enquêtecommissie tegen diertransporten te stemmen, zodat de structurele en ernstige misstanden bij diertransporten nu eens eindelijk grondig kunnen worden onderzocht.

Eleonora Evi (NI). – Signora Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, un'inchiesta della ONG *Animal Equality* ha dimostrato il legame tra deforestazione in Amazzonia e la creazione di grandi allevamenti di bestiame destinati al macello, osservando come siano stati rasi al suolo quasi 6 000 chilometri quadrati di foresta pluviale, l'equivalente di 60 campi da calcio ogni ora. Un altro recente rapporto di *Greenpeace* dal titolo «Foreste al macello» dice che i consumi dell'Unione europea sono legati al 10 % della deforestazione globale.

I cittadini europei sono così complici inconsapevoli della distruzione di preziosi ecosistemi per il pianeta, come l'Amazzonia. Mi dispiace ravvisare che se, da una parte, la Commissione annuncia una proposta legislativa per garantire che i prodotti distribuiti sul mercato europeo non siano legati alla deforestazione, dall'altra, ha portato avanti negoziati sull'accordo commerciale tra l'Unione europea e il Mercosur, ignorando l'obbligo legale di assicurare che l'accordo non porti a degrado sociale, economico, ambientale e alla violazione dei diritti umani. La Commissione ci deve dire in che modo intende in concreto riflettere gli impegni presi di protezione degli ecosistemi e lotta alla deforestazione anche negli accordi commerciali.

Adam Jarubas (PPE). – Pani Przewodnicząca! Szanowni Państwo! Wylesianie Amazonii jest stałym punktem naszej troski i debat. Ostatnio rozmawialiśmy o tym we wrześniu ubiegłego roku, zastanawiając się, jak można wstrzymać pożary w puszczy nazywanej płucami świata i będącej największym ośrodkiem bioróżnorodności. Tak jak we wrześniu, Komisja wymienia umowy handlowe z państwami Mercosuru, jako element środków dyplomatycznych, które mogą posłużyć do wyegzekwowania przestrzegania przez te państwa zapisów porozumienia paryskiego i wstrzymania wylesiania Amazonii.

Panie Komisarzu, ma Pan rację, mówiąc że wstrzymanie wylesiania Amazonii jest zgodne z celami Europejskiego Zielonego Ładu i strategii na rzecz bioróżnorodności. Pamiętajmy jednak, że Europa, jeśli ma zostać konkurencyjna, realizując Zielony Ład, musi wymagać od swoich partnerów handlowych podobnych standardów. Chodzi tu o spełnianie kryteriów klimatycznych i zrównoważonego rozwoju, gdzie w negocjacjach, obok umowy handlowej, możemy jeszcze użyć *carbon border adjustment mechanism*. Ale także chodzi o spełnianie równoważnych z europejskimi kryteriów dobrostanu zwierząt czy bezpieczeństwa żywności, jakie musi spełniać rolnik francuski, niemiecki czy polski. Musimy wstrzymać wylesianie Amazonii, ale nie może to się odbyć kosztem wpuszczenia do Europy nieuczciwej konkurencji w rolnictwie i narażenia zdrowia Europejczyków poprzez dopuszczenie do obrotu żywności o niesprawdzałnej jakości.

Delara Burkhardt (S&D). – Frau Präsidentin! Sehr geehrter Herr Kommissar, liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen! Tief im Norden des brasilianischen Amazonasgebiets lebt die indigene Gemeinschaft der Ituna-Itatá. Ihr Gebiet, die Terra Indígena Ituna-Itatá, steht unter Schutz. Theoretisch – denn faktisch drängen immer mehr Holzfäller, Goldschürfer, Viehzüchter, Sojabaronen in diese Schutzgebiete ein und machten das Gebiet 2019 zum am stärksten geschädigten indigenen Gebiet Brasiliens.

Verschiedene bereits erlassene oder geplante Gesetze der Regierung Bolsonaro zur Schwächung von Umweltbehörden, zur Erleichterung der Inbesitznahme von Land und zur Amnestie von Landraub lassen wenig Besserung befürchten. Das ist eine soziale, aber auch eine riesige ökologische Katastrophe, da mit dem Amazonas einer der artenreichsten und wichtigsten Kämpfer gegen den Klimawandel zerstört wird.

Aber das ist nicht nur eine brasilianische Angelegenheit. Auch Europa trägt eine Verantwortung, denn 10 % der weltweiten Zerstörung von Wäldern fallen auf uns und unseren Konsum in der Europäischen Union zurück, beispielsweise auf Soja, Palmöl, Fleisch und Kautschuk. Viele Unternehmen sind sich des Problems bewusst und bemühen sich, nachhaltig zu produzieren, aber diejenigen, die weiterhin Wälder abholzen, profitieren prächtig.

Da dürfen wir nicht nur zugucken, darauf müssen wir Antworten finden. Diese Woche habe ich meinen Berichtsentwurf für einen EU-Rechtsrahmen zur Eindämmung und Umkehr der weltweiten Entwaldung eingereicht. Darum fordere ich, dass Unternehmen, die bald Risikogüter auf den europäischen Markt bringen wollen, und Finanzinstitute, die sie dabei unterstützen, viel mehr darauf achten müssen, wo ihre Produkte herkommen und unter welchen Umständen sie erzeugt wurden. Dafür braucht es verbindliche Sorgfaltspflichten. Damit verpflichten wir Unternehmen dazu, dass ihre Produkte nicht zur Zerstörung von Wäldern, zur Schädigung von Ökosystemen oder zur Verletzung von Menschenrechten beigetragen haben.

Auch die Gemeinschaft der Ituna-Itatá würde davon profitieren. Von ihrem Gebiet dürften dann nämlich keine Agrarprodukte mehr auf dem europäischen Markt landen, die dort angebaut wurden, wo mal Regenwald war und dessen landwirtschaftlicher Nutzung sie nicht ausdrücklich zugestimmt haben. Die Ituna-Itatá können nämlich nicht darauf bauen, dass ihre Regierung ihnen Rechtssicherheit gibt und in Rechtsstreitigkeiten zur Seite steht, um gegen Landraub und Naturzerstörung vorzugehen.

So geht es vielen Betroffenen in Ländern mit schwachen Rechtssystemen oder in Ländern, wo dies politisch nicht gewollt ist – wie in Brasilien. Deshalb müssen sie Zugang zu europäischen Gerichten bekommen. Wo europäische Unternehmen ihren Sorgfaltspflichten nicht nachkommen, müssen sie dafür haftbar gemacht werden, denn ein Gesetz ohne Haftung ist zahnlos.

Der brasilianische Wald, die Ituna-Itatá scheinen weit weg, aber ihr Schutz hängt auch von den Produkten ab, die bei uns im Supermarktregal stehen. Wir haben es in der Hand, die Regeln zu ändern und entwaldungs- und menschenrechtsverletzungsfreie Produkte zur Norm in Europa zu machen. Packen wir es an!

Nicolae Ștefănuță (Renew). – Doamnă președintă, ce diferențiază liderii extraordinari de cei slabi într-o perioadă atât de încercată? Ceea ce contează este unde se găsesc prioritățile: la interesele populației pe termen lung sau la interesele unui grup mic pe termen scurt. Lideri ale căror acțiuni pun în pericol viața și traiul cetățenilor sunt adesea principalele surse ale unor teorii ale conspirației și ale unor dezinformări și sunt caracterizați, în general, prin luări impulsive de decizii, așa cum este și acest Bolsonaro.

În timp ce brazilienii se gândesc cu frică la ziua de mâine, având o mie de morți în fiecare zi din cauza crizei Covid-19, ei bine, Bolsonaro se gândește la interesele de grup ale unor afaceri din Brazilia, ale unor întreprinzători și se gândește la asta fără să se gândească un pic la interesul planetei, la interesul cetățenilor ei și al Amazonului.

Amazonul brazilian este în pragul unei catastrofe și asta înainte ca sezonul incendiilor măcar să fi început. Acesta urmează și vom vedea din nou planeta suferind și arzând. Brazilia face pași în urmă cu o viteză uluitoare în ceea ce privește protecția mediului, iar această relaxare include o nouă lege propusă pentru a da titluri de proprietate unor agricultori care ocupă ilegal pământurile indigenilor.

Cifrele nu mint. Anul trecut, 99 % din toate defrișările din Brazilia au fost ilegale, distrugând 12 000 de kilometri pătrați de pădure naturală, cea mai mare parte în Amazon. Ei bine, în aceste două minute care mi-au fost acordate astăzi, nu mai puțin de șase hectare de pădure au dispărut în Amazon și 54 de hectare de pădure au dispărut în întreaga lume.

Sunt de acord cu doamna raportor Burkhardt că trebuie să rezolvăm această problemă și la noi acasă, pentru că și noi suntem parte a problemei. Nu doar în Amazon se întâmplă așa ceva. Există „Amazoane” mai mici chiar și în Europa. Eu cred că trebuie să ne aplecăm asupra lor și să găsim o soluție acum, când încă nu e prea târziu.

Marco Campomenosi (ID). – Signora Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, come tutti voi, io questa sera tornerò nella mia città. Domani incontrerò dei sindaci, degli imprenditori, degli artigiani e dei lavoratori. Alcuni mi chiederanno: Marco di cosa avete parlato ieri a Bruxelles? Avete parlato di come aiutare le nostre imprese, di come uscire da una crisi che sarà devastante? No, risponderò che abbiamo dedicato l'intera mattina a parlare dell'Amazzonia. Ma avete parlato di *land grabbing*, di Cina? No, no, abbiamo parlato di Bolsonaro.

Ovviamente questo Parlamento dedica molto tempo a concentrarsi nella critica nei confronti dei leader conservatori in tutto il mondo. Abbiamo visto l'atteggiamento che quest'Aula ha avuto nei confronti di Trump negli ultimi anni e l'atteggiamento che ha verso governi legittimi all'interno della stessa Unione europea, parlo della Polonia e dell'Ungheria. Abbiamo visto oggi i riferimenti a Bolsonaro come se i problemi dell'Amazzonia nascano con questo governo, governo che fra l'altro avuto grosse difficoltà e problemi nella gestione, come tutti noi, dell'emergenza coronavirus.

L'atteggiamento neocoloniale traspare evidentemente. Ma come, ci pensiamo noi. Noi europei che facciamo accordi commerciali con il Vietnam, che ha standard ambientali ben più bassi di quelli dei paesi sudamericani. Attenzione il mio gruppo, il mio partito è critico e severo anche dell'accordo commerciale con il Mercosur, che per fortuna salterà per il volere dei sudamericani e che non ha alcun senso e che rappresenta un modello commerciale che è superato. Purtroppo il Commissario Hogan ci dice che no, loro andranno avanti dritti, come se nulla se nulla fosse successo. Ebbene, l'ipocrisia quindi da parte nostra, che delegittima anche questo Parlamento, ed è un peccato perché io sono opposizione, io qui devo recitare la parte del cattivo, ma questo atteggiamento penalizza tutti e i cittadini ci chiedono un'attenzione diversa e maggiore grazie.

Saskia Bricmont (Verts/ALE). – Madame la Présidente, chaque jour le Brésil de Jair Bolsonaro s'écarte davantage des objectifs climatiques: déforestation record en 2020, affaiblissement des services de protection de l'environnement et des droits des indigènes, projet de loi qui met en danger les zones protégées et les indigènes.

La situation est tellement grave que le Parlement européen commence à s'opposer officiellement à l'accord, que les principales chaînes de distribution britanniques envisagent de boycotter les produits brésiliens, que des ONG saisissent la médiatrice européenne parce que la Commission a nié les impacts de l'accord du Mercosur, avant de conclure cet accord. Mais la DG Trade, la DG commerce, s'obstine à minimiser ces impacts, même si la Commission et vous, Monsieur le Commissaire, répétez que les objectifs climatiques restent centraux. Je ne vois aucun signe de la diplomatie verte que vous menez dans vos propres compétences au sein de la politique commerciale actuelle. Pour appliquer ses propres objectifs, ceux du pacte vert, le Conseil et la Commission doivent dénoncer et exiger le retrait du projet de loi brésilien, ils doivent adopter une législation contraignante sur la responsabilité sociétale des entreprises, faire contribuer la politique commerciale aux objectifs climatiques et de développement durable et, enfin, reconnaître que l'accord du Mercosur ne répond pas à ses objectifs sociaux et environnementaux.

Peter Lundgren (ECR). – Fru talman! I maj 2019 försvann 739 kvadratkilometer av regnskogen i Amazonas. Det motsvarar två fotbollsplaner varje minut. Det är den högsta nivån av skövling under en majmånad sedan den brasilianska regeringen införde ett satellitövervakningssystem som mäter just den här skövlingen.

Avskogningen av regnskogen i Brasilien ökade med nästan 30 procent mellan augusti 2018 och juli 2019. Totalt skövade man 9 762 kvadratkilometer regnskog för att ge plats åt jordbruksmark under en tolv månaders period, vilket är en yta motsvarande Cyperns storlek. Det går alltså i en rasande takt, hur skogen försvinner.

Under årets fyra första månader 2020 ökade dessutom nedhuggningen med 55 procent jämfört med samma period förra året. Sammanlagt ödelades 1 202 kvadratkilometer skog mellan januari och april. Det är en yta som är över två och en halv gånger så stor som staden Göteborg i Sverige. Det är den största skövade arealen vid den här tiden på året sedan mätningarna började i augusti 2015.

Den här skövlingen fortgår på grund av behovet av mer jordbruksmark, av att kunna odla mer palmolja som vi konsumenter i Europa använder oss av. Vi bidrar starkt till den här skövlingen. Den gröna dealen från EU, där vi nu vill ändra till exempel bränsleslag – det ska bli mer miljöbränsle till våra fordon – innefattar ett stort inslag av palmolja. Alltså kommer behovet att öka ytterligare. EU vill att flygen ska använda sig av mer miljövänliga bränslen. Det kommer att innebära ett ytterligare ökat behov av palmolja. Vi skövlar regnskogen i en allt snabbare takt på grund av de beslut som vi tar här, som vanligt folk på gatan knappt förstår bakgrunden till.

I Sverige slår vi oss gärna för bröstet för att vår kollektivtrafik till exempel är miljövänlig, för där kör vi med miljöbränsle i våra bussar. Den är inte alls miljövänlig. Den bidrar till skövling av regnskogen i Amazonas. Så medan vi slår oss för bröstet och påstår att vi är miljövänliga och duktiga i Sverige som kör våra kollektivbussar på miljövänligt bränsle så skövlas regnskogen i Amazonas och ursprungsbefolkningen formligen vräks från sina forna boendeplatser. Det är ett cyniskt scenario. EU behöver snarast titta över sin strategi, för den är helt missriktad som den är just nu. EU:s behov av palmolja för att framställa biodrivmedel kommer att bidra till ännu mer skövling av regnskogarna i Amazonas, och regnskogarna är i stort jordens lungor. Det kan inte fortgå. EU måste ta ett större ansvar.

Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL). – Senhora Presidente, o que estamos a assistir na Amazônia é infelizmente uma tragédia anunciada, é um ataque ao meio ambiente e um ataque às comunidades indígenas, que estão a ser dizimadas em primeiro lugar pela ocupação das suas terras e agora pelo abandono a que estão a ser votadas no contexto da pandemia de COVID-19.

No Brasil, temos um presidente, Jair Bolsonaro, que é promotor de atividades e de ações absolutamente criminosas. Estamos a falar de um país onde o seu presidente está contra o seu povo e os povos indígenas e está contra a proteção da Amazônia.

O Sr. Comissário veio dizer que estamos a favor dessa proteção, quer dos direitos humanos, quer da Amazônia, mas diz também que vai continuar a negociação do Acordo União Europeia-Mercosul e que, nesse acordo, irão fazer pressão para que estes direitos sejam respeitados.

Vamos ser muito honestos e muito honestas! Este acordo está em negociação há imenso tempo e não se vê pressão absolutamente nenhuma!

Aliás, o comportamento das autoridades brasileiras é exatamente o contrário. É quanto mais se avança no acordo, mais se destrói a Amazônia, mais se atacam as comunidades indígenas.

E, nesse sentido, quero apelar à Comissão Europeia: ouçam as vozes do povo brasileiro, ouçam as vozes daqueles que são o pulmão, a defesa do pulmão da Amazônia, que são os povos indígenas, ouçam as nossas vozes e acabem com este acordo.

Temos de estar ao lado dos povos e não das multinacionais.

Μαρία Σπυράκη (PPE). – Κυρία Πρόεδρε, Επίτροπε Sinkevičius, οι εικόνες της καταστροφής της ζούγκλας του Αμαζονίου στοιχειώνουν τη συλλογική μνήμη στην Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση. Μπορεί να έφυγαν από τις οθόνες, όμως η καταστροφή είναι εκεί, και η κυβέρνηση της Βραζιλίας ενθαρρύνει πλέον με νόμο την αρπαγή γης που έχει στόχο την υπερκαλλιέργεια της σόγιας, την υπερεκτροφή των βοοειδών, την υπερεκμετάλλευση του δάσους για την παραγωγή καουτσούκ. Ξέρετε ότι, όλα αυτά τα προϊόντα, για να παράγονται σε τόσο μεγάλες ποσότητες, αυτό σημαίνει ότι διατίθενται στις αγορές και εκεί ακριβώς είναι και η δύναμή μας. Ως Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση, διαδίδουμε την ενιαία αγορά και οφείλουμε να χρησιμοποιήσουμε τη δύναμή μας για να δείξουμε το δρόμο. Είναι πολύ σημαντικό να ελέγχουμε στην πράξη τις προϋποθέσεις στις εμπορικές μας σχέσεις με τις χώρες στη Mercosur. Όσο χρειάζομαστε την εμπορική συμφωνία με τις χώρες της Mercosur, άλλο τόσο χρειάζομαστε και την εφαρμογή των κανόνων της συμφωνίας του Παρισιού. Σε καμία περίπτωση δεν πρέπει να ενθαρρύνουμε πρακτικές που παροτρύνουν κυβερνήσεις να παραβιάζουν τους κλιματικούς κανόνες και να συμβάλουν στην κλιματική αλλαγή. Η πρωτοβουλία της Επιτροπής για νομοθετική πρόταση το 2021 στην πραγματικότητα βάζει προϋποθέσεις ώστε να μη φθάνουν στην ευρωπαϊκή αγορά προϊόντα που δεν συνάδουν με τα περιβαλλοντικά κριτήρια και γι' αυτό θα ήθελα να σας ευχαριστήσω Επίτροπε. Όμως ξέρετε ότι ο Αμαζόνιος είναι διπλά – είναι εδώ. Όλος ο πλανήτης είναι μια γειτονιά, όπως δυστυχώς απέδειξε και η πανδημία του COVID-19. Για το λόγο αυτό, είναι απαραίτητο να εξαντλήσουμε κάθε περιθώριο πίεσης στην κυβέρνηση της Βραζιλίας και στις αρχές της περιοχής, ώστε να λάβουν όλα τα αναγκαία μέτρα για τον σημαντικότερο αυτό «πνεύμονα» του πλανήτη. Για μας και για τα παιδιά μας.

Nacho Sánchez Amor (S&D). – Señora presidenta, es un axioma solidificado que en estos años de políticos populistas la falta de calidad democrática va siempre acompañada de un desprecio expreso de la calidad ambiental. No conocemos populistas que arrasen derechos y sin embargo estén comprometidos con el medio ambiente. Siempre las tendencias autoritarias presentan esa faceta de riesgo para los recursos naturales.

¿Por qué? Porque esto que nos parece tan nuevo —los Trump, los Bolsonaro, los Orbán— es en realidad el disfraz más reciente de un economicismo ultraliberal de corto plazo. Es una prueba más de la peligrosa asunción por los conservadores de la agenda de la ultraderecha y de esa idea de un derecho ilimitado a la explotación de los recursos naturales, que cada nacionalista considera suyos por estar dentro de sus fronteras, como si el ambiente y las consecuencias de las prácticas ambientales pudieran parcelarse como los mapas políticos. Yo hoy he oído aquí excelentes ejemplos de ese nacionalismo ambiental.

La Amazonía podría considerarse, seguramente sin caer en un abuso retórico, como un recurso ambiental de toda la humanidad —seguramente como el Ártico y como pocos espacios más de esa escala—, pero es también y sobre todo un recurso de sus propios habitantes actuales, muchos de ellos indígenas y muchos de ellos también los que deberán vivir en Brasil en el futuro, y a ambos se les están expropiando sus derechos mediante la deforestación y la ocupación de tierras por el Gobierno de Bolsonaro.

La Unión Europea actúa, por tanto, por criterios ambientales y también para devolver calidad democrática, y calidad ambiental, a esos ciudadanos del futuro de Brasil. Y debo decirle a mi compañero italiano que yo estaré muy feliz de volver a mi circunscripción para decir que, al hablar hoy de la Amazonía, he hablado de los incendios forestales en Extremadura.

Pascal Durand (Renew). – Madame la Présidente, je voudrais commencer mon intervention en rendant hommage à Chico Mendes, qui a été assassiné il y a plus de 30 ans au Brésil pour avoir déjà défendu la forêt amazonienne et les seringueiros. Depuis son assassinat, des centaines d'indigènes et de syndicalistes ont été assassinés au Brésil, quatre simplement, cinq même depuis les quatre derniers mois.

Je voudrais que l'on ne se contente pas ici de dénoncer et Bolsonaro et le gouvernement brésilien et de désigner des coupables tout faits. Bien sûr, ils ont leurs responsabilités, mais n'oublions pas – cela a été dit et je veux insister sur ce point – que la déforestation, que ces crimes contre la planète, la biodiversité, le vivant, que l'accaparement des terres des indigènes, que leur propre génocide, tout cela est aussi de notre responsabilité.

C'est pour importer du soja pour nourrir notre cheptel et les bêtes en général, c'est pour importer de l'huile de palme et faire voler nos avions que cette forêt est détruite. Cela a été dit, c'est la surface d'un terrain de football qui est détruite toutes les secondes actuellement au Brésil, la moitié de la déforestation mondiale a lieu en Amazonie.

Nous devons regarder les choses en face. Je vais citer juste un homme d'église. Il y a quatre siècles, Bossuet disait: Dieu se rit des hommes qui déplorent les effets et chérissent les causes. Le temps est venu de regarder notre propre responsabilité, de ne pas simplement être les spectateurs passifs ou même les complices, mais de prendre conscience que nous sommes les coauteurs de ces drames.

Vous l'avez dit, Monsieur le Commissaire, et nous vous soutenons sur ce point, nous devons immédiatement changer nos lois, nous devons faire en sorte que le devoir de vigilance gouverne nos accords internationaux, nous devons cesser les traités de libre-échange, tels qu'ils sont. Oui, l'Europe doit rester ouverte, mais nous devons faire en sorte d'arrêter et le Mercosur et tout ce qui détruit la planète maintenant.

Tilly Metz (Verts/ALE). – Madam President, I am shocked to witness the latest surge of deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon. 2020 is on course to become the most destructive year ever for the Amazon. This coincided with the corona pandemic, whose epicentre moved to Brazil. I was dismayed by the statement of the Environment Minister, Ricardo Salles, who wanted to use the fact that the whole world is looking to the pandemic to deregulate and simplify environmental legislation.

So, indigenous people are among the hardest hit, not only because they are losing their land due to illegal logging and land grabbing, but also because of the pandemic — their death rate is twice as high compared with that of the rest of the population.

European companies are also responsible, through their financing of the big landowners and their exploitation of land for food and meat production. This has to end. Consumers need to be alert and we need to stop the dangerous Mercosur deal.

Helmut Scholz (GUE/NGL). – Frau Präsidentin, Herr Kommissar! Der Umweltminister der Bolsonaro-Regierung machte in einer der jüngsten Kabinettsitzungen folgenden Vorschlag: „Jetzt, da die Medien nur über COVID sprechen, müssen wir diesen Moment der Ruhe nutzen, um alle Regulierungen zu verändern“ – Regulierungen, die bislang Minengründungen und Landwirtschaft in Schutzgebieten verhindern.

Diese Geisteshaltung der Bolsonaro-Regierung ist empörend! Es wäre absurd – und ja, das ist unsere Verantwortung, Kollege Durand –, wenn wir als EU nun eine Art Handelsabkommen mit dieser Regierung abschließen würden, der nachweislich kein Wort ihrer Versprechungen aus dem Nachhaltigkeitskapitel des Abkommens zu glauben ist. Das ist auch unsere Verantwortung.

Wir müssen Instrumente in unsere Handelspolitik aufnehmen, die Verbrechen an der indigenen Bevölkerung und an der Umwelt verhindern. Sozial- und Umweltstandards in internationalen Abkommen müssen verbindlich und einklagbar werden. Was würde denn real passieren, wenn wir das Mercosur-Abkommen ratifizieren? Sie können dann allenfalls Herrn Bolsonaro und die Regierung an die Verpflichtungen erinnern. Der lacht uns aber aus. So brauchen Sie, liebe Kommission, uns ein Handelsabkommen in diesem Haus gar nicht erst vorzulegen.

Wir brauchen auch ein umfassendes Lieferkettengesetz, um schwarze Schafe unter den europäischen Unternehmen zu adressieren, die aus der Abholzung tropischer Regenwälder durch Importe Profit schlagen.

Maria Arena (S&D). – Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Commissaire, je ne peux que me joindre à ce que mes collègues ont dit en ce qui concerne la situation au Brésil et la question de la déforestation. Je ne peux que me joindre à ceux qui ont critiqué le gouvernement Bolsonaro sur le non-respect des droits de l'homme, le non-respect des droits des travailleurs, le non-respect de son territoire par rapport à cette déforestation. Et je ne peux que me joindre aussi à ce que Pascal Durand a dit tout à l'heure, c'est-à-dire notre coresponsabilité en tant qu'Européens. Notre coresponsabilité si nous continuons à aller droit dans le mur avec des accords commerciaux qui ont prouvé aujourd'hui leur incapacité, je dis bien leur incapacité, à faire respecter la question du droit environnemental.

Alors, Monsieur le Commissaire, quand vous dites que le chapitre «développement durable», obligatoire aujourd'hui dans les accords commerciaux et dans le Mercosur, mais pas uniquement le Mercosur, dans tous les accords commerciaux, quand vous dites que ce TSD va pouvoir réglementer, eh bien non, Monsieur le Commissaire, ce chapitre développement durable ne réglemente rien, il organise des discussions mais il ne sanctionne pas par rapport au non-respect de l'environnement.

Donc, ce que nous vous demandons, ce n'est pas du marketing, ce n'est pas du nouveau langage, c'est de la contrainte, c'est de la sanction et donc des accords commerciaux, oui, mais des accords commerciaux, qui sont de nouvelle génération mais de vraie nouvelle génération, qui permettent effectivement de sanctionner des pays, tels que le Brésil, tels que d'autres pays, qui ne respectent pas ces droits et nous demandons aussi qu'il y ait un devoir de vigilance pour les multinationales européennes et que, quand elles investissent dans des pays qui ne respectent pas les droits de l'homme, qui ne respectent pas les droits environnementaux, les victimes, où qu'elles soient, aient la possibilité d'introduire des plaintes. Ces plaintes doivent être introduites et doivent être respectées, c'est le droit de l'humanité. Aujourd'hui, on a des peuples indigènes qui sont exterminés dans l'Amazonie, nous devons leur donner le droit de pouvoir déposer plainte contre des multinationales qui ne respectent rien.

Charles Goerens (Renew). – Madame la Présidente, la déforestation de l'Amazonie est le résultat d'une politique aussi dégradée que ces grands espaces déboisés qui ne cessent de croître tous les ans.

On peut qualifier l'accaparement des surfaces boisées par des particuliers de degré zéro de la politique. Oui, je dis bien degré zéro de la politique, parce que les acteurs de la dégradation de la forêt amazonienne savent pertinemment bien qu'ils peuvent compter sur la complicité du gouvernement actuel et de son président.

Ladite politique rompt avec la politique en vigueur entre les années 2004 à 2012-2013. À cette époque, une démarche volontariste avait réussi à limiter les dégâts, au travers notamment du renforcement de l'Agence de protection environnementale brésilienne et de la création d'un fonds appelé à soutenir des projets de conservation de la forêt. Ladite politique rompt aussi avec les engagements pris par le Brésil à la conférence de Copenhague sur le climat. Comment y remédier?

Avec toute ma sympathie pour les pistes explorées par la Commission ce matin, je doute tout de même de leur efficacité. Le devoir de vigilance de nos entreprises importatrices sur une base volontaire, très bien, mais est-ce suffisant? Il en est de même de la politique du dialogue ou du dialogue politique. Oui, il faut le faire par acquis de conscience mais je crois que nous n'irons pas très loin.

Vous croyez que Bolsonaro va bouger? Rappelons qu'il fait partie de cette trempe d'hommes qui, au niveau international, bénéficient de soutiens importants et qui, la bible à la main et la rage destructrice au ventre, s'apprêtent à éliminer un à un les acquis multilatéraux, ces acquis indispensables à la structuration de notre planète menacée dans son existence même.

Vous avez compris où je veux en venir: tout simplement à l'accord commercial UE-Mercosur qui, s'il reste inchangé, sera accueilli par Bolsonaro comme une prime à l'irresponsabilité.

Caroline Roose (Verts/ALE). – Madame la Présidente, ce qui se passe en Amazonie ne peut pas nous laisser indifférents. La forêt amazonienne, nécessaire à la vie des peuples autochtones, poumon de l'humanité, réservoir extraordinaire de biodiversité est saccagée.

Elle est la proie d'un modèle d'agriculture industrielle, notamment la culture intensive de soja. Celle-ci est responsable, non seulement de la déforestation, mais aussi de la pollution des rivières et des fleuves par les pesticides, de la destruction des habitats de nombreuses espèces animales et de l'accaparement des terres aux dépens des paysans.

En parallèle, Bolsonaro démantèle la protection de l'environnement, il favorise l'exploitation forestière illégale et bafoue les droits des peuples autochtones. Ce n'est pas qu'un problème brésilien. Lorsque l'Europe importe du soja OGM, lorsqu'elle négocie un accord de libre-échange avec le Mercosur, lorsque nos banques ou nos entreprises financent cette destruction, l'Europe est complice de cet écocide.

Le changement climatique et la crise actuelle montrent que c'est maintenant qu'il faut agir. La déforestation continue de s'aggraver malgré la multiplication des initiatives internationales. L'Union européenne doit faire preuve de leadership et prendre des mesures fortes et concrètes. Demain ce sera trop tard.

Mick Wallace (GUE/NGL). – Madam President, since 1970, over 700 000 square kms of the Amazon rainforest has been destroyed. The greed of the agri-business conglomerates and mining corporations on both sides of the Atlantic are the main drivers of this destruction. Climate change mitigation is not a threat to farmers. Neoliberal EU trade deals are the real threat.

Now we have the Mercosur deal, which looks like the European Commission, working in the interests of big business, helping them to find the cheapest raw materials with zero regard for the environment, climate system breakdown or indigenous people.

The Mercosur deal will lead to more deforestation of the Amazon. It will be bad for small farmers in Ireland and all across Europe.

We are forming a new government in Ireland and the Mercosur deal barely got a mention in the programme for government. It says there will be an assessment, which is political speak for doing nothing, despite the fact that Fianna Fáil and the Greens opposed it before now.

Small farmers in Ireland are not just worried about their livelihoods, they are also sick of the hypocrisy of the EU calling out for Member States to reduce agri-emissions, while preparing to import more contaminated, environmentally destructive food and feed from South America.

Bernd Lange (S&D). – Frau Präsidentin! In der Tat, die Abholzung des Amazonas ist kein neues Problem. Das kennen wir nun schon seit Jahrzehnten, und insofern ist die Frage des Handelsabkommens nicht das Entscheidende. Das Entscheidende ist, dass die Politik, die dort getrieben wird, falsch ist – und die ist durch Bolsonaro zweifelsohne nochmal dynamisiert worden. Deswegen müssen wir in der Tat gucken, wie wir da eingreifen können, um die Problematik zu entschärfen.

Völlig klar ist auch, dass das Problem auch damit zusammenhängt, dass wir Importeur von Rohstoffen aus Brasilien sind. Rindfleisch ist angesprochen worden. Wenn wirklich diese Nachfrageseite eine Rolle spielt, dann sind wir doch aufgefordert, auch in dieser Nachfrageseite Lösungen anzubieten. Da ist die Kommission in der Tat defensiv. Vor zwei Jahren hat sie eine Mitteilung auf den Markt gebracht, wo gesagt wird: „Man braucht zusätzliche nachfrageseitige Regulierungsmaßnahmen, um die gleichen Wettbewerbsbedingungen zu schaffen.“ Das sind fromme Worte, aber bisher ist nichts passiert. Von daher – glaube ich – müssen wir wirklich darangehen, unsere Nachfrageseite fair zu machen.

Frau Burkhardt hat in ihrem Bericht einen Vorschlag über einen vernünftigen Lieferkettenansatz gemacht, der bewertet, unter welchen Bedingungen Produkte, die nach Europa kommen, letztendlich geschaffen werden. Das müssen wir voranbringen. Und da erwarte ich, dass die Kommission einen entsprechenden Vorschlag macht, damit wir im nächsten Jahr eine Gesetzgebung in Europa verwirklicht haben werden.

Was Brasilien anbetrifft: Das ist nicht nur Bolsonaro. Wir haben jüngst eine Umfrage in Brasilien gesehen, wonach 88 % der Menschen auch in Brasilien gegen die Entwaldung des Urwaldes sind. Deswegen müssen wir sie auch unterstützen. Lassen Sie uns auch den Dialog mit den Regionalregierungen in Brasilien führen, weil sich diese ganz anders positionieren als Bolsonaro. Auch Unterstützung für die Menschen in Brasilien ist notwendig.

Stéphane Bijoux (Renew). – Madame la Présidente, c'est un message pour chacune et pour chacun d'entre nous: je voudrais nous interroger collectivement sur le sens de ce que nous faisons ici pour construire le monde d'après.

Un monde plus juste, un monde plus solidaire, un monde qui replace l'homme et l'environnement au centre de chacune des actions que nous menons pour notre survie. Quel est le sens de tout cela si nous acceptons qu'aux portes de l'Europe, aux portes de la Guyane française, européenne, là, juste à côté de nous, au Brésil, un gouvernement d'extrême droite laisse exécuter froidement un plan criminel de destruction massive de la forêt amazonienne. Criminel contre les populations autochtones, criminel contre notre patrimoine commun de biodiversité mondiale, criminel contre les générations futures.

Les mots ne suffisent plus. Mille fois nous l'avons dit et mille fois nos alertes se sont fracassées sur le mur du cynisme arrogant de ce président d'extrême droite. Parce que figurez-vous que, pendant que nous étions confinés pour faire bloc ensemble contre le coronavirus, eh bien, au Brésil, au mois de mai, en quelques jours, c'est l'équivalent de 115 000 terrains de football qui ont été incendiés volontairement de façon criminelle.

Alors ne pas combattre la déforestation c'est nous rendre complices d'un crime programmé contre l'avenir de l'humanité.

Nous rêvons d'un monde d'après mais pour vivre, notre avenir a besoin de respirer et cette respiration vient de deux poumons: le poumon bleu de l'océan et le poumon vert de la forêt. Nous rêvons d'un monde d'après mais dès aujourd'hui nos destins sont liés, peu importe l'endroit de la planète où nous sommes, le moment est venu d'intervenir. Il y a 50 ans, un scientifique nous mettait en garde contre les effets d'un battement de papillon au Brésil. Si nous ne faisons rien, bientôt il n'y aura plus de papillons et il n'y aura plus d'humains non plus.

Martin Häusling (Verts/ALE). – Frau Präsidentin, liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen! Gegen den Klimawandel werden wir nie einen Impfstoff finden, das ist klar. Deshalb werden das Thema Klimawandel und das Thema Verlust an Biodiversität wieder in den Vordergrund rücken müssen, wenn die Corona-Krise vorbei ist.

Aber wir haben es hier bei dem Thema Brasilien mit einer Regierung zu tun, die jetzt die Krise schamlos ausnutzt, um im Schatten dieser Krise noch mehr abzuholzen. Das können wir nicht zulassen. Und die Botschaft ist sogar so dreist und sagt noch, es gebe gar keine Abholzung. Alle Kollegen haben es ja mitbekommen, dass die brasilianische Botschaft sagt, es gebe gar keine Umweltzerstörung in Brasilien.

Wer mit dieser Regierung einen Deal macht, macht sich mitschuldig an der Zerstörung des Urwalds, aber auch an Menschenrechtsverletzungen an der indigenen Bevölkerung. Das muss uns allen klar sein.

Wir sind immer noch der zweitgrößte Importeur von Soja. Unsere Agrarpolitik produziert Massen von Fleisch mit Soja aus Brasilien und Argentinien. Auch da müssen wir doch dahin kommen, dass wir endlich unsere Agrarpolitik ändern – das ist ein Kern des Ganzen – und nicht so weitermachen wie bisher. Deshalb appelliere ich auch an die Bundesregierung, in ihrer Ratspräsidentschaft jetzt das Thema Mercosur von der Tagesordnung abzusetzen und stattdessen die Themen Klima und Biodiversitätsverlust ganz nach oben zu setzen.

Isabel Santos (S&D). – Senhora Presidente, os números são esmagadores. Em 2019, a Amazônia perdeu o equivalente à área de 2 mil campos de futebol. Em 2020, os números tendem a piorar: já foram desmatados mais de 1 500 quilómetros quadrados.

A ação do Governo brasileiro, país que acolhe 60 % do território da Amazônia, ao promover a crescente desregulação da exploração deste território e fragilizar as autoridades responsáveis pela sua defesa, ao autorizar a utilização de terras em territórios protegidos e tentar aprovar a mineração nas terras indígenas, bem como ao abrir a possibilidade de privatização de cerca de 65 milhões de hectares de terrenos públicos, tem sido o rastilho útil para o aumento exponencial da atividade predadora de recursos naturais na região.

Genocídio, etnocídio e ecocídio foram as palavras utilizadas por 600 líderes indígenas no início deste ano para descrever a tragédia ambiental e humana resultante da governação criminoso de Jair Bolsonaro. Os ataques contra ambientalistas e indígenas e os homicídios têm aumentado de forma assustadora, estimulados pelo sentimento de total impunidade e aproveitando a menor atenção gerada pela pandemia.

Chegados aqui, é hora de perguntarmos o que podemos fazer antes que seja tarde demais? Reforçarmos os apoios à proteção das florestas, aos seus povos e àqueles que defendem a floresta. Lutar contra a impunidade, sim, mas é preciso mais, é necessário que, com urgência, se interdicte a entrada de produtos associados à desflorestação nas nossas cadeias de abastecimento e responsabilizar as empresas europeias por práticas predadoras.

Sim, é possível, Sr. Comissário.

Thomas Waitz (Verts/ALE). – Madam President, it's by nearly 10 000 square kms per year that the rain forest is decreasing, is clear-cut, in the Amazon. The UK alone is responsible for eating up around 500 football fields of beef produced in clear-cut rain forests every single year.

In Mato Grosso only, 95% of the clear-cuts for soy production are even illegal under Brazilian law. President Bolsonaro encourages the illegal deforestation. He encourages the human rights violations against the indigenous population.

But we here in the European Union, we are partners in crime. We are responsible for thousands of hectares, square kilometres, of deforestation by importation of beef and soya.

We're investing billions of euros every single year to tackle climate change and we invest billions of euros to support our European farmers, especially the beef farmers, against this unfair competition on the international markets.

So how can we actually explain that we use the money here to tackle climate change but we encourage the disaster abroad?

This is a Jekyll and Hyde policy! Stop the Mercosur deal and put import bans on soya and beef from Brazil now!

Carmen Avram (S&D). – Doamnă președintă, în timpul crizei Covid-19, datorită dispariției factorilor de poluare s-au produs fenomene care l-au surprins și încântat pe europeanul secolului XXI. Aerul a devenit limpede și respirabil în sfârșit, pe lângă coastele continentului și pe fluvii au apărut specii marine pe care omul modern nu le-a mai văzut de multe decenii de aproape, iar pe străzile unor orașe s-au plimbat fazani și căprioare.

A fost ca o demonstrație despre ceea ce i-am făcut naturii și o avanpremieră a ceea ce am putea avea permanent, în 2050, după ce vom fi îndeplinit toate condițiile *Green Deal*. Dar am văzut și reversul tragic. În același timp, profitându-se de neatenția noastră și în goana nebună după teren agricol, în pădurea amazoniană s-au tăiat cu 50 % mai mulți copaci decât în aceeași perioadă a anului trecut, iar trendul defrișărilor ilegale rămâne ascendent.

Punând față în față perspectiva noastră și realitatea altora, cred că a venit momentul să ne temperăm optimismul în privința bunăvoinței și a voinței unor state pe care le vrem partenere de acțiune așa cum acționează Europa și trebuie să trecem la impunerea de condiții mai dure în negocieri și în importuri.

Ca raportor din umbră la noua strategie pentru păduri, știu ce eforturi vor fi depuse de fermierii și proprietarii noștri de păduri pentru a respecta toate condițiile și a contribui la *Green Deal*, dar dacă nu le impunem și altora exact aceleași condiții și rigori, nu doar că nu vom opri malaxorul amazonian, dar vom încuraja o competiție neloială din care noi vom pierde. *Green Deal* este al nostru, dar nu poate fi doar pentru noi.

Pär Holmgren (Verts/ALE). – Fru talman! Amazonas är världens lungor, brukar man ibland säga, men egentligen så fungerar ju regnskogen tvärtomot våra lungor. Regnskogen binder kol och frigör syre, och det är enorma mängder kol. Amazonas regnskog är också en av de absolut känsligaste delarna av hela jordens klimatsystem.

Jag är meteorolog. Vi meteorologer vet vilka risker alla i den här salen, och givetvis alla utanför också, utsatts för om Amazonas regnskogar fortsätter att försvinna. Amazonas betydelse för jordens klimat är ingenting vi kan debattera i den här kammaren. Det är ett vetenskapligt faktum.

Så till alla er i den här salen som trots det tycker att ekonomiska hänsyn ska gå före att stoppa skövlingen så undrar jag: Tror ni att ni kan andas ur en årsrapport? Tror ni att ni kan odla er mat på börsen? Tror ni bokstavligen att ni kan äta pengar? Om inte, agera i så fall i den här kammaren, för vi alla måste börja leva inom planetens gränser.

Virginijus Sinkevičius, Member of the Commission. – Madam President, honourable Members, today's debate has sent a clear message from the Parliament that tackling deforestation in the Amazon is a priority across almost all the political spectrum. It has also shown a clear understanding that the multi-faceted challenges that affect the Amazon basin, its immense natural resources and its populations need to be tackled in a holistic manner and in the context of sustainable development objective working in partnership with the countries in the region.

You, Ms McGuinness, have rightly said that we need to look at the complexity of our supply chain. This is very true and challenging, but I can reassure you that this is exactly what we are doing. I work very closely with all my colleagues concerned to bring together environmental, agricultural, trade, health and climate aspects of deforestation. Let me reassure you that the Commission is not only providing significant technical and financial assistance to countries in the region to tackle these challenges, and that we talk to and listen carefully to the indigenous people who are directly impacted and at risk, as you, Ms Burkhardt and also Ms Matias, have mentioned.

We are also working on domestic policies to reduce the EU's own footprint on forests abroad, in addition, in close cooperation with the European External Action Service and the diplomatic services of EU Member States. We are using all available diplomatic channels to engage on this important topic.

The Commission is already taking action to support efforts across the globe to tackle the root causes of deforestation and to protect the rights of indigenous people and local communities, which are threatened by land grabbing and deforestation. In this respect I look forward to the outcome of your future deliberations on the legislative initiative report by Ms Burkhardt, on the legal framework to halt and reverse EU-driven global deforestation after years of damages that cannot be repaired. And ahead of landmark international meetings, such as COP26 in Glasgow and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15 in Kunming, it's clear that we are at a critical junction to succeed.

We need to scale up efforts towards preserving critical ecosystems such as forests, not only as a solution to climate change and biodiversity challenge, but also achieve sustainability and resilience.

In reply to many of you who mentioned the government in Brazil, we call on national authorities, including Brazilian authorities, to take decisive action to address deforestation and to cooperate regionally and internationally to this end. We stand ready to provide technical assistance in order to ensure that deforestation decreases rapidly, substantially and permanently should there be a clear willingness for cooperation on this issue.

Let me agree also with Mr Ștefănuță, who reminded us that the problem of deforestation does not only exist abroad but also close to us in Europe. I can only say to you that I am following closely developments in Europe and I am determined to take strong action also at home.

Since many of you have mentioned free trade agreements, let me recall that all our modern free trade agreements contain ambitious, even if imperfect, provisions to promote trade and sustainable development. The fact that we conclude negotiations for an association agreement with the Mercosur countries does not mean that we agree with all the policies of those governments in all areas, clearly not. But it is a way of having reciprocal binding commitments to the Paris Agreement as foreseen by the EU-Mercosur agreement. It is a way of having dialogue and working with Brazil and the other partners in the region to push and encourage each other to live up to the commitments we have made together in the Paris Agreement and to work together on the environmental issues.

Mercosur countries, including Brazil, have included commitments on deforestation in their Paris Agreement pledges reinforced by private sector initiatives, such as that of Brazilian meatpackers not to source meat from farms in recently deforested areas and the Amazon soya moratorium, an independent Brazilian multi stakeholder initiative.

Honourable Members, to conclude, yes, there is still a lot of work to do and we will continue our work on the legislative proposal that we will present next year and I look forward to working closely with you on this important issue.

Elnök asszony: – A vitát lezárom.

Írásos nyilatkozatok (171. cikk)

Christine Anderson (ID), *schriftlich.* – Landraub und Abholzung, zwei Vergehen an Mutter Natur, ausgeübt von einer kleinen Zahl profitorientierter Menschen, die sich nicht darum scheren, welche Folgen ihr Handeln für den Rest der Gesellschaft hat. Sie fällen Bäume, zerstören Lebensräume für eine Vielzahl von Tieren und verdichten ehemals fruchtbare Böden so nachhaltig, dass nur noch eine öde Steppe anstelle einer vormals prächtigen grünen Landschaft zurückbleibt. Mit solchem Raubbau an Mutter Natur nimmt sich der Mensch, nur des kurzfristigen, finanziellen Erfolgs wegen, Stück für Stück den Raum zum eigenen Leben und sägt damit buchstäblich am Ast, auf dem er selbst sitzt.

Die Abgeordneten in diesem Haus richten ihr Augenmerk auf den Amazonas. Wie in vielen anderen Debatten überschätzt dieses sogenannte Parlament aber auch hier nachhaltig seine Kompetenz, denn solange der Amazonas nicht Teil der EU ist, sollten wir eher den Blick auf unsere Mitgliedstaaten werfen, wo nichts anderes regelmäßig passiert und Landraub und Abholzung unternommen werden, um eine angebliche Energiewende, die keine ist, zu befördern.

Alexander Bernhuber (PPE), *schriftlich*. – Es ist kein Geheimnis, dass Brasilien den Amazonas-Regenwald zugunsten landwirtschaftlicher Agrarfabriken illegal abholzt. Seit Anfang 2020 wurden mehr als 2 000 Quadratkilometer Wald gerodet. Das sind 34 % mehr als im Vorjahr und ein beschämender Weltrekord! Wenn ein Anstieg der Rindfleischexporte gesichtet wird, schafft Brasilien mehr Fläche für die Rinderzucht. Daher liegt es auf der Hand, dass die Abholzung mit dem Handelsabkommen Mercosur in Verbindung steht. Weshalb die Kommission und viele Mitgliedstaaten diesen Deal und damit das illegale Roden indirekt unterstützen, ist mir ein Rätsel. Dies widerspricht den Werten und dem Image der EU, besonders jetzt, wo der Green Deal zum Etikett der Europäischen Union wurde und die Kommission das ambitionierte Ziel gesetzt hat, dass Europa der erste klimaneutrale Kontinent werden soll. Als junger Mensch ist es mir eines der wichtigsten Anliegen, die Erde als einen guten Lebensraum für alle zu hinterlassen. Wenn die Rodungen so fortgeführt werden, schadet das langfristig der Umwelt und dem Klima. Sollten die Brandrodungen so weitergehen, müssen wir gemeinschaftlich dagegen vorgehen. Wir dürfen nicht zuschauen, wenn der Regenwald zugunsten von Mercosur-Produkten brennt.

César Luena (S&D), *por escrito*. – La situación en Brasil en relación a la gestión de la selva amazónica y de la pandemia COVID-19 es muy alarmante. La pandemia de coronavirus está poniendo en peligro a las comunidades indígenas y se está utilizando como herramienta para distraer a los medios de comunicación y permitir la adopción de legislación que diluye la protección medioambiental de la selva y los controles medioambientales sin ningún tipo de cuestionamientos.

La UE debe reaccionar firmemente legislando para contar con cadenas libres de deforestación. Tenemos que luchar por cadenas libres de deforestación en la UE, implementando un sistema de certificados de «importación libre de deforestación» o de verificación eficiente de certificados de «exportación libre de deforestación» emitidos por los países exportadores.

A su vez, el próximo Acuerdo de Mercosur ha de contar con un capítulo de desarrollo sostenible vinculante, que permita actuar a la UE frente a los incumplimientos y abusos por parte de Brasil. Propuestas de leyes como las del acaparamiento de tierras han de tener una respuesta contundente de la comunidad internacional.

(Az ülést 10.35-kor felfüggesztik)

VORSITZ: RAINER WIELAND

Vizepräsident

5. Wiederaufnahme der Sitzung

(Die Sitzung wird um 13.30 Uhr wieder aufgenommen)

6. Bekanntgabe der Ergebnisse der Abstimmung: siehe Protokoll

7. Zweite Abstimmungsrunde

Der Präsident. – Als nächster Punkt der Tagesordnung folgt die zweite Abstimmungsrunde. Die Abstimmungsrunde ist von 13.45 Uhr bis 15.00 Uhrgeöffnet.

Es kommt dasselbe Abstimmungsverfahren zur Anwendung wie in den vorangegangenen Abstimmungsrunden. Ich erkläre die zweite Abstimmungsrunde für eröffnet. Sie können bis 15.00 Uhr abstimmen.

Die Ergebnisse der zweiten Abstimmungsrunde werden um 17.30 Uhr bekannt gegeben.

(Die Sitzung wird um 13.35 Uhr unterbrochen)

8. Wiederaufnahme der Sitzung

(Die Sitzung wird um 17.30 Uhr wieder aufgenommen)

9. Bekanntgabe der Ergebnisse der Abstimmung: siehe Protokoll

10. Dritte Abstimmungsrunde

Der Präsident. – Als nächster Punkt der Tagesordnung folgt die dritte Abstimmungsrunde. Die Abstimmungsrunde ist von jetzt an bis 19.00 Uhr geöffnet.

Es kommt dasselbe Abstimmungsverfahren zur Anwendung wie in den vorangegangenen Abstimmungsrunden.

Ich erkläre die dritte Abstimmungsrunde für eröffnet. Sie können bis 19.00 Uhr abstimmen. Die Ergebnisse der dritten Abstimmungsrunde werden um 21.30 Uhr von dieser Stelle aus bekannt gegeben.

(Die Sitzung wird um 17.35 Uhr unterbrochen)

PRESIDÊNCIA: PEDRO SILVA PEREIRA

Vice-Presidente

11. Wiederaufnahme der Sitzung

(A sessão tem início às 21h30)

12. Bekanntgabe der Ergebnisse der Abstimmung: siehe Protokoll

13. Erklärungen zur Abstimmung: siehe Protokoll

14. Berichtigungen des Stimmverhaltens und beabsichtigtes Stimmverhalten: siehe Protokoll

15. Genehmigung der Protokolle der laufenden Tagung und Übermittlung der angenommenen Texte: siehe Protokoll

16. Zeitpunkt der nächsten Sitzungen: siehe Protokoll

17. Änderungen von Ausschussbefassungen (Artikel 56 GO): siehe Protokoll

18. Beschlüsse zur Ausarbeitung von Initiativberichten: siehe Protokoll

19. Vorlage von Dokumenten: siehe Protokoll

20. Schluss der Sitzung

(A sessão é encerrada às 21h34)

21. Unterbrechung der Sitzungsperiode

Presidente. – Declaro interrompida a Sessão do Parlamento Europeu.

Legende der verwendeten Zeichen

*	Konsultationsverfahren
***	Zustimmungsverfahren
***I	Ordentliches Gesetzgebungsverfahren, erste Lesung
***II	Ordentliches Gesetzgebungsverfahren, zweite Lesung
***III	Ordentliches Gesetzgebungsverfahren, dritte Lesung

(Das angegebene Verfahren entspricht der von der Kommission vorgeschlagenen Rechtsgrundlage.)

Abkürzungen der Ausschüsse

AFET	Ausschuss für auswärtige Angelegenheiten
DEVE	Entwicklungsausschuss
INTA	Ausschuss für internationalen Handel
BUDG	Haushaltsausschuss
CONT	Haushaltskontrollausschuss
ECON	Ausschuss für Wirtschaft und Währung
EMPL	Ausschuss für Beschäftigung und soziale Angelegenheiten
ENVI	Ausschuss für Umweltfragen, öffentliche Gesundheit und Lebensmittelsicherheit
ITRE	Ausschuss für Industrie, Forschung und Energie
IMCO	Ausschuss für Binnenmarkt und Verbraucherschutz
TRAN	Ausschuss für Verkehr und Fremdenverkehr
REGI	Ausschuss für regionale Entwicklung
AGRI	Ausschuss für Landwirtschaft und ländliche Entwicklung
PECH	Fischereiausschuss
CULT	Ausschuss für Kultur und Bildung
JURI	Rechtsausschuss
LIBE	Ausschuss für bürgerliche Freiheiten, Justiz und Inneres
AFCO	Ausschuss für konstitutionelle Fragen
FEMM	Ausschuss für die Rechte der Frau und die Gleichstellung der Geschlechter
PETI	Petitionsausschuss
DROI	Unterausschuss Menschenrechte
SEDE	Unterausschuss Sicherheit und Verteidigung

Abkürzungen der Fraktionen

PPE	Fraktion der Europäischen Volkspartei (Christdemokraten)
S&D	Fraktion der Progressiven Allianz der Sozialdemokraten im Europäischen Parlament
Renew	Fraktion Renew Europe
ID	Fraktion Identität und Demokratie
Vers/ALE	Fraktion der Grünen/Freie Europäische Allianz
ECR	Fraktion der Europäischen Konservativen und Reformer
GUE/NGL	Fraktion der Vereinigten Europäischen Linken/Nordische Grüne Linke
NI	Fraktionslos



C/2024/4796

1.8.2024

**Genehmigung staatlicher Beihilfen nach den Artikeln 107 und 108 des Vertrags über die
Arbeitsweise der Europäischen Union**

Vorhaben, gegen die von der Kommission keine Einwände erhoben werden

SA.114766

(C/2024/4796)

Datum der Annahme der Entscheidung	11.7.2024
Nummer der Beihilfe	SA.114766
Mitgliedstaat	Italien
Region	Friuli-Venezia Giulia
Titel (und/oder Name des Begünstigten)	TCTF: Regime Quadro per i settori agricolo, forestale e della pesca ed acquacoltura nel rispetto del Quadro temporaneo di crisi (Reintroduzione del regime SA.102522 (2022/N))
Rechtsgrundlage	Legge regionale (Regional law) 01 aprile 2020, n. 5 „Ulteriori misure urgenti per far fronte all'emergenza epidemiologica da COVID-19 e alle conseguenze del conflitto russo-ucraino nel comparto agricolo e agroalimentare“ (art. 12, commi 2 bis e 2 ter).
Art der Beihilfe	Regelung
Ziel	Behebung einer beträchtlichen Störung im Wirtschaftsleben eines Mitgliedstaats
Form der Beihilfe	Zuschuss, Kredite/rückzahlbare Vorschüsse
Haushaltsmittel	
Beihilfehöchstintensität	
Laufzeit	bis zum 31.12.2024
Wirtschaftssektoren	Landwirtschaft, Jagd und damit verbundene Tätigkeiten, Fischerei und Aquakultur
Name und Anschrift der Bewilligungsbehörde	Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia - Direzione centrale risorse agroalimentari, forestali e ittiche - Direttore centrale Ing. Maurizio Urizio Via Sabbadini 31 - 33100 Udine
Sonstige Angaben	

Die rechtsverbindliche(n) Sprachfassung(en) der Entscheidung, aus der/denen alle vertraulichen Angaben gestrichen sind, finden Sie unter:

<https://competition-cases.ec.europa.eu/search?caseInstrument=SA>



C/2024/4797

1.8.2024

**Genehmigung staatlicher Beihilfen nach den Artikeln 107 und 108 des Vertrags über die
Arbeitsweise der Europäischen Union**

Vorhaben, gegen die von der Kommission keine Einwände erhoben werden

SA.110308

(Text von Bedeutung für den EWR)

(C/2024/4797)

Datum der Annahme der Entscheidung	22.7.2024	
Nummer der Beihilfe	SA.110308	
Mitgliedstaat	Italien	
Region		
Titel (und/oder Name des Begünstigten)	Modifica di un regime di aiuti di Stato a sostegno del trasporto combinato nella provincia di Bolzano	
Rechtsgrundlage	Deliberazione n. 903 della Giunta Provinciale di Bolzano del 17 ottobre 2023	
Art der Beihilfe	Regelung	
Ziel	Verkehrskordinierung	
Form der Beihilfe	Zuschuss	
Haushaltsmittel	Haushaltsmittel insgesamt: 9 000 000 EUR	
Beihilfemaximalintensität		
Laufzeit	bis zum 31.12.2025	
Wirtschaftssektoren	Güterbeförderung im Eisenbahnverkehr	
Name und Anschrift der Bewilligungsbehörde	Provincia autonoma di Bolzano, Ripartizione Mobilità Palazzo 3b, Piazza Silvius Magnago, 3 - 39100 Bolzano	
Sonstige Angaben		

Die rechtsverbindliche(n) Sprachfassung(en) der Entscheidung, aus der/denen alle vertraulichen Angaben gestrichen sind,
finden Sie unter:

<https://competition-cases.ec.europa.eu/search?caseInstrument=SA>



C/2024/4876

1.8.2024

Keine Einwände gegen einen angemeldeten Zusammenschluss

(Sache M.11499 — ALSO / SWS)

(Text von Bedeutung für den EWR)

(C/2024/4876)

Am 25. Juli 2024 hat die Kommission nach Artikel 6 Absatz 1 Buchstabe b der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 139/2004 des Rates ⁽¹⁾ entschieden, keine Einwände gegen den oben genannten angemeldeten Zusammenschluss zu erheben und ihn für mit dem Binnenmarkt vereinbar zu erklären. Der vollständige Wortlaut der Entscheidung ist nur auf Englisch verfügbar und wird in einer um etwaige Geschäftsgeheimnisse bereinigten Fassung auf den folgenden EU-Websites veröffentlicht:

- der Website der GD Wettbewerb zur Fusionskontrolle (<https://competition-cases.ec.europa.eu/search>). Auf dieser Website können Fusionsentscheidungen anhand verschiedener Angaben wie Unternehmensname, Nummer der Sache, Datum der Entscheidung oder Wirtschaftszweig abgerufen werden,
- der Website EUR-Lex (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html?locale=de>). Hier kann diese Entscheidung anhand der Celex-Nummer 32024M11499 abgerufen werden. EUR-Lex ist das Internetportal zum Gemeinschaftsrecht.

⁽¹⁾ ABl. L 24 vom 29.1.2004, S. 1.



C/2024/4885

1.8.2024

Vorherige Anmeldung eines Zusammenschlusses
(Sache M.11510 — ACS / TK / YORIZON)
Für das vereinfachte Verfahren infrage kommender Fall

(Text von Bedeutung für den EWR)

(C/2024/4885)

1. Am 24. Juli 2024 ist aufgrund einer Verweisung nach Artikel 4 Absatz 5 der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 139/2004 des Rates ⁽¹⁾ die Anmeldung eines Zusammenschlusses nach Artikel 4 bei der Kommission eingegangen.

Diese Anmeldung betrifft folgende Unternehmen:

- HOCHTIEF GC Beteiligungsgesellschaft mbH („HT“, Deutschland), kontrolliert von Actividades Construcción y Servicios, S.A. („ACS“, Spanien),
- Thomas-Krenn.AG („TK“, Deutschland), kontrolliert von Herrn Dr. Helmut Vorndran,
- Ein neu gegründetes Gemeinschaftsunternehmen bestehend aus der Thomas-Krenn Project GmbH & Co.KG und der Thomas-Krenn Project Management GmbH (beide zusammen „YORIZON“, Deutschland).

HT und TK werden im Sinne des Artikels 3 Absatz 1 Buchstabe b und Absatz 4 der Fusionskontrollverordnung die gemeinsame Kontrolle über YORIZON erwerben.

Der Zusammenschluss erfolgt durch Erwerb von Anteilen in einem neu gegründeten Gemeinschaftsunternehmen.

2. Die beteiligten Unternehmen sind in folgenden Geschäftsbereichen tätig:

- HT wird von der ACS-Gruppe kontrolliert, die Projektentwicklung und -strukturierung öffentlicher Großprojekte, Investitionen von Eigen- und Fremdmitteln in privat finanzierte Projekte, Management und Durchführung von Hoch- und Tiefbaumaßnahmen (dies insbesondere im Zusammenhang mit Verkehrsinfrastruktur) durchführt,
- TK: Assemblierung und Vertrieb von Computern, Computer-Peripherie und Computer-Zubehör sowie der Erbringung aller damit verbundener Dienstleistungen, soweit diese nicht einer staatlichen Genehmigung bedürfen.

3. Das Unternehmen YORIZON wird in folgenden Geschäftsbereichen tätig sein:

- Geschäftsgegenstand von YORIZON wird der Betrieb von Rechenzentren und die Erbringung und der Vertrieb von entsprechenden Cloud-Dienstleistungen für andere Unternehmen sein.

4. Die Kommission hat nach vorläufiger Prüfung festgestellt, dass das angemeldete Rechtsgeschäft unter die Fusionskontrollverordnung fallen könnte. Die endgültige Entscheidung zu diesem Punkt behält sie sich vor.

Dieser Fall kommt für das vereinfachte Verfahren im Sinne der Bekanntmachung der Kommission über die vereinfachte Behandlung bestimmter Zusammenschlüsse gemäß der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 139/2004 des Rates über die Kontrolle von Unternehmenszusammenschlüssen ⁽²⁾ infrage.

5. Alle betroffenen Dritten können bei der Kommission zu diesem Vorhaben Stellung nehmen.

Die Stellungnahmen müssen bei der Kommission spätestens 10 Tage nach dieser Veröffentlichung eingehen. Dabei ist stets folgendes Aktenzeichen anzugeben:

M.11510 — ACS / TK / YORIZON

⁽¹⁾ ABl. L 24 vom 29.1.2004, S. 1 („Fusionskontrollverordnung“).

⁽²⁾ ABl. C 160 vom 5.5.2023, S. 1.

Die Stellungnahmen können der Kommission per E-Mail oder Post übermittelt werden, wobei folgende Kontaktangaben zu verwenden sind:

E-Mail: COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu

Postanschrift:

Europäische Kommission
Generaldirektion Wettbewerb
Registratur Fusionskontrolle
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
