

EU ISSUES UPDATE

MAY 2019



OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIALOGUE

European Parliament election results

The new European Parliament was elected at the end of May. In the new term, which runs until 2024, the center-right PPE Group continues to be the largest with 179 MEPs. The second largest is the left of center Socialist Group which with 153 MEPs. But both Groups are significantly smaller than in the previously Parliament when they had respectfully 221 and 187 MEPs. The main beneficiaries were the Liberal Group whose number of MEPs has risen from 68 to 105, the Green Group (52 to 69 MEPs) and the far right Europe of Freedom and Nations (36 to 58 MEPs). Populist parties now make up one in every three MEPs, but they will be divided between different Political Groups in the Parliament and so their influence will be blunted. The new Parliament will reconvene on 1 July - all decisions (Presidents, Committees appointments, etc) will be taken in the first Plenary session.

INFORMATION

New mayor of Madrid plans to revoke LEZ

The right-of-centre mayor-elect of Madrid, José Luis Martínez-Almeida, has announced that Madrid's low-emissions and traffic restriction scheme will be stopped. The scheme was implemented last year after the European Commission threatened Spain with legal action for failing to meet the terms of the Air Quality Directive. Mr Martínez-Almeida has said that the scheme has failed and instead plans to adopt alternative measures including providing €200 million in subsidies to update Madrid's vehicle fleet. A national environmental Group has said that the LEZ had been effective as NO₂ had declined 48% compared to 2018 and was at the lowest monthly level since 2000.

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The FIVA Legislation Commission members are: Tidde Bresters (Chairman), Wolfgang Eckel, Carla Fiocchi, Lars Genild, Alain Guillaume, Johann König, Stanislav Minářík, Bob Owen, Christos Petridis, Claudio dal Savio, Leon Vrtovec and Andrew Turner of EPPA works with the Committee.