

## S&D Group went to Berlin for High Level contacts to discuss the refugee and Eurozone crisis

April 2016



Vice-president Maria João Rodrigues took part of the two day visit of the Bureau of the S&D Group, led by Gianni Pitella and accompanied by the head of the German Delegation Udo Bullmann, to Berlin. The S&D Group has reiterated the call for a truly European solution to the refugee crisis, solidarity amongst member states and a return to growth in Europe.

In addition to various meetings with the SPD, S&D MEPs visited a refugee shelter in the district of Wilmersdorf, which is a successful example of positive integration

hosting more than 1000 refugees today. S&D MEPs also met with Franziska Giffey, mayor of Neukölln, to discuss about the refugee crisis and the positive and exemplary measures taken by the Neukölln government and administration for integration and inclusion.

The S&D Group called for the Social Democrats all over Europe to not deny themselves and their fundamental values by running after right wing proposals. During the meeting with the German foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the Group stressed the need for a clear and coherent position on the migration crisis based on solidarity, the sharing of responsibility, integration and security.

The meeting with the SPD Parliamentary Group and its leader, Thomas Oppermann, was also the occasion to stress the need for further investment in Europe, to support the real economy and stave off deflation. GDP growth remains weak and in this environment any discussion on sovereigns would be counterproductive. On the contrary, priority should be given to a balanced implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact which should be simplified in order to serve growth. These demands were also highlighted in the meeting with the SPD Chair and German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel.

