



Brussels, 27 April 2011

Mr Jerzy Buzek
President of the European Parliament
PHS 11B011
Brussels

Re: Economic Governance Package

Dear Mr President,

The ECON Committee voted the six reports on the Economic Governance Package on Tuesday, 19 April. One of the most important reports, namely the Wortmann-Kool report on "Strengthening of the surveillance of budgetary positions and the surveillance and coordination of economic policies", was adopted by 26 votes in favour and 18 votes against.

Following the votes of the Economic Governance Package, a debate was launched within the ECON Committee in order to decide whether an informal triologue will be carried out in order to reach a first-reading agreement.

Our Groups strongly contested that, on such an important package, the Parliament will start negotiations with the Council whilst facing a significant internal division. For such a crucial piece of legislation, the negotiators will be beginning with a weak mandate in front of the Council. In addition, in such circumstances the outcome of the EMPL committee opinion will hardly be taken properly into account in the process leading to a vote in plenary.

At the level of the Conference of Presidents on Thursday, 10 March we decided on the point concerning first-reading agreements that the Conference of Committee Chairs is invited *to furnish systematic and timely information to the Conference of Presidents on negotiations on first-reading agreements, with a view to the monthly inclusion of this issue on the meeting agenda of the Conference of Presidents and the possible holding of exchanges of views with EP rapporteurs and Committee Chairs on key files.*

For all these reasons, we therefore ask you to have a specific point on this issue at the next Conference of Presidents.

Sincerely yours,

Martin Schulz

Rebecca Harms

Lothar Bisky